



SEMI TRUCKS AND TRAILERS were lined up at Majestic Service waiting for the road to open on Monday so they could be on their way. Blizzard conditions during much of the day caused some inconvenience but left little moisture behind.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Blizzard closes highway

President’s Day brought with it a blizzard which caused the highway to be closed and several vehicles to slide off the road. By 4 o’clock, the sun was shining and the roads were clear— as though there had never been a snow storm.

I-70 was closed west of Goodland at about 8 a.m. and U.S. 36 closed west of St. Francis shortly after lunch. However, several hours later, it was reopened. K-27 north of St. Francis never closed but several vehicles slid off that highway.

The wrecks were minor with no injuries however, the wrecker needed to pull several vehicles

out of the ditch.

Because of the holiday, there was no school. Students were able to enjoy the snow.

Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, reported only .02 inch of precipitation and high temperature for the day of 37.

As of Tuesday, the National Weather Service had no rain in the forecast. However, there was wind, some “blustery” on Thursday night. The high is predicted to be 57 degrees on Saturday, cooling down to 48 on Sunday and back down to more seasonable temperatures at the first of the week, with highs in the 30s.



U.S.36 CLOSED — The highway was closed west of St. Francis Monday, shortly after lunch. Blowing snow was causing poor visibility and in spots, was snow packed and slick.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr



JUNIOR HIGH MUSICIANS traveled to Colby on Feb. 15 where they competed in the Northwest Kansas League Junior High Music Festival. The clarinet quartet, pictured, earned

a I rating. Pictured, left to right, are CarolEve Harris, Kayla Reed, Jenna Confer and Makayla Rogers.

Herald staff photo by Nathan Fiala

Junior high music students receive 11 I ratings, five II ratings at festival

The St. Francis Junior High music department travelled to Colby on Wednesday, Feb. 15, to compete in the Northwest Kansas League Junior High Music Festival.

“The students should be proud of the way they represented themselves and our school,” said Debbie Fiala, band and vocal in-

structor. “They performed very competently and earned excellent ratings!”

Soloists and ensembles earning I ratings were Payton Beims and Jenna Confer - piano solos, Hannah Wolff, Jenna Confer, and Katie Schmid - vocal solos, Kattie Jenik - flute solo, Jenna Confer - clarinet solo, Sydney Sundstrom

- trumpet solo, Clarinet Quartet (Kayla Reed, CarolEve Harris, Jenna Confer, Makayla Rogers), Brass Ensemble (Sydney Sundstrom, Quinton Cravens, Katie Schmid, Taryn Zwegardt), and the Percussion Ensemble (Hannah Wolff, Taylor Rogers, Travis Rogers, Justin Pacheco, Joel Hill, Payton Beims).

Receiving II ratings were Jason Owens and Taryn Zwegardt - vocal solos, Hannah Wolff - snare drum solo, Girls Vocal Trio (Hannah Wolff, Danielle Frink, Sophie White), and the Seventh and Eighth Grade Mixed Chorus. The chorus was directed by Debbie Fiala and accompanied on the piano by Jean Ann Confer.

Electric rates expected to increase soon

There’s no two ways about it—electricity prices are going up!

The city’s power supply contract with the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency expired at the end of 2011, and the city has now signed a new 10-year contract with Prairie Land Electric Cooperative for the power supply to be provided by Sunflower Electric.

In the late 70s, the city of St. Francis was instrumental, along with four other northwest Kansas communities, in establishing the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency. The agency’s purpose was to provide

it’s members with the necessary experience and expertise to address their options regarding electric power sources. The agency now has over 60 member cities.

As a result of its membership in Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, the city was able to access a hydro power source through the Western Area Power Administration which amounted to approximately two-thirds of the city’s needs. The cost of this power was less than that provided from the city’s other providers.

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Family members found and are OK

On Monday, people who have face book accounts were alerted that Vicky Zwegardt and her two children were missing.

The Herald staff contacted the family and sheriff’s deputy only to learn that they hadn’t been seen in some time but, they didn’t know what had happened.

On Tuesday, Cody Beeson, deputy sheriff, called to tell the Herald staff that Mrs. Zwegardt and her two children had been found. KBI officers had spoken with her and each of the children to verify the fact that they were OK.

No other information was released with the call.