



**SWORN IN** — Kari Gilliland is sworn as Cheyenne County Attorney by Terry Miller, county clerk. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## County attorney is sworn in

**By Karen Krien**  
karen.k@nwkansas.com  
Kari Gilliland was sworn in by Terry Miller, county clerk, as Cheyenne County Attorney on Monday. She replaces Justin Barrett.

A member of the James Milliken Chartered law firm, St. Francis, Mrs. Gilliland was the county attorney from 1997 to 2001. She saw the need for a local county attorney and ran unopposed in the November general election. She will continue to keep the county attorney office in the basement of the courthouse and will be there in the mornings. Office

hours will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed during the noon hour. Dannielle Gardner will continue as the attorney's secretary, keeping the office open when Mrs. Gilliland is not there.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Gilliland said she will be at her office downtown. I will be available if anyone needs me, she said at the Monday county commissioners' meeting.

Mrs. Gilliland was born and raised in St. Francis, graduating from St. Francis Community High School. She then attended Boston University for 1.5 years before going abroad where she studied in Australia for a semester. She received her undergraduate degree from Kansas University in 1993 and went on to graduate from Washburn University School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree.

She and her husband, Dustin, have two children, Molly and Joel. She is the daughter of Jim and Ruth Milliken, St. Francis.

## Council is updated on housing project

**by Peggy Horinek**  
phorinek@nwkansas.com  
The Northwest Kansas Planning and Development representative, Loyce Schamberger, updated the council on their progress with the housing project for St. Francis. The plans, if approved, would be to build eight housing units, three duplexes and two houses. An architect has made several trips here to look at possible locations. The council was very interested and Ms. Schamberger will prepare a resolution for the the next meeting.

**Other Business**  
Trailer park licenses were approved for Kathy Woodcox and Eldon Zimbelman.

A cereal malt beverage license was presented and approved for Bud Erskin doing business as Majestic.

New tires were put on the trash truck at a cost of \$1,434.

The Airport Authority will need to know where to go with the asphalt when the runway is removed. Council will get more details as to whether it will be milled or taken up in chunks.

Chemical bids were opened and St. Francis Equity was the low bidder at \$5,634.45. The bid was accepted.

The council requested Mike Day, city attorney, to draft an ordinance to change the city council meetings to Mondays. There is a conflict on Tuesdays with school sporting events and may be more people would run for city council if they didn't have that conflict.

**Revised Ordinance**  
A J turn ordinance was prepared by city attorney Mike Day, but the council decided to also include in the ordinance wording which includes backing out of a parking place across traffic. It will be ready for approval at the next meeting.

**Utility Comparisons**  
J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent prepared a chart showing the city's utility rates in comparison to other nearby communities rates. Council members will study the charts and go over them at the next meeting.

**Emergency Building**  
Both the Fire Department and the Emergency Medical Service have moved into their new homes at the Emergency Building. The old fire building is being used for storage. They plan on having an open house as soon as the weather warms up.

**Police Report**  
The police department is now fully staffed and things are going well. Shane Guggenous asked for verification about keeping people away from Keller Pond. The council confirmed that he was to keep people away until the fishing tournament.

**Building Permits**  
Two building permits were approved for Cheyenne County Hospital for a storage building and Western State Bank for a new bank building.

# Company will be helping families with winter costs

**By Karen Krien**  
karen.k@nwkansas.com  
Priority Oil and Gas will once again be helping some families in Cheyenne County to meet their winter heating costs. Applications are due by Jan. 31.

Priority president and owner Robbie Gries said she realized that, with the rising energy costs, there are people who are having trouble paying their heating bills and decided to begin the Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program in the winter of 2005. Every year since then, Priority has continued to assist Cheyenne County residents with their escalating heating bills.

"The program is a direct relationship between the oil and gas company and low income families who need help with their heating bills because of the increase in energy prices," Ms. Gries said.

The program is comparable to the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).

Applications are available at various locations in St. Francis and Bird City. People may call the company at 303-296-3435 or e-mail priorityog@aol.com or contact Jessica Andrews in Idalia, Colo., at 970-354-7495 or e-mail LaRanaLLC@aol.com for applications. Applications are due in Priority's office no later than Jan. 31.

"Helping residents with their heating bills is a way the company can give back to the community," Ms. Gries said. "The assistance is not designed to pay the whole bill but assistance will be given on the varied bases of need. We try to weigh the need with the amount of dollars to be dispersed."

Priority Oil and Gas LLC owns natural gas wells only in Cheyenne County, however, they have exploration projects in Wyoming and Colorado.

Ms. Gries started the company in 1992 and reformed the business

## Applications are available

Rising energy costs have created some difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of your energy bill is now available for income-qualified applicants.

Applications will be available starting Wednesday, Jan. 7, at the following locations:

St. Francis - Cheyenne County Treasurer's office, city office and the St. Francis Equity on

123 River Street.

Bird City - city office, Frontier Equity.

Or with Social and Rehabilitation Service (SRS) agents in Goodland and Colby.

You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil and Gas LLC at 303-296-3435, PriorityOG@aol.com, LaRanaLLC@aol.com, or P.O. Box 27798, Denver, Colo. 80227-0798.

in 1995. She started with 12 wells and is now up to 121 wells in the county.

Ms. Gries has a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from Colorado State University and a Master's Degree from University of Texas, Austin. She has been a geologist for 35 years and prior to that, for 2.5 years, taught beginning geology at Wichita State University.

Others working with Ms. Gries are Melissa Gray, Business Director; Jessica Andrews of LaRana Resources LLC, contract admin-

istrator; and Kevin Andrews of LaRana Resources LLC, contract field operations manager.

Ms. Gries said the Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program will continue as long as the company can afford to do so and expects the program to be a long-term project.

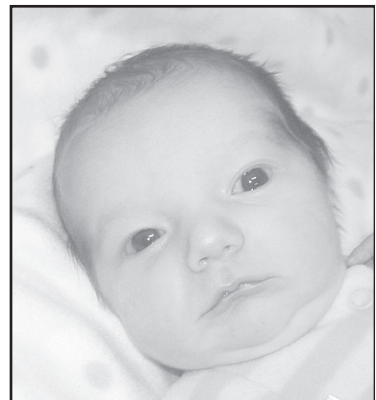
Anyone needing assistance, call 303-296-3435 or 970-354-7495. You may also stop by the various locations listed in the advertisement in this issue of the paper.

## Introducing

### Cora Jean DeGood

Big sister Paige Elizabeth and big brother Dawsen Dean DeGood announce the arrival of their new baby sister, Cora Jean DeGood. She was born Dec. 30, 2008, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Bonnie Cram and the late Dr. Ernest Cram and Dwen and Charilyn DeGood all of St. Francis.



Cora Jean DeGood

## Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

Rising energy costs have created some difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of your energy bill is now available for income qualified applicants.

CCEAP Applications will be available starting Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at the following locations:

- Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office
  - City Office
  - St. Francis Equity Co-Op
  - First National Bank
  - BANKWEST
- Bird City -
  - City Office
- Frontier Ag
  - First National Bank
- SRS Agents -
  - Goodland and Colby

You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil & Gas LLC at (303-296-3435), PriorityOG@aol.com, LaRanaLLC@aol.com, or P. O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

**PROGRAM SPONSORED BY**  
Priority Oil & Gas LLC  
&  
Energy Outreach Colorado

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**In-Stock Furniture Still An Extra 10% off**  
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785-332-2833

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Podiatrist/Foot Specialist  
Reconstructive Surgery  
Foot & Ankle Injuries  
For appointments call:  
**Rawlins County Health Center**  
785-626-3211  
**Wed., Feb. 4**  
Cheyenne County Hospital - P.M.  
210 W. 1st • 332-2104  
**Thurs., Feb. 5**  
Atwood (a.m.) • 626-3211  
Colby (p.m.)  
CSMC, 175 S. Range  
462-3332  
CMC, 100 E. College Dr.  
462-7511  
**Fri., Feb 6**  
Atwood - All Day

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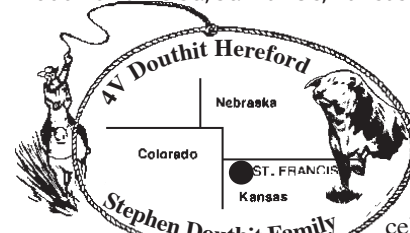
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(785) 626-3237  
(800) 696-3214  
Bison Rxcompounding@atwoodtv.net

## 4V Douthit Herefords

600 Lorraine St., St. Francis, Kansas 67756



STEVE  
(785) 332-2323  
cell (785)332-7192

stephendouthit@sbcglobal.net

## Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Contest



Sunday,  
January 18  
2 p.m.

St. Francis  
Community High School

All Kids Ages 10 to 14