

## Kansas Day celebration is planned

The Kansas Day celebration held in Bird City each year will be held on Jan. 29 with a guest speaker talking about the "Orphan Trains In Kansas." The day will begin at 9 a.m. and the program will start at 12:30 p.m.



**Holt**

Marilyn J. Holt, Abilene, works as a historical and editorial consultant. She has written books on the orphan trains, on rural women, Kansas teenagers, Indian orphanages and on children in the American west.

Ms. Holt earned her master's in history from the University of Illinois, in Springfield. Her research interests and publications center on child, teenager and women's experiences in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The program is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, a non-profit organization with 30 years of experience promoting the understanding of the history, traditions and ideas that shape lives and build community.

Anyone wanting to set up a display in the hall need to do so at 9 a.m. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. This will give people time to look

over the displays and enjoy coffee and rolls made by the Cheylin school cafeteria staff.

A potluck lunch with music provided by the Swinging Seniors will begin at 11:30. The program will start at 12:30 p.m.

Cheylin fourth and fifth grade students will present a short program followed by the third grade class from St. Francis.

Ms. Holt will then present her program which will be followed by special music from the Kansas Girls and group singing.

There will be a short business meeting and special recognitions made.

Rev. Mortia Truman, St. Francis Methodist Church pastor, will end the day with a memorial tribute and benediction.

This will be the 146th birthday for the state of Kansas. Everyone is urged join the celebration.



## Positions filled by deadline

*By Karen Krien*

The deadline for filing for one of the seats on Bird City or St. Francis city councils, St. Francis mayor and Cheylin or St. Francis school boards was noon on Tuesday, Jan. 23. All positions up for election now has someone running.

Terry Miller, county election officer, reported that those filings came in slowly but when the deadline arrived, all positions had someone listed on the ballot and, in Bird City on the Cheylin School Board, two people, Dale Hazuka and Belinda Serrano, have filed for District 2, position 4. Since there are only two, there will be no need for a primary election. The general election will be held April 1.

Others filing for the Cheylin School Board are incumbent David Frisbie, District 1, position 5; Lori Janicke, District 2, position 2. Those not running again are Kerby Krien and Wade Carmichael.

### **St. Francis Board of Education**

There are four positions up for election on the St. Francis Board of Education. They are presently filled by Cliff Raile, John Knodel, Bonnie Zwegardt and Sherry Weeks.

Incumbents are Mrs. Weeks, member-at-large, Mrs. Zwegardt, District 2, position 2, Mr. Knodel, District 3, position 3. Mary Beth Miller has filed for District 1, position 1, presently filled by Cliff Raile.

### **St. Francis City Council, mayor**

The St. Francis City Council has two seats up for election and those now filling the positions, Roger Jensen and Dale Weeks, have filed again. Others filing before the deadline on Monday were Bruce Roelfs and Bud Erskin. Mayor Scott Schultz is running uncontested.

### **Bird City City Council**

At the last minute, the fourth candidate filed for the Bird City City Council position. Those now serving are Ray Magnani, Frank Serrano and Loren White and they have filed for another term. Hal Sager has also filed for the Bird City City Council.

### **No withdrawing name**

It should be noted, that after a candidate has filed for an office, he cannot withdraw his name now that filings have closed.



**BAND INSTRUMENTS** are loaded on a bus ready to be transported to the McDonald gym for the pep band to play at Tuesday night's game against Rawlins County.

*Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett*



**BIRD CITY** superintendent Sam Beeson uses the city's new skid loader to pile snow removed from intersections and streets. The loader was purchased with grant money from Century II.

*Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett*



**HIGHER AND higher!** Piles of snow in McDonald and surrounding towns keep growing as streets and sidewalks are cleared after each of the winter storms that have hit the area in the past month.

*Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett*

## Residents have seen several days of snow and cold

*By Karen Krien*

It snowed again! Cheyenne County residents have seen nine days of snow since Dec. 19 and 21 days below freezing. The lows have also been numerous with Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, showing five days at below zero.

The weekend snow of 6 inches just piled up on the snow which has accumulated over the last five weeks. There were 20 to 30 mile per hour winds which blew any of the white, fluffy stuff onto the roads, filling up paths that the county crew made earlier and leaving the highways snowpacked and slick.

The schools were closed, parts of U.S. 36 and I-70 were closed and some of the church services, athletic events and other activities were canceled.

Everything is white. There are white yards, white roads and mountains of white snow which has been piled up in church and school yards. There are a few kids out building snowmen, sledding, building forts or playing on the snow piles but they have to be tough because the temperatures are so cold.

The sun came out Monday but the temperature only reached 29 degrees. The city crew had

cleared Main Street and the sun rays melted the snow in a few places but by the time the sun went down, those areas were icy.

However, a change came on Tuesday when the high temperature was in the 40s — a heatwave! The forecasters are predicting 40s until Friday.

At those temperatures, maybe the side streets will begin to melt the snow and ice which, after weeks of layering and a little bit of thawing have become inches of dangerously slick, rutted trails between the piles of snow down the middle.

### **County crew**

The county road and bridge crew worked through the New Year's holiday getting roads open and they have continued to break through the drifts week after week, trying to keep the roads passable.

From just Dec. 31 to Jan. 8, the blizzard had cost the county \$8,607 in wages; \$14,518 for equipment/ expenses. Since the first snow storm, there has been another four weeks of snowfall.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said there are a lot of hidden costs besides higher fuel costs and man hours.

"We have had more tire chain wear and wear on the snow plow skids," the supervisor said. "After the snow is gone, there will be problems crop up that were related to the

extensive wear and tear on the equipment at this time.

"I am thankful that the commissioners agreed to buy two new graders because we have been using them."

He said that the snow is great but the wind which is constantly blowing the roads shut, is beginning to wear on the crew. However, they are continuing to do their job.

### **State highway crew**

Bill Lee, sub-area supervisor, reported that the state crew has been working almost five weeks straight.

"We are working 12-hour shifts with four on the day shift and three on the night shift, right around the clock," said Mr. Lee, who has also been running right along with his men.

"A lot of the public has been appreciative of snow removal," he said.

Kristin Brands with the Kansas Department of Transportation reported that from Dec. 29 through Jan. 2, the 511 phone number which gives road conditions broke records of people calling for information. On Dec. 31, there were 64,691 calls and throughout the period, there were 132,836 calls with 230 lines being used simultaneously.

### **Clearing drives and private roads**

Both the county and state crews have had requests to clear private

roads and drives but policy does not allow them to do so. The commissioners, at the last meeting, re-enforced the policy that county crews cannot clear these areas but will give the phone numbers of those residents who have businesses and equipment for clearing these areas.

Mr. Lee said a few have complained about the state crews closing driveways as they clear the highways.

"We can't stop and open each driveway and the state has a policy that we can't clear private roads."

He said that the snow is heavy and if one of the state crew breaks off a mailbox, the state will replace it. If this happens, residents are asked to call the shop at 785-332-2931 and the post will be replaced with the mailbox fastened back on.

### **St. Francis and Cheylin schools closed**

St. Francis students have lost three days of school because of the snows. Cheylin has missed four days of school.

Some sporting events have been rescheduled but there are some junior high and junior varsity games that may not be made up simply because there is not a date to reschedule them.

### **Farmer's Almanac's predictions**

Some people are firm believers in

The Farmer's Almanac. The Almanac's information on weather to the end of February looks like people better not put their shovels away!

The Farmer's Almanac predicted that on Jan. 20 through the 23rd, the weather would be "stormy, with blizzard-like conditions." The rest of the month is to have mixed sun and clouds with very cold winds, and ending with some more of the wet stuff.

The Almanac predicts that on Feb. 4-7, a powerful storm will push heavy snow across Colorado, parts of Nebraska, Iowa and much of Kansas and Missouri with accumulations of a foot possible. After that, the temperatures are supposed to be cold with a more stormy conditions between the 16th and 19th. and the 24th and 28th.

The first day of spring on March 21, is almost two months away and, in the past, many heavy snow storms have been reported. If this year's weather pattern continues, there could be snow on the ground well into spring.

However, after several years of drought, the snow has been welcome and will benefit the wheat and pastures.