



**OPEN HOUSE — Brent Rueb enjoys a hot dog and checks out the Viero plans with Shausta Real, regional representative, and Michelle McCoy, owner.** Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

# New Methodist pastor has officially started July 1

**By Karen Krien**  
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The United Methodist Church in St. Francis has a new pastor. Pastor Warren Cico officially started on July 1. He replaces Pastor Morita Truman.

Pastor Cico's last church was in Bennington, a town of approximately 600 people. He said he felt like he was moving to a city when he moved to St. Francis but noted that it is just the right size as it has the businesses and services necessary but he can walk or ride his bike anywhere in town.

Before he moved, he was already well acquainted with the town as he knew Libby Curry. Libby was Warren's mom's best friend in Angleton, Texas, where he was born and raised. There were several times that he had been a house guest of Libby.

Pastor Cico didn't start his career as a pastor. He was a junior high history and physical education teacher in Texas, South Dakota and Nebraska. In fact, he was an assistant coach for state champs in Texas ESD and an assistant for a state track champion team.

While he liked teaching and coaching, he said God just kept talking to him. He moved from Texas to South Dakota. He had been a Presbyterian but he joined the Methodist Church in Belle Fourch, S.D., and became a junior high Sunday school teacher. Then, one day he was asked to preach the sermon. It didn't stop there.

In 1980, he became a licensed lay speaker and had many opportunities to fill in for preachers.

On Dec. 14, 1990, he was traveling in a car with his three kids. It had started to snow when he found himself heading straight at a truck. On the right side was a row of trees, he said, and on the other side, there was a railroad track. He had no choice but to hit the truck which was driven by a drunk driver.

The kids in the back were OK but Erin, who was in the front, had hit her face on the dash. The first car to come along was occupied by three young men. They loaded us into their car. Warren felt helpless until he remembered to pray. At the hospital in Oshkosh, Neb., they said Erin had a skull fracture, broken bones and brain damage. Erin came out of the surgery, the bones had been fixed and there was no brain damage.

My prayers had been answered, he said.

After that, he knew God wanted him to share his story from the pulpit, but he didn't think he could afford to go. He was going through a divorce and also didn't want to be separated from his children. But, since God wanted him to go to Seminary, he decided to go to Iliff School of Theology in

Denver. That way, he would only be three hours from his children, Erin, Emily and Brett.

However, he soon discovered that God knew best and was in control. God's plan was for Warren to attend Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. Warren still insisted that it would take him too far from his children but God won that argument and has slowly convinced him to trust and obey him. Now, Pastor Cico said, I don't regret any decisions God has made for me.

While in the Seminary, the pastor had a wonderful 4-year ministry setting in Cumberland, Iowa. It was just the perfect place for him, he said, as he nurtured others and he matured himself.

He had opportunities to work with youth, participate in nursing home ministry, practice his clowning ministry and to go on mission trips.

While in Seminary, one of his most rewarding experiences was a month-long ministry to Alaska during January of 1988 First hand, he learned how God is always providing us with new skills and talents.

After graduating in 2000, Pastor Cico has served Copeland United Methodist Church (2000-2003) and the United Church of Bennington (2004-2011).

He said God is constantly challenging him to develop new skills, to be creative and to try things in a new way. A few years ago when he started a nursing home Bible study, he said God led him to simply read the scripture (Genesis,



Cico

Isaiah, Luke, John and Acts) and allowed the Spirit to challenge the participants to relate scripture to everyday life. The elderly students have experienced the Bible in a meaningful way, he said.

He thinks it is important to become involved with the community. He has already participated in the July Fourth triathlon, can be found helping at the Methodist Thrift Store ; and has experience frying funnel cakes so he will be filling in at the Methodist Church funnel cake stand at the fair.

People can also find him in the pulpit at the Methodist Church on Sundays — first service is at 8:30 a.m. and the second at 10:30.

In his spare time, he enjoys jogging, biking and gardening (check out the many hanging baskets in front of his house.

## Fair variety show deadline is Saturday

The deadline for entries in the Amateur Variety Show at the Cheyenne County Fair is Saturday. Everyone planning to enter needs to contact Ruth Milliken at 785-332-3421.

At last year's fair, the Variety Show was deemed a success and is expected to be even bigger and better this year.

Held Friday night of the fair (Aug. 5), the St. Francis Music Club will once again be coordinating the event. They are offering \$350 in prizes with \$200 for first; \$100, second; and \$50, third. In this week's *Herald* and *Times*, there is an ad which will allow people more convenience in entering the variety show.

The show is held in front of the grandstand starting at 7 p.m. There is a portable stage which measures

12- by 28-feet. Props will be limited to items the participant is wearing and one additional prop for the performance.

Each act is limited to 1 1/2 -2 minutes. Each participant is limited to one entry (single, group or instrumental).

If recordings are used, they will need to be a CD and it is necessary to indicate how many plug ins will be required. There will not be a piano available.

Last year, there were 15 entries. The winners were: first place, the rock group comprised of Ty Zwegardt, Brock Zwegardt, Gavin Cooper and Logan Whitmore; second prize went to Talley Morrow and Lila Whitmore; third place, Jacquelyn Ketzner, Logan Whitmore and Jonathan Butler.

## Wireless phone service available at coffee shop

**By Karen Krien**  
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Viero Wireless service can now be obtained at Hackberry Wireless located at Main Street Java, 216 W. Washington Street, St. Francis.

Michelle McCoy, owner, said the Viero service has been available since May. Her husband, Rio, built a corner which displays the phones and a desk where customers can work with Mrs. McCoy.

The wireless service offers cell

phone plans, internet plans as well as landline plans. All plans are nationwide which means that there are no roaming charges as they work with AT&T and T Mobile.

When customers purchase a Smart Phone plan, they will receive internet, texting and data services all in one plan. The internet plan offers WiFi and the internet card at a reasonable price.

She has data bundles and unlimited texting packages that can be purchased.

"I've been a customer since 2002 because of the service, plans and great coverage," Mrs. McCoy said.

"If a new customer switches to Viero, they can keep their current phone number, and, for a limited time, their current contract can be bought out."

For more information, stop by Main Street Java/Hackberry Wireless and see what Viero can offer. People can also call 785-332-2242 and ask for Michelle.

## Former police officer faces trial

**By Mike Corn**  
Hays Daily News

A former Norton police officer will face trial on two counts of rape, aggravated battery and aggravated criminal sodomy; a second count of aggravated battery was dismissed.

District Magistrate Judge Barbara Stites agreed to bind over Ryan Zwegardt, 28, on the charges Thursday after hearing nearly four hours of testimony in Norton

County District Court. Arraignment is scheduled for Monday.

Zwegardt was charged April 20 in connection with the alleged rape of two Norton County women at his residence. He was suspended from the Norton Police Department shortly after the charges were filed.

One of the victims sought medical treatment at Norton County Hospital hours after the incident,

which allegedly occurred April 10.

Authorities allege that the victims knew Zwegardt and had been to his residence previously.

"The issue is he believes it was consensual," Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius asked of KBI special agent Kevin Campbell. "They say it was not. Is that correct?"

"Correct," Campbell said.

Two alleged victims testified Thursday during Zwegardt's preliminary hearing.

Sebelius asked a series of questions of the two women, but Zwegardt's attorney, Dan Walter, pressed for specific details of the incidents that prompted the filing of the charges.

He questioned the women about whether they fought Zwegardt, screamed or tried to get away.

Both said they were frightened, that they had protested and that they had told him to stop.

In addition to pursuing details about how much the victims protested, Walter questioned them both about how much they talked to each other about the alleged rapes.

## Young woman to tell her story on Sunday

Krysta Smestad will be giving her testimony, "Don't wait till you need God to accept Him," at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 17, at the St. Francis Community Church.

She suffers from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) after a cast-iron bookend fell on her head while she was at work.

"Krysta's story is both inspiring and convincing," said Pastor David Butler. "If you haven't heard her testimony, you definitely want

to make plans to attend."

Her perspective on life and especially her relationship with Christ is in her own words: "Worth All of This."

Krysta is the daughter of Randy and Dorothy Smestad, St. Francis.



Smestad



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The Governing Body of  
**St. Francis Recreation Commission**  
will meet on July 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Francis High School Cafeteria for the hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of funds. Detail budget information is available at the USD 297 Superintendent's Office and will be available at this meeting.

**BUDGET SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES**

The Proposed Budget Expenditures (below) are the maximum expenditure limits for the budget year.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2009/2010	Current Year Estimated 2010/2011	Proposed Budget Year 2011-2012
General	37,026	21,652	60,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37,026</b>	<b>21,652</b>	<b>60,000</b>

Lease Purchases:  
July 1, 

2008	2009	2010
0	0	0

Anita M. Maric  
Recreation Commission Secretary

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**ksbdc**  
Kansas Small Business Development Center

The Fort Hays State University Kansas Small Business Development Center (KS-BDC) seeks a Business Consultant for the Bird City Outreach Center.

If you value small businesses, enjoy working with the public, and have strong business knowledge & skills, then consider joining the FHSU KSBDC team. The Business Consultant will provide counseling and training to existing and prospective business owners from the Outreach Center in Bird City, in cooperation with the regional center office in Hays. The position requires frequent day travel for on-site business assistance to the northwest counties and occasional overnight travel.

There is tremendous opportunity for personal and professional growth. Final candidate will have consented to and successfully completed a criminal background check. A complete position description can be found at <http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/positions/admn.php>. FHSU is an AA/EEO Employer.

**Wedding Registry**

Amy Rieger & Blaine Werner  
Shower - July 30  
Wedding - Oct. 22

Bethany Haedtler & Jeffrey Zwegardt  
Wedding - July 30

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Elisa from Italy, 16 yrs. Likes to play tennis, swim, loves to dance. Elisa hopes to play American softball and learn American 'slang' while in the USA.

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