



The National Guard helicopter came into St. Francis and picked up Chris Leibbrandt. From the airport, they hauled feed from a field and brought it back to the Leibbrandt farm.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Guard flies in to help cattlemen

By Karen Krien

The snow storms have caused a lot of problems including getting feed to livestock. Last week, as the week wore on, Chris Leibbrandt and his dad Ben Leibbrandt knew they were going to run out of hay if there was another storm.

The Leibbrandts live about 10 miles northwest of St. Francis. Chris

said they have about 80 cows and 120 calves but their hay was another 10 miles north of their farmsteads.

"I talked to Gary Rogers, emergency manager, and he made the necessary contacts so we could get the hay moved," Chris said.

The National Guard helicopter flew into St. Francis Thursday afternoon, picked up Chris and they flew

on to the field where the bales were located about 10 miles further north. He said the bales were airlifted after spears were put into the sides of the bale and heavy ropes were attached from the helicopter to the bales. A total of 15 bales were airlifted on Thursday and Saturday.

Chris said they were certainly thankful that the National Guard

helped because they were down to the point where there was no hay left for the cattle.

Manager Rogers said the Leibbrandts were the only people calling for assistance during the storm. He said that the National Guard assists free of charge only when there is a state or federal declaration of a disaster. Gov. Kathleen

Sebelius had presented the declaration to President Bush, who, in turn, declared the northwest Kansas area as a disaster.

Those needing help from the National Guard during a declared disaster will need pertinent information as to how many head of livestock are in need; the kinds of bales (round, square, big or small) and the

legal description where both the livestock and feed is located.

"People will need to go through my office to get the help," Mr. Rogers said.

For more information, contact the emergency office at 785-332-2560. If Mr. Rogers is not there, are other numbers on the answering machine to call.

Bird City man sworn in as new commissioner

By Karen Krien

The new commissioner was sworn in at the Jan. 8 meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners.



Ketzner

Terry Miller, county clerk, swore in Ernie Ketzner as commissioner of the Bird City District. Jane Brubaker retired after serving 12 years in that seat. At her request, no reception was held.

Andy Beikman was reelected as chairman.

Commissioners agree to raises

Janelle Bowers, emergency

medical service director, asked that the commissioners approve a raise for the emergency medical technicians making local runs. She said they now get \$20 per run and they often end up spending several hours at the hospital. Mrs. Bowers asked that the run be raised to \$30 per run per technician.

Last year, there were 100 runs in St. Francis and 48 in Bird City. Generally there are three technicians on a run and she thought the budget could handle the increase.

The commissioners agreed to the \$10 increase.

The commissioners also agreed to give county employees a 3-percent cost-of-living raise and Danielle Gardner, the county attorney's legal

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HUNTERS BROUGHT IN COYOTES Sunday afternoon. Pictured (l to r) are an unidentified hunter; Brent Rueb, coordinator of the contest; and Johnnie Miller.

Coyote hunters represent 11 states including Kansas

By Karen Krien

The 2007 Midwest Coyote Calling Contest was held over the weekend and brought in many hunters, camera crews and sponsors as well as people coming just to see the action.

From Friday through Sunday, the hunters traveled from 11 states including Kansas. Participants reported 715 coyotes spotted which is around 200 more than last year. There were 210 brought back to St. Francis.

There were 65 Predator Xtreme teams and 50 Sportsman teams which totaled 115.

Brent Rueb has organized this event for 10 years.

"Everything went very smooth again this year," Mr. Rueb said, "and we had an excellent turnout."

Over \$30,000 in money and prizes were given out.

The first place winner in the Predator Xtreme (formerly Mid-

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PRIZE WINNER — Garrett Binning won one of the prizes during the evening presentation of winners.

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick

Board selects parade theme

By Lezlie McCormick

Ten members of the Cheyenne County Fair Board met on Thursday night chose "Winds of Change" as the theme of the 2007 fair parade.

President Dick Bursch said he has also hired the janitors for the fair. Bill Erhman, representing the Amusement Authority, said that the members of the Authority will help with a janitor's salary again this year.

Resignation

Ernie Ketzner resigned from the fair board to accept the position of county commissioner. President Bursch thanked Mr. Ketzner for his many years of service as a fair board member.

Barbecue

Tye Faulkender, Extension director, ask the board why the decision was made to open the fair to food vendors? The response from the board was the free-will barbecue had lost money every year and with more vendors there will be more people involved and the vendor fees will increase revenue. Mr. Faulkender was concerned that bringing in vendors outside the community would loose the hometown atmosphere. The board said they would approve all vendors before contracts are signed.

Other business:

In other business: Jared Douthit, board member, said that the companies bidding on the chemicals to be used on the fairgrounds were waiting on 2007 prices.

Clay Zimelman, board member, asked about the door that needs fixed on the exhibit building. Mr. Douthit said that Wade Krien is working on a bid.

Nick Ketzner, board member, moved that the fair board members be allowed to participate in the lawn mower race. After some discussion about the fact that fair board mem-

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Companies offer help to low-income families in county

Priority Oil and Gas and Energy Outreach Colorado are reaching out to help Cheyenne County residents subsidize their winter utility bills from Nov. 1 through April 30.

Robbie Gries, Priority Oil and Gas president and owner, realizes the rising energy costs have created difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of their energy bill is now available for qualified applicants.

To qualify, a person's combined income (before deductions) of all people living at the address may not exceed the guidelines on the chart below. An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for purchasing heating costs incurred at the residence (payable either to the landlord or to the fuel vendor).

The resident must also be a permanent and legal resident of the

United States and Cheyenne County.

Household income limits:
Size-1 person; income per month \$1,440

2 people; income per month \$1,930
3 people; income per month \$2,420
4 people; income per month \$2,910
5 people; income per month \$3,400
6 people; income per month \$3,890
7 people; income per month \$4,380
8 people; income per month \$4,870
Each addition person, \$500 income per month.

*This is an estimate of qualifications for energy assistance.

The Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program does not guarantee energy assistance will be provided.

The Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program applications became available starting Tuesday

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