



WINTER WEATHER shows its furry once again as temperatures hit a low of 3 degrees on Monday. Above - Even with winter back very little snow fell as can be seen on the high school gym; below - work still continued around town as the city crew began the task of removing the Christmas lights from Main Street. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

Winter's back again

Cold wind, ice and snow showed up in St. Francis Sunday evening but, when everything was totaled, Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported only .02 inch of moisture. Temperatures warmed up again on Wednesday but it may take a while until it warms up to 67 degrees as it did on Friday.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Jan. 20	43	21	
Jan. 21	51	17	
Jan. 22	48	22	
Jan. 23	67	13	
Jan. 24	47	25	
Jan. 25	28	10	.02
Jan. 26	33	3	



Feb. 2-7 marks the fifth annual Protection Week

By Casey McCormick
Feb. 2-7 marks the fifth annual National Consumer Protection Week. This event is sponsored by the United States Postal Service Office of the Consumer Advocate and the Postal Inspection Service and brings attention to fraudulent scams which operate using the United States Postal Service.

If you have questions or concerns, or if you receive suspect mail, please contact the Post Office. Also any suspicious mail should be returned to the post office.

The theme of this year's event is "Get Rich Quick...Don't Count on It!" The United States Postal Service has identified five scams which are intended to separate postal customers from their hard-earned savings. They are:

- Free prize schemes.
- Foreign lotteries.
- Multi-level marketing.

- Investment fraud schemes.
 - Work-at-home schemes.
- Each of these scams has the appeal of seeming "too good to be true," and they are.

The United States Postal Service has a device which helps eliminate illegal practices like these; the Mail Fraud Statute. This is one of the oldest and most effective weapon against mail fraud. Postal workers have been using the Mail Fraud Statute since its passage in 1872.

Postal inspectors work with a variety of businesses in the private sector to identify illegal scams and protect consumers who receive mail.

But what can consumers do to protect themselves? Consumers should be skeptical of any offer that sounds "too good to be true." The following questions can help individuals to evaluate questionable

offers:

- Do you have to pay to receive your "prize" of enter a sweepstakes?

- Do you have to give any personal or financial information?
- Are you a "guaranteed" winner, or told "no risk is involved?"
- Are you pressured into responding or investing right away?
- Are you asked for advanced payment or cash only?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, the consumer should be wary. Ask that all statements about the product or service be provided in writing. Check all offers with consumer protection agencies located nearest to the company.

The public should be aware that there is no easy way to wealth and the consumer's good judgment is the last line of defense against a con artist.

Legislative Hotline

The Legislative Reference Section of the Kansas State Library operate the Legislative Hotline year round starting with the 2004 Legislative Session which convenes Jan. 12. The hotline provides all Kansans with toll-free access to Kansas Legislative activity and documents. The hotline number is 1-800-432-3924. The same number is also available for hearing impaired TTY calls. The Legislative Reference Section will also assist in contacting legislators who will then return constituent calls.

The Legislative Reference Section will assist with questions concerning general and specific information on the Kansas Legislature including bill introduction, sponsorship, amendments, status, history and information related to other legislative action and issues. The Legislative Reference Section will also provide copies of bills, calendars, journals, committee agendas and other legislative documents. Bills and other legislative documents are also available in Braille for the visually impaired.

The Legislative Reference Section maintains a complete collection of current and historical legislative documents including bills, interim reports, journals, calendars, session laws, statutes, as well as

other documents that can be useful in legislative research. The section also maintains a permanent index to Kansas legislation including all bills, amendments and conference reports.

The Legislative Reference Section also maintains an extensive current and historical collection of Kansas newspaper clippings on state government, politics and public policy issues.

Roll call voting records on individual legislators are also available.



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