

Stranded travelers made good use of the mats in the wrestling room. Some had their own bedding while others used blankets and pillows brought by people in the community.

Blizzard leaves travelers stranded

School doors are opened to weary, stranded travelers

By Karen Krien

"This is a community of angels," said Anita Bock, who was on her way to her home in Yuma, Colo., when her car hit the ditch in the snow. The ambulance came by and picked up her and her two dogs and brought them to the St. Francis high school.

Sunday evening, the St. Francis high school looked like it was holding a sporting event. The street and parking area around the school were full of vehicles, and the lights were on in the gym, wrestling room and much of the rest of the school. The difference were firemen, Dale Weeks and Steve Jenkins standing out in the cold wind directing vehicles with people stranded in the storm.

Gary Rogers, emergency manager for Cheyenne, Sherman and Rawlins counties, had called the school when the motels filled up.

"This is just part of the emergency training," he said, noting that there were people at the school in Atwood, and many more at Max Jones Fieldhouse, armory and

Methodist Church in Goodland. In Bird City, there were about 45 people stranded and staying at the high school, Methodist Church and Legion hall.

In Idalia, the school was opened for 60 stranded motorists and four dogs. Employees from Route 36 Bar and Grille spent the night at the school making sure the travelers had everything they needed.

At Nancy's St. Francis Bed and Breakfast, there were 10 people staying. Neal McCumber, who runs the facility, said when Nancy had answered the call, she asked if the people were stranded and when she found out they were, she had told them there was no charge. Ordinarily only serving breakfast, the McCumbers were also going to serve some other meals.

Over 200 people were glad to have a warm place to stay (there were also 25 to 30 dogs and one cat). Some were worried about getting back to jobs and two girls were supposed to be in Denver on Sunday night to pick up people from the airport.

"They weren't too happy," said Elsie Lynn. Her sister Cristy Lynn was talking on the phone telling the person at the other end that they were at St. Francis.

The girls had been in Iola and

were on their way to Colorado Springs.

Mark and Linda Lynch had spend a great weekend in Breckenridge skiing and were on their way home to Pearsall, Texas. Mr. Lynch said it was hard to believe it was so nice Thanksgiving Day and a blizzard on Sunday.

Lonny and Corrie Stroud, Kelsey and Dylan had been visiting Grandma at Smith Center and they were on their way back to Paonia, Colo. Mr. Strout said he had watched the Smith Center football game. He added that he thanked the community of St. Francis for opening up the school so they had a place to stay and everyone for being so nice.

The Bargers, Duane and Michelle, along with 7-year-old Jake and 8-month-old Gabi, had been on the road since 6:30 a.m. coming from Edmond, Okla. They were on their way to their home in Aurora, Colo. Mrs. Barger said someone had found a playpen for Gabi to sleep in and Jake was watching the DVD player with his dad.

There were a variety of people helping in anyway they could. Gloria Bracelin, Dolores Jenik and Scott Carmichael were rounding up more food. Firemen's wives were

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TALKING ABOUT THE DAY — 7-year-old Jake Barger talked to his dad, Duane Barger after they had found a place in the high school cafeteria. The Bargers were on their way home in Aurora, Colo., and had left Edmond, Okla., at 6:30 that morning. Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Storm closes roads, schools

By Karen Krien

The first major snow storm of the season moved into the St. Francis area Sunday morning. Big snowflakes accompanied by 35- to 50-mile-per-hour wind seemed to bring things to a standstill. However, the temperatures were in the 30s much of the day and it wasn't until later in the afternoon that the snow began to accumulate on the roads.

Out in the country, drifts were starting to form. U.S. 36 was open until later afternoon and I-70 was closed from Colby west. That night, the sheriff's officers were out until 12:30 a.m. keeping people from jumping the road closings. Monday afternoon, Troy Gardner, sheriff, said there were at least 20 cars in the ditches and they still hadn't been able to get up on K-161 north of Bird City. However, there hadn't been any serious injuries.

Richard Grace, Grace Flying Service, said there had been a 65-mile-per-hour reading during the storm and a steady 30- to 40-mile-per-hour wind.

The wind brought down electrical lines and poles and St. Francis was without electricity for about 45 minutes in the evening and again about 4:30 a.m. on Monday. About 9 a.m.,

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BIG FLAKES OF SNOW fell, amounting to only 2 inches which the wind quickly whipped into a ground blizzard which stranded many travelers along U.S 36 and I-70. Staff photo by Karen Krien

Wrestling season opens with 45th Sainty tourney

By Betty Jean Winston

Falls, takedowns, pins, it's that season again. The annual St. Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament takes place on Saturday in the high school gym. This is the opening event on the Indian calendar and the 45th year St. Francis has held the event.

At 9:30 a.m., the first wrestlers will take to the mats and the compe-

tion begins. Session two is scheduled for 1 p.m. and the finals take place 15 minutes after the second session, at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Teams returning this year include Rawlins County/Atwood, Colby, Goodland, Pine Creek, Colo., Quinter, Scott City, Sterling, Colo., St. Francis, Wichita County-Leoti and Wray, Colo. Last year the field

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Christmas program set for Monday evening

The St. Francis grade school students will present their annual Christmas program on Monday, Dec. 5, in the grade school gymnasium. The program will feature kindergarten, first, second and third grade music students under the direction of Jean Ann Confer.

"The program will include a wide

variety of favorite Christmas songs, dances, stories and fun," Jean Ann Confer, instructor, said. "Santa and the whole North Pole gang will be on hand to add to the festivities."

An all-school dress rehearsal will be held at 10:15 a.m. The public is welcome at either performance.

Yuletide Festival to be entertaining

The annual Yuletide Festival and Sweet Shoppe will be open at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the St. Francis Community High School. The event is sponsored by the St. Francis Music Club.

There will be several new musical groups including the "Once Again Sound" band which will be playing Christmas music. People in the St. Francis community rum-

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EAGER TRAVELERS waited anxiously for the road block to be lifted Tuesday morning. The road opened at 10:45 a.m.

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serving food and popping corn. Perry and Paula Keller had an arm load of bedding and there was more bedding stacked on the floor. Kids and adults were playing basketball in the gym and people were sitting at tables in the cafeteria, some eating, some were watching a movie which was being shown on the wall, some were talking on cell phones, others were on their laptops and one girl was studying.

Sunday, Cassie Luke was on her way to Fort Collins traveling on I-70 when she found out the interstate was closed at Goodland. She had turned north on K-27 and said the highway was terrible. She said she finally got behind a man in a truck who led her on into St. Francis and to the high school.

Monday, sun came out but the wind continued to blow and the roads were still closed. People who were glad to be out of the snow were getting a little anxious to get back home.

Dr. Mary Beth Miller was at the school helping those who needed prescriptions or some medical help.

Some were exploring the town and checking out the roads.

Mr. McCumber said he had one person check out and then come back telling Mrs. McCumber "not to wash the sheets" because it looked like he was there for another night.

Monday evening, the Cheyenne Theater was opened so the people



TRUCKS WAITED wherever they could find a parking place much of the day on Sunday until Tuesday for the 'road closed ahead' sign to be removed.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

could have some entertainment and the street was lined with movie goers.

Tuesday morning, people at the school were ready to go. Bedding was piled by the cafeteria door waiting for who had brought them to pick them up. Sheriff Gardner was at the school keeping people so they could leave as quickly as possible.

People at the school expressed thanks again to the people of the community for all they did. They were so happy to have a place to stay.

By 10:45, Kenny Richard, state highway department head, was removing the road barriers. Cars and trucks were lined up waiting to go. As they left, most were wearing big smiles and waving.

"This has been an adventure," said Mrs. Bock on Tuesday morning.



OFF IN THE DITCH — Law officers estimated at least 20 cars and trucks in the ditch during the storm on Sunday. Note the broken utility pole in the background. Electricity was also off.

Herald staff photo by Sandy Barnhart

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the electricity went out again and this time, the city crew fired up the city's generators. Eric Fiala, city employee, said it took time to warm up the giant engines and, by about 10:30, the city was once again with electricity. PrairieLand Electric also had lines down and people out in the country were without electricity. Dave Hickert, manager, on Monday afternoon, said they had scattered reports of poles being down but, until the wind went down, they were

not able to get around to see.

"We're working on it but it's slow," he said.

Cable television was down and, with the schools closed, there were kids (and parents) who were wishing it would come back on. The cable is operated with PrairieLand electricity.

There was only about 2 inches of snow and little moisture with the snow. A lot of the snow ended up in the ditches.

The sun was shining when people

got up Tuesday morning. The school, which was still full of storm refugees, did not have classes — Probably will resume on Wednesday.

The roads opened up 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday and vehicles began moving out. The vehicles were lined up waiting

Across the state, there was a variety of weather from the blizzard in northwestern Kansas to rain in the middle of the state to a tornado at Fort Riley.

TOURNEY

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had 11 teams but Holyoke, Colo., will be missing this year.

The Goodland Cowboys took home top honors last year with 168 team points, four champions, one second-place finish and three thirds. St. Francis placed second with 154 points, four champions, one second place finish and two thirds. Coming in third was Scott City with 131 points and three champions.

Although two (Derek Ross, Gabe Gienger) St. Francis wrestlers who placed in the top three last year have graduated, the team will return Trevor Richard, Dylan Loyd and Jordan Gienger, who each won their weight class, and Gabe Smull and Brennon Wilger who placed third. Loyd was named co-wrestler of the tournament along with Bahe of Goodland.

"This will be a tough tournament as there will be some good quality wrestlers attending," Indian coach Larry Gabel said.

"We are a week behind in practice sessions compared to some of our competition (due to the extended football season). Hopefully we will be ready by the tournament. I believe in our quality."

Coach Gabel also feels that Goodland, who placed in 4A last year, will again have a strong team effort and Colby, the only team that de-

feated St. Francis in league dual competition last year, will be much improved.

"Pine Creek is on the upswing also," he said. "They have a large number of wrestlers out. I think Wray was third at State and have a lot coming back."

Some of the out-of-town champions from last year who are expected to return are Bahe of Goodland, Johnson of Pine Creek and Miller of Scott City. Starr of Goodland is out with an injury.

"Michelbrink of Atwood, Finley and Garcia of Colby will be very tough," Coach Gabel said.

"This is traditionally one of the toughest tournaments around."

First and second place team trophies will be given with medals to the first three placers and the consolation champion. Coaches will be selecting the "Outstanding Wrestlers" at the end of the tournament.

"Fans are encouraged to come and watch the competition," Coach Gabel said. "In many cases there could be a pre-State preview of wrestling matchups."

The St. Francis Invitational is a good opening for the wrestling season and the gym will be filled with fans who have been waiting to see the Indians and other outstanding area athletes.

FESTIVAL

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maged around their attics and basements to find their instruments they played in high school. They formed a band and have already entertained.

The Madrigal Singers will be singing three numbers. The Cooks girls, Brianna, Mandi and Cassie, will be singing.

The St. Francis Community High School Advanced Music chorus, under the direction of Debbie Fiala, instructor, will be entertaining.

Poetry will be recited by the Prai-

rie Rose Poet, Helene Landengerber and the kids from Dance Ranch will have a variety of dances.

Sweet Shoppe

Before the Yuletide Festival, the Sweet Shoppe will be open with many homemade Christmas candies, breads, cookies and other goodies.

"If you don't want to bake during the holidays, plan on buying your baking at the Sweet Shoppe," Teresa Porter, Music Club member, said.



Retirement Is No Time To Slow Down

When advanced knee or hip pain severely limits your ability to walk, work or enjoy leisure activities, joint replacement should be considered.

In its early stages, joint pain may be relieved with anti-inflammatory medications, injections or arthroscopic surgery. However, as pain progresses, joint replacement surgery may be the best solution for long-term pain relief.

Could you be a candidate for hip, knee, shoulder or other joint surgery?

Hip

- Do you have hip, groin, or thigh pain when walking or standing?
- Have you noticed a loss of motion of your hip?
- Does your hip or leg pain limit what activities you may participate in?
- Do you have difficulty getting up from a chair or going up steps due to hip or leg pain?

Knee

- Does your knee swell or feel "stiff" after activity?
- Do you have knee pain during or after activity?
- Does your knee "pop" or "crunch" when you move it?
- Does knee pain limit what activities you participate in?

Shoulder

- Have you noticed a loss of motion in your shoulder?
- Do you have pain in your shoulder when you lift objects?
- Does shoulder pain limit what activities you participate in?
- Does your shoulder "pop" or make "crunching" noises when you move it?

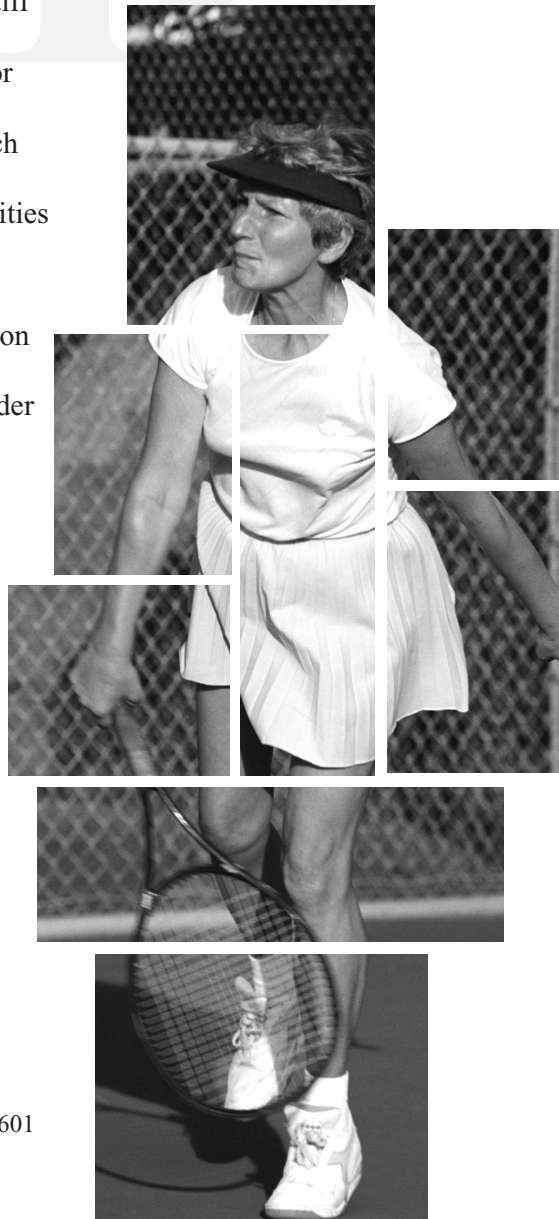
If you answered "YES" to two or more of these questions, you should consider seeing your physician or orthopedic specialist about whether knee or hip replacement may be right for you.

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HERALD HAPPENINGS —



Christmas Supplement

This supplement will be filled with Christmas Cheer: Letters to Santa, Recipes and Memories. The advertising is reserved for well wishes!

FIRST BABY

With the oncome of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy!

Coming in January a bundle of business ready to congratulate the new baby and the parents!

Winter Sports Tab

This supplement will feature St. Francis and Bird City Jr. High and High School Basketball players, Wrestlers and Cheerleaders! To be inserted in your paper in January.



For more details, contact Casey McCormick at the Saint Francis Herald at 785-332-3162

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