

# HALL

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to name a few. The funds put into the account must be used by the end of the year or the employee loses the money.

Last year, city clerk Mary Lampe reported that the city had spent approximately \$5,100 for employee prescriptions. The insurance renewal is due the first of March, so the decision was tabled until the next meeting.

## Economic Development

Councilman Roger Jensen updated the council on the progress of the Ogallala Commons. The Ogallala Commons is a nonprofit development organization in the Ogallala Aquifer region. Eight states are involved in the organization. In northwest Kansas, three out of six counties showing interest in the organization are: Rawlins, Norton and Cheyenne. The group will work together to prioritize the needs of each community.

The council approved for Mayor Scott Schultz to sign the "memorandum of understanding." The memorandum simply gives the group support and is non-binding.

Councilman Jensen noted the group will be called Cheyenne Incentive Association (CIA). St. Francis and Bird City Century II have paid dues of \$750 each. Those entities asking to sign the memorandum are: city of Bird City, city of St. Francis, Cheyenne County Commissioners, Bird City Century II Development Foundation, Cheyenne County Development Corporation, Bird City and St. Francis school districts and Ministerial Alliance and the Cheyenne County Hospital.

Chairman of the organization is Tom Keller; Dan Carson, vice-chairman; Dara Carmichael, treasurer; and Cathy Domsch, secretary. Councilman Jensen noted that a community forum will be held in St. Francis next month educating the public on the goals and mission which the group will be working toward.

## KAN STEP

Councilman Dale Weeks said that on Jan. 31, Michele Kippes, eco-

nomie development coordinator from the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, inspected the emergency building site on U.S. 36. Dale Crabtree and Glenn Schliep helped clear the snow and ice from the area.

The council approved the payment of the following bills: Rasure Lumber, \$19,647 for overhead and exterior doors and Lampe Hardware, \$12,500 for supplies.

## Other business

In other business:

- The council discussed applying to put the band shell on the Kansas State Historical Registry. The council will check with several organizations concerning the paperwork. At the present time the Cheyenne County Courthouse is the only structure in Cheyenne County on the registry. Being on the registry would enable the city to apply for grants to help with the upkeep of the band shell.

- Betty Petersen was named as the Spotlighting the Positive person of the month.

- Snow removal and policies were discussed (see related article).

- Compassionate Friends organization inquired about putting in a memorial park. The council asked that they bring a more definite plan for the council to review.

- Mobile home park licenses were approved for Eldon Zimelman and Merlyn Sherlock.

- Economic Development business incentives were approved for Ralph and Althea Lebow, Video Connection; and Earl and Bev Crowe, B&E Hilltop Laundry.

- Appointed Kansas Rural Water voting delegates were superintendent J.R. Landenberger and Councilman Bracelin.

- The council approved to pay \$1,166 for 2007 Kansas Municipal Utilities dues. Last year's dues were \$1,154.

- Clerk Lampe noted that the city had received \$141 from Dress Down Day to be used at Roadside Park.

- The second half of the franchise check for \$4,706 was received from Midwest Energy for the 2006.



**FROSTY TREES AND BUSHES** have been seen a lot since the first of the year. This scene was captured at the Stan Carmen farm south of St. Francis. *Herald photo by Janet Carmen*

# Lights still up? Turn them on

Someone stopped by The Herald office and suggested a "Thank you for the moisture" evening.

Neil McCumber said it has been so cold that most people still have their Christmas lights up on their houses. He suggested maybe people could turn on their lights on Sunday, Feb. 18.

"I think it would be kind of nice,"

he said.

Since the snow first fell in December, St. Francis weather observer Kathy Woodcox has reported ??? inches of snow and ??? inches of moisture. Residents almost felt like there was a heat wave on Sunday when the temperatures reached 41 degrees. It melted some of the snow on the streets but when the sun went

down, the temperatures immediately fell to below freezing and all the ice that had melted was then slicker than before.

However, winter temperatures once again hit the area on Monday when a cold front moved through and the St. Francis area had several inches of snow mixed with some fog and ice. In McDonald, 25 miles east,

up to 10 inches had accumulated in some areas.

The temperature Tuesday was 3 degrees with fog and people woke up to a wind chill of -18 degrees. It was cloudy and cold most of the day.

Wednesday's highs were much the same. By Friday, the National Weather Service was forecasting highs in the mid 40s.

# GROUP

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Community Development, USD 103 and USD 297 schools, Community Builders, Cheyenne County Hospital and the banks in the county.

The group has met three times since this initial historical meeting. The core team has been expanded to include representation from both the Bird City and St. Francis Ministerial Alliances and staff from the schools.

The group chose to network with other communities in the tri-state area to take immediate action in the four strategic areas advocated by the Home Town Competitiveness approach to rural community sustain ability. These areas include: mobilize and train local leaders for the task, capture and retain a portion of the wealth transfer in our county, energize entrepreneurship and attract young people to stay or move to our county. Other Kansas counties involved to date include Rawlins and Norton.

## How it works

The success of this effort is dependent on the involvement of all of the residents of the county, either individually or through organizations, businesses and government entities they represent. The commitment will include the formation of a core team representing the whole county, along with additional community members with particular interests or skills in leadership training, community foundations, entrepreneurship and youth attraction and retention.

There will be an immediate commitment by these individuals to attend training/learning days at four different communities in the tri-state area. These four training sessions are scheduled for March, June, September and November.

Each of these training sessions will have a requirement for those attending to return to their communities with a commitment to instigate and complete projects as their homework.

Each community involved in the High Plains Cluster is also responsible for hosting one of the four training days in their community. A community futures forum will be the initial activity in Cheyenne County. This community meeting will be held on Friday evening, March 30.

## Initial donors

The following are the initial donors that have agreed to monetarily fund this project for at least two years: Bird City Century II Development Foundation, City of St. Francis, Ministerial Alliances, St. Francis New Generation Fund and Community Foundation and the Community Builders. Anyone that would like to participate in this county-wide project, please contact one of the core team members: Tom Keller, Dan Carson,

Dara Carmichael, Cathy Domsch, Ned Smith, Roger Jensen, Troy Burr, Scott Schultz, Ernie Ketzner, Kari Gilliland, Kermit Bear, Norman Morrow and Susan Dinkel.

Watch the county papers, brochures and flyers for more information on the Community Futures Forum to be held March 30.

# BABY

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Bobbie Brane, Wichita, and Dorothy Wilson, Harper.

The Sowers received: a car wash from the St. Francis Equity, \$50 bond from Bankwest, a \$50 bond from First National Bank, a baby photo album or frame from Schultz's, a baby gift from Owens True Value, a baby gift from Krien Pharmacy, two bottles of champagne from Burr Liquor, a spinal adjustment for Mommy and baby plus a tube of Biofreeze from Poling Chiropractic and Family Health Center, a \$25 gift certificate from Donna's Gift Palace, \$25 gift certificate from St. Francis Super's, \$25 gift certificate from Hilltop General Store and a year's subscription to *The Saint Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*. The Prairie Piecemakers Quilt Guild also gave a quilt to the new baby.

The only rule for the First Baby of the Year contest is: The parents must live in Cheyenne County and have lived there for one month or more.

## First babies born in 2006

The first babies born in 2006 were twins, Jazmin Raine and Havon Jake, born on Jan. 4. Their parents Damon and Billie Rickard, lived in Bird City. They also had twin brothers to welcome them home.

# WINNERS

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tion.

Second grade: Sophie White, first place; Jenna Confer, second; Makayla Rogers, third; Kensley Krien, Christopher Antholz and Taylor Rogers, honorable mention.

Third and fourth grade: Brianna Cooks, first place; Shawn Pochop, second; Payton Beims, third; Kyler Zwegardt and McKayla Taylor, honorable mention.

Fifth and sixth grade: Connor Hazuka, first place; Ty Carmichael, second; Krissy Harris, third; Clarice Neitzel, Joshua Keltz, Katie Lambert, Jessie Smith, Megan Els and Miranda Rucker, honorable mention.

Door prizes were drawn before the meeting was adjourned.

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3-2-1A wrestlers will be held on Friday and Saturday at Burlington, Hoisington, Norton and St. George-Rock Creek High School.

Placing in the top four is the only opportunity for a wrestler to earn a trip to the 2007 1-2-3A State Tournament in Hays the following weekend.

"Our goal is to get a good number to State," Coach Frewen said.

Other schools besides St. Francis which will be involved in the Norton Regionals are Agra-Eastern Heights, Atwood-Rawlins County, Bird City-Cheylin, Cimarron, Deerfield, Grainfield-Wheatland, Hill City, Holcomb,

Hoxie, Lakin, Leoti-Wichita County, Montezuma-South Gray, Norton-Norton Community, Oakley, Oberlin-Decatur Community, Phillipsburg, Quinter, Scott City-Scott Community, Stockton, Sublette, WaKeeney-Trego Community.

Action begins at 2 p.m. in Norton on Friday with many St. Francis fans planning on making the trip down U.S. 36 to view the competition.

The Friday schedule runs as follows:

- Session I
- Round 1: First round, 2 p.m.
- Round 2: Championship

Quarterfinals, 5 p.m.;

- Round 3: Consolation First Round, 6:30 p.m.;

- Round 4: Consolation Cross bracketing, 7:30 p.m.;

On Saturday, activity begins at 11 a.m. with the remaining rounds as follows:

- Session II
- Round 5: Championship Semifinals, 11 a.m.
- Round 6: Consolation Quarterfinals, 1 p.m.
- Round 7: Consolation Semifinals, 3 p.m.
- Round 8: Consolation Finals, 5 p.m.

- Round 9: Championship Finals, 6:30 p.m.

## Team/individual rankings

Going into the Regional tournament the St. Francis Indians are ranked sixth in the state in 1-2-3A.

Individually the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association has the following Indians ranked.

- 130 pounds, Gavin Smull, ranked sixth;
- 152 pounds, Jordan Gienger, ranked first;
- 171 pounds, Russell Rogers, ranked third,
- 275 pounds, Brennan Wilger, ranked second.

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