

**By Karen Krien**  
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners were faced with several requests for purchases and a limited budget when they met on Monday morning. The road and bridge department supervisor is looking at purchasing a new road grader, the appraiser's office needs a new mapping printer and will have mapping costs; and the warrant for health care insurance. To top it off, it is the end of the year and the budget is extremely tight.

Dustin Daniels, representative for Martin Tractor Sales, Colby, presented information on a new M-Series Caterpillar road grader which will cost \$180,000 after a \$100,000 trade in for a 1991 grader.

Dale Patton, commissioner-elect, asked what Mr. Fleming had in his budget? Mr. Fleming said that there was not enough to purchase the grader and the equipment trailer they had purchased still needed to be paid for.

Mr. Daniels said that the graders were expected to go up 5 to 8 percent after the first of the year. If they wanted the lower price, the bill would need to be made out for Dec. 31. Terry Miller, clerk, had talked to the auditor and if they did not have the money, they could not purchase anything before the first of the year. Even after the first of the year, there would need to be some other financial arrangements made to buy the grader. The commissioners agreed to hold

off on the purchase. Later, Mr. Daniels came back to the meeting, saying he had talked to his boss who said the grader's lower price could still be in effect until the commissioners' first meeting in January. No decisions were made as there is still one more meeting left in December.

Supervisor Fleming said the warranties on the two New Holland tractors purchased this year could be extended. For full coverage, the cost would be \$6,851 per tractor; and for power-train coverage, the cost would be \$2,692 per year per tractor. There was some discussion but, again, no decision was made.

Mr. Fleming asked the commissioners about extending the length of the trench at the landfill. He felt this was a good time to hire contractors to do the work as there is a lot of competition in this field. Digging deeper would help extend the life of the landfill. The commissioners asked Mr. Fleming to get some bids for the work. He noted that the landfill had been inspected and there had been some deficiencies which will be corrected.

**Appraiser's report**  
County appraiser, Bruce Webb, talked about a new mapping printer as well as contracting for help in GIS mapping. The printer cost is \$5,995 and would replace the blue line printer currently in use. The mapping cost proposal from R and S Digital Services is \$57,750. The total includes parcel mapping, agricultural use maps, integration of

Natural Resources Conservation Service digital soil maps, and the production of agricultural and soil reports.

**Road trenching**  
John Lampe, St. Francis farmer, asked about boring under the road compared to trenching. The commissioners earlier signed a resolution which would carry a fine of \$2,500 for those who were trenching across county roads without a permit.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, explained that every time a cut is made across the road, it is hard to fill it back in like it was. Also, when trenching is done, at the ends, the trencher has trouble going as deep, consequently, if the road grader forgets that there is a line there, it may be severed.

The decision to draw up the resolution, he said, was made after two years of problems.

**Ambulance department report**  
Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, had adjustment write-offs for \$2,774. She pointed out that most of the problems are with the Eagle Med air transports that Medicare doesn't pay.

She said that, as of Monday, there had been 305 ambulance runs. There are 43 more runs than at this same time a year ago. With more runs, she expects the payroll to be over budget before the first of January.

She said four first responder students have completed training and three have taken the test so are certified nationally and in Kansas. The other student will take the test in Hays in the near future. Those taking the IV class are doing quite well, she said. Their test day is Jan. 24 and she noted that they will pay their way for the own testing.

The emergency medical technicians had elected officers. Loren White is the president; Reid Raile, vice president; Teri Chase, secretary; and Tammi Sherlock, treasurer. They had recommended Mrs. Bowers continue as the director.

Mrs. Bowers asked for an executive session to discuss financial matters of the third party as well as personnel matters. No decision was made.

Mrs. Bowers was given approval to give emergency medical tech-

nicians bonuses in the amounts of \$50 and \$100. No further information was available.

**Hospital board**  
Jerry Toler's four-year term on the hospital board will be up at the end of the year. As in the past, the commissioners open up the position to see if there are others who might want to serve. An ad will be run in the papers and interviews will be set up at the Dec. 31 meeting. Mr. Toler said he would be happy to serve again but he will need to interview with the others.

**In other business**  
In other business:  
• A warrant for health care insurance for \$20,577 was reviewed. This was a direct debit transaction from the week of Dec. 8.

• The commissioners agreed to pay the city of St. Francis \$2,399 for Kent Allard's officer training expenses. Mr. Allard is a new officer in the sheriff's department.

• The commissioners signed a crossing permit to allow Murfin Drilling to bore under a county road.

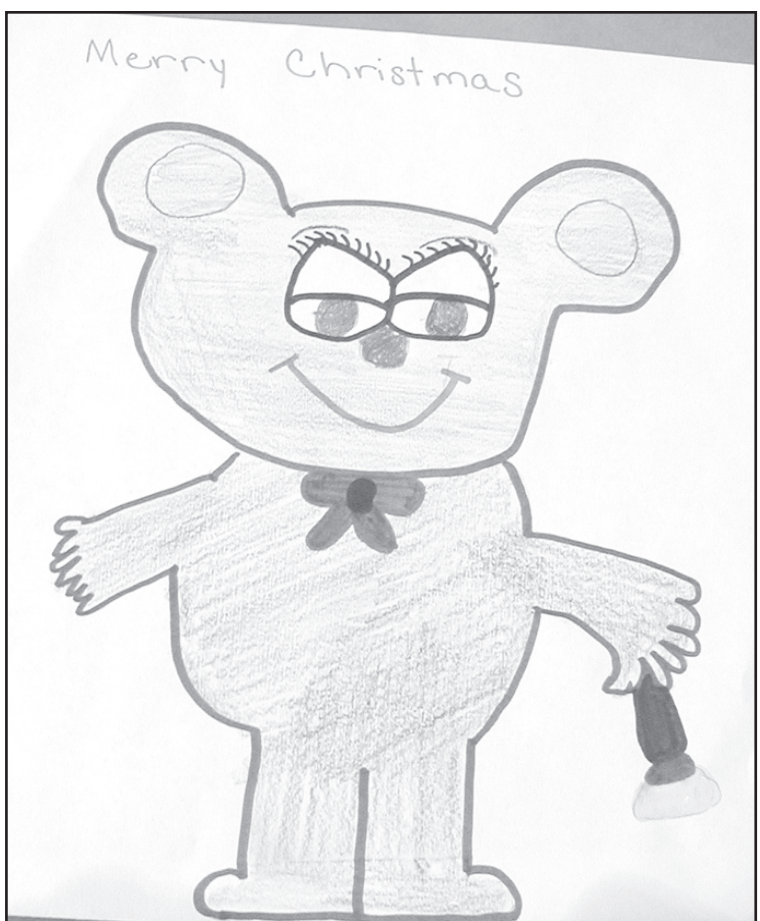
• The commissioners signed the contract with the city of St. Francis to pay \$750 per month for utilities at the new emergency building. Mr. Beikman also noted that the contract includes insurance on the building. Any money not needed for those expenses will be put into a fund to be used for repairs. The costs will be looked at again in July and the contract will be renegotiated in a year.

• Dan Schlittenhardt was given permission to attend a weed meeting in Garden City on Dec. 17.

• The commissioners agreed to trade in the John Deere riding mower snow blower attachment for a walk-behind snow blower. There is no cost for the trade.

**Next meetings**  
The next regular meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Dec. 31. On the agenda will be a hearing for amending the 2008 budget. The county, at the end of the year, was over because of health insurance, fuel costs and extra hours in the road and bridge department; and in dispatch, which is a new department.

The January meeting will be on the second Monday, Jan. 12, at 8 a.m. At that time, the new commissioner will be sworn in.



**CONTEST ENTRY — Mariah Beikman entered this cutelittle fellow in the coloring contest.** Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Winners announced

The winners of the Kids' Coloring Contest were announced Monday evening at the Christmas drawing. The contest is sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce.

Prizes were awarded to the top three winners in each class. First place received a gift certificate from Pizza Hut; second, a bowling certificate from the Cheyenne Bowl; and third, a gift certificate from Video Kingdom.

Kindergarten winners were: Katie Wurm, first; Adam Krien, second; Garin Cooper, third. Honorable mention went to Christopher Leibbrandt.

First grade: Audrey Meyer, first; Seth Mills, second; and Seth Hilt, third. Cassidy Busse received an honorable mention.

Second grade: Lindsey Johnson, first; Lauren Johnson, second; Alex Queen, third. KC Krien had honorable mention.

Third grade: Sayed Fierro, first; Hanna Bracelin, second; Martin Beikman, third. Tia Penn received honorable mention.

Fourth grade: Kenny Leibbrandt, first; Jenna Confer, second; JR Landenberger, third. Honorable mention went to Trey Van Allen.

Fifth grade: Kattie Jenik, first; Travis Rogers, second; Lane Hobbrock, third. Carl Fabre had honorable mention.

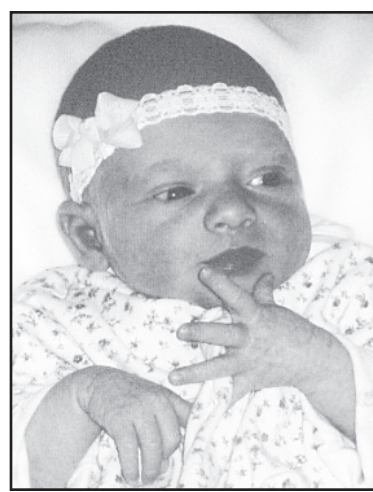
Sixth grade: Nicky Easter, first; Kyla Bandel, second; Valerie Wurm, third. Echo Jones had an honorable mention.

## Introducing

### Sadie Anne Gerstenkorn

Sidney Gerstenkorn would like to announce the birth of her sister, Sadie Anne Gerstenkorn. Sadie was born in Long Tree, Colo., at Sky Ridge Medical Center on Sept. 26, 2008. She weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces and was 18.25-inches long. Sidney and Sadie's parents are Chasiti and Shawn Gerstenkorn of Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Her grandparents are Connie and Willie Weems of Goodland; Ed and Jenanne Gerstenkorn of Wichita; Steve Gutsch of Lakewood, Colo.; and Holly Gerstenkorn of Arlington, Texas. Great-grandparents are Jessie Schield of St. Francis; Andy and Bea Gerstenkorn of Waterloo and Mildred



Gerstenkorn

Gutsch of Goodland.

### What is the real meaning of wealth?

"The Ultimate Gift" answers this question for a trust fund baby, Jason Stevens, through the unusual inheritance left by his wealthy grandfather, Red. You're invited to join the adult Sunday School class at Peace Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 21st and 29th at 9:30 a.m. in the confirmation room to see how Jason grows as a man as a result of the 12 gifts left by his grandfather.

--Billie Hilt & Paula Keller

*Many Thanks to You*

**Thank you to everyone who participated in Cruise Night! Special thanks to Bumper To Bumper for your donation and Dave Burns for helping to get it started.**

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The Cheyenne County Board of Commissioners will be interviewing prospective **Hospital Board candidates on Dec. 31.**

Those interested in serving on the Hospital Board need to apply at the clerk's office, 785-332-8800, before Dec. 31.

**Christmas Open House**

**Tuesday, December 23**  
**3 to 5 p.m.**

Stop by for some cookies and coffee.

**Milliken Law Office**  
101 W. Washington, St. Francis

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**Help Wanted**

**Human Resources/Marketing Director**

The Cheyenne County Hospital is a 16-bed Critical access Hospital located in Northwest Kansas. Cheyenne County Hospital offers an excellent and competitive compensation and benefits package. This position requires a degree in human resources, a related field, or equivalent experience. A strong working knowledge and/or practical experience in human resource management, payroll, recruitment and conflict resolution, along with excellent personal computer and communication skills are necessary. The successful candidate will provide oversight and coordinate the human resource function within the hospital and report directly to the administrator. EOE Please contact: Les Lacy, Administrator  
Cheyenne County Hospital Phone: 785-332-2104  
PO Box 547 Email: llacy@cheyennecountyhospital.com  
St. Francis, Ks 67756

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