



TEMPHS HAVE BEEN -0 degrees – just right for ice skating or playing hockey on the skating rink belonging to Steve and Connie Jenkins. Above, Tyler Raby is pretty good on the ice. Right, Jordan Raby caught himself before he fell. Goalie is Pastor Warren Cico.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



Board continues to talk about new scheduling

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwks.com

The St. Francis Board of Education continued to study the proposed new scheduling in the junior-senior high school when they met on Thursday.

Rob Schiltz, superintendent, reported on the "mock" enrollment which Ward Cassidy, counselor, had just completed. The enrollment was for a seven-period class day. The junior-senior high currently has a nine-period class day.

Mr. Schiltz said the mock enrollment showed that the schedule would work. The advantage, he said, would mean each class would be 9 minutes longer. One of the disadvantages was they would not have the availability of as many study halls and library periods and there could be a problem for those students serving as teacher aides. Students, he said, may have to take a more rigorous class schedule.

The schedule would affect on some of the electives such as the vo ag, industrial arts and journalism but would have little affect band and vocal.

Mr. Schiltz said the administration was still considering bringing the sixth grade up to the junior high.

What if, asked Mila Bandel, board member, a teacher doesn't return?

That depends on who the teacher is, Mr. Schiltz said.

Derrick Tice, board member, asked if the administration had talked to the staff about the schedule?

Mr. Schiltz said a letter had been sent out after the last meeting. Several teachers had responded but there had been no negative comments.

Mr. Tice said he would rather see the sixth grade stay in the elementary building. Mrs. Bandel added that there are several parents who don't want to move the sixth graders to the junior high.

Scott Carmichael, principal, said half the schools in the league

have had sixth grade as part of the junior high and it has worked.

Mr. Schiltz said the administration is still studying the scheduling and they will not ask the board for a decision for another month or two.

School calendar

The 2013-2014 school calendar was reviewed. It shows school starting on Aug. 20 and ending on May 21. Christmas vacation will start on Dec. 23 and end on Jan. 1 with school starting on Jan. 2. Spring break starts on March 17.

Mr. Schiltz said five snow days have been planned and, if they are not needed, there will still be school.

Energy audit

Earlier, Resourceful Kansas had performed an energy audit on the junior-senior high school. The 131 page audit report had been sent to Mr. Schiltz and he told board members that he would e-mail it to them.

Some of the highlights of the report included:

- The facility was 22-percent more efficient than the average educational facilities in the United States.

- Dollar wise, the building was 50 percent more efficient than the average school facility in the United States.

The audit suggested that they replace the T-12 light bulbs with T-8 bulbs which Mr. Schiltz had one with one set of lights but it flickered. Ed Marin, board member and also an electrician, said that when the bulbs were changed, they would probably need to change the ballasts. They would need to compare the costs with that of new fixtures.

Some of the other audit suggestions were insulating steam and hot water pipes and installing programmable thermostats. The insulating and installing the thermostats had already begun in the building.

League meeting report

Mr. Carmichael had been to a Northwest Kansas League meeting. See SCHEDULE on Page 5A



INSTALLING 800 MEGAHERTZ equipment in one of the county fire trucks was Rick Elliott with Prairie States Communications.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

New communication equipment installation begins in the county

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwks.com

This week, the 800 megahertz communication equipment is being installed in emergency, law and fire vehicles along with the dispatch office. The changeover from UHF to 800 radios has been discussed with the Cheyenne County Commissioners for over a year.

The Kansas Department of Transportation, highway patrol, hospital and the emergency manager, Ryan Murray, have been using the 800 radios for quite a while. However, both UHF and the 800 radios will continue to be used.

The Federal Communications Commission mandated that all UHF/VHF radios be narrow banded, which left Cheyenne County with some gaps in radio coverage. The addition of 800 radios will improve communication needs of the emergency responders and help fill some of the gaps. While the project is expensive, some of the equipment has been purchased with 911 funds and Northwest Regional Homeland Security grant funds.

The main advantage in using the 800 equipment is the ability to have better coverage and being able to better communicate. With the 800 radios, we will be able to

communicate with people all over the state as well as part of Colorado, Mr. Murray said. For instance, when the ambulance is across the state in Hays or Kansas City, they can still communicate with hospital and medical personnel. With UHF radios, they cannot.

Responder and public safety, he said, is a priority and the 800 radios will help provide this service.

The county will no longer have to maintain towers for the equipment, Mr. Murray said. All of the equipment is installed on Kansas Department of Transportation towers.

For those who have scanners, See RADIOS on Page 5A

Filing deadline set for Tuesday

There are seats on the school board and city council up for election in April.

In St. Francis, there are three council members, Carla Lampe, Paula Keller and Bruce Swihart whose terms are up. On the board of education, the positions of Kelly Gienger, Ed Marin and Derrick Tice are up for election.

In Bird City, the mayor, Troy Burr, is up for election as well as council members, Wade Carmichael and Hal Sager. On the board of education, Hal Antholz, Jarice Busse, George Louderbaugh and Anita Pochop are up for election.

Anyone interested in running for any of the positions needs to file by noon on Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the county clerk's office at the courthouse in St. Francis.

If there are more than two people running for any one school board position, there will be a need for a primary election which will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The city council elections are different as the people with the most votes fill the positions.

As of Monday, Deb Lindsten, deputy clerk, reported only Mrs. Lampe and Mrs. Keller had filed for positions on the St. Francis City Council.

Weather

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Jan. 8	49	16	
Jan. 9	51	20	
Jan. 10	45	29	
Jan. 11	57	8	trace
Jan. 12	20	2	
Jan. 13	21	0	trace
Jan. 14	24	2	.06

