



## Meeting set for upgrading 911 system

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners set a public meeting for discussing the possibility of Enhanced 911 or another 911 numbering system when they met on Monday. The meeting has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

councils of both St. Francis and Bird City, emergency medical technicians/director, law officers, post masters, firemen, emergency manager and city supervisors asking them to attend for input on the system, and what it would take (both cost and additional training) to put the system in. The public is also en-

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## Administrator assumes duties

By Karen Krien

At a Jan. 4 ceremony, Rick Reeser, St. Francis, was appointed as the new administrator of the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village. He replaces Paul Rainbolt who had served as the administrator since August 2001.



Administrator Reeser

Administrator Reeser has been with the Good Samaritan Society for 27 months and has been the administrator at the Goodland Good Samaritan Village. The administrator trained in St. Francis and says he is "glad to be back!" He will be dividing his time between the two facilities, working 2.5 days in each as state law requires.

His duties are to focus the staff on giving good resident care (he noted that the residents are the main concern). He will also be working with the budget, overall staffing, building staff morale and dealing with legal issues and state compliance issues.

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MIA MORROW was thirsty and was helping herself at the drinking fountain during the meeting of mothers on Tuesday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## School receives gift of money

By Karen Krien

At the Monday evening meeting, the St. Francis Board of Education accepted a gift offer to be used in the athletic department.

The gift of \$620 was from the Bob Hankins' Memorial and the only specification was that it be used in the athletic department. Mr. Hankins was an avid sports fan and was always there whenever the Indians played in St. Francis and sometimes when they were on the road.

Carl Werner, superintendent, said the money would be held until appropriate items were needed. He also said that more memorial money could be added.

New calendar

The proposed 2006-2007 school calendar was reviewed by the board. This is the first viewing by the board before it is presented to the teachers for their input.

Mr. Werner said the calendar is similar to this year's calendar. School will begin on Aug. 23 and end on May 23. The Christmas vacation begins on Dec. 22 and ends on Dec. 29, however, with the New Year vacation, students will not be back in school until Jan. 3.

Spring break will be held March 12 through 16. Easter break is April 6 through 9. In all, there are 178 school days.

Committees appointed

The Scholarship Committee and Meet-and-Confer Committee members were appointed.

Scholarship Committee selects seniors to receive the different scholarships at graduation. Mr. Werner said the selection is made by the "ranking system." Those serving on the committee will be Bruce Feikert and Kelly Gienger. They replace Sherry Weeks and Bonnie Zweggard.

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COYOTE CALLING — Kevin Lukens, Arizona, demonstrated his coyote calling ability. Mr. Lukens was also the winner of the Sportsman of the Year award at the Midwest Coyote Calling Contest held Sunday. See Page 8 for more information.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Parade theme is decided

By Lezlie McCormick

The Cheyenne County Fair Board members decided on a theme for the 2006 parade at the Jan. 5 meeting.

Member Clay Zimbelman suggested, "There's no place like home," noting that this theme could be used for the Wizard of Oz but also in honor of the troops that are serving overseas. There were a number of ways the theme could be worked into float themes. The suggested theme was adopted.

Election of officers

There was not a lot changed in the 2006 board offices. Dick Bursch will continue to be the president; John Finley, the vice president.

Nick Ketzner did not want to be the secretary if there was someone else that would serve. Mr. Zimbelman nominated Megan Douthit as the secretary and she was voted in unanimously. Lacey Reed will still be the treasurer, however

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TWIN BROTHERS Kadon and Devon check out their new twin sisters, who were the winners of the 2006 First Baby of the Year in Cheyenne County. Their parents Damon and Billie Rickard make sure everything is alright.

Herald staff photos by Melinda Basnett

## New babies have arrived

Cheyenne County's first baby of the new year didn't arrive alone. Twin girls were born to Damon and Billie Rickard of Bird City.

Jazmin Raine, 5 pounds, 8 ounces, 17 3/4-inches long and Havon Jade, 5 pounds 4 ounces, 17 3/4 inches long were born Jan. 4 at St. Luke's Hospital in Denver.

To welcome home the girls are big brothers Kadon and Devon who are also fraternal twins and will turn 2-years-old in May.

The Rickards moved to Bird City last year when Mr. Rickard became manager of the Frontier Equity Tire Shop. The prizes offered in the First Baby of the Year contest will surely be put to good use in this busy household. See Page 6 of this issue for a list of sponsoring businesses and prizes.



Jasmin Raine and Havon Jade Rickard

## County landfill declared 'best managed' in 29 counties

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners were informed that the county landfill had been inspected and had received a good report.

Road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming said the landfill had been inspected and the inspector, who was also an engineer, said the Cheyenne County landfill was one of the best operated of the other 29 small landfills he had inspected. The inspector had made several recommendations including getting a trac-

loader. He also suggested getting an iron fence which could be laid over the trash which had come in that day instead of covering it with dirt. This would save space in the landfill pit as it is now being covered with dirt daily.

Supervisor Flemming asked for a 15-minute executive session to discuss personnel but no decision was made when they came out of session. He then announced that road and bridge secretary Ranae Pilkington had resigned as of Jan. 6.

The supervisor will advertise the open position and will have part-time help in the meantime.

Supervisor Flemming suggested that the county start a physical fitness wellness program. No decision was made.

Regional councils formed

Mr. Rogers said that "regional councils" for Homeland Security have been formed from the 18 north-west Kansas counties that will eventually be responsible for distributing

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# DUTIES

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He considers handling the Village's public relations and advertising as an important part of his duties. The St. Francis facility has 45 residents and a staff of 63. Besides the nursing home, the Village also has 14 independent-living apartments and manages the Home Health Care.

Administrator Reeser's goals are to run a sound budget and boost staff morale along with upgrading the living quarters in the older part of the building.

He plans to maintain the quality service and reputation of the Village.

As he becomes more familiar with the residents, staff and community, he says there will be some changes and growth over time.

The main focus is that of the Good Samaritan Society's which is to be: Christ centered; resident centered; staff centered and community centered.

Administrator Reeser was born and raised in Denver. Following graduation from high school, he went on to earn a bachelor's in physics from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, and was certified in education. He received a master's in administration from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

He spent 15 years in teaching and 15 years in administration. During that time, he was teacher, principal, superintendent, athletic director and coach of almost all sports.

He then went on to work seven years in the Texas Prison system as a teacher. He found this work to be very rewarding.

When he moved to St. Francis, he was retired but wanted to find some type of job. When Mr. Rainbolt approached him with the idea of training as an administrator, he didn't think that was what he wanted. However, around every corner, the job of nursing home administrator seemed to be there. After many prayers and God appeared to be guiding him to the Village, he took Mr. Rainbolt up on the offer.

His training was done in record time. He passed the exams the first time and with top scores. Everything seemed to fall into place, from the

# GIFT

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The Meet-and-Confer Committee meets with the teacher representatives and administrators where they talk about the school calendar, salary and other concerns. Serving on the committee will be Pete Raile and John Knodel. They replace Gene Dodd and Bruce Feikert.

### In other business

In other business:

- Mr. Werner pointed out that the natural gas expense for December was \$9,830. He noted that it was good that there were not many cold months in the year and, so far, it had been a relatively mild winter.

- Mr. Werner presented a summary of his automobile expenses for the last quarter. In 2005, he had traveled 1,297 miles for the school and was paid \$525 mileage.

- Carol Redding, Cheyenne County Development Corporation coordinator, had informed the board of a foundations workshop to be presented Jan. 17, 18 and 19 in Colby. The fee is \$500.

- Proposed and completed improvement projects in the schools were discussed. (See related article.)

- Larry Gabel, grade school principal, told the board that he, the teachers and students appreciate the new intercom system as well as the new lap top computers.

He said that Ted Busse, physical education teacher, had pointed out that the grade school gym could use some new wall mats.

### Next meeting

The next board of education meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 at the high school.

training, to being able to go to Goodland as the nursing home administrator, to being offered the position of running both the Goodland and St. Francis homes.

However, Administrator Reeser is quick to acknowledge that the job of running the two facilities would be very difficult if it were not for the very capable staffs in both nursing homes.

"In an organization like this, team work is critical because of the wide variety of services and skills," he said. Mr. Reeser and his wife Laura have

four children, ranging in ages 28 to 36. They also have seven grandchildren.

When he has time, he enjoys fly fishing, hunting and bird watching. His father is a nationally-known birder.

Administrator Reeser encourages the people of the community to visit the Village and its residents. He also looks forward to meeting the people from Bird City and St. Francis. While he has lived in the county for several years, he feels that there are still many people he would like to know.

# THEME

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the board voted in Gary Cooper as pro-tem for this year.

### Ranch Rodeo

Shawn Blanka was present to "touch base" on the kid's ranch rodeo grandstand entertainment. The board had agreed to give her a budget of \$700 to start with. Mrs. Blanka did not think that she would need that much as there would only be stick horses, bandannas and a few things like that she would need to purchase the first year.

The board mentioned that Jeanne Dunn may have some ideas for different events. Mrs. Blanka also asked what the board thought about having a calf scramble and maybe having two different age groups. No decision was made.

Mrs. Blanka wanted to clarify the cost of renting the fairgrounds for gymkhana and National Barrel Horse Association races. The board said that rules were the same as three years ago: there was no charge for 4-H and youth groups, but for the National Barrel Horse Association races, it would cost because it was not a non-profit organization. Mrs. Blanka said that the barrel race event was non-profit and that, like gymkhana, the majority of the entries went back into prizes.

Ernie Ketzner, board member, said that if the board was going to charge for the use of the arena that the arena needed to be in better shape. Mrs. Blanka said that by the time a tractor is rented and the time is spent to get the arena ready for a race, it wasn't worth the cost of the rent.

### Livestock

Tye Faulkender, extension director, was present to discuss the matter of kids entering projects in more than one county fair. He said there are a couple of kids, who are in 4-H in another county but go to school and are in the FFA program in Cheyenne County. They are wanting to participate at fairs in both counties.

Colorado has a rule that whether it

is FFA or 4-H, the member can only participate at one county fair. Kansas does not have such a rule so the board members voted that kids can only participate in one county fair.

### In other business

In other business:  
 • Members discussed the important of making sure that the thermostat was turned down and that the fair building is left clean after use.

- The board discussed how hard it has been to get the weeds sprayed at the fairgrounds. They talked how they could get the weeds sprayed while the weeds are small, but no decisions were made.

- The board was informed that someone had bent over a hydrant at the fairgrounds. Locking up the gates to try and keep people off the grounds was discussed. No decision was made.

- Red Cross officials had asked if the fair building would be available on Feb. 6 and, if so, would they be required to pay rent? The board felt that they could waive the rental fee but that the organization would be responsible for paying the utilities. President Bursch will contact them.

### Next meeting

The board meets the first Thursday of every month with the winter-time starting hour being 7 p.m. The meeting is held in the commissioners' room at the courthouse. The public is welcome to attend.

# BEST

**Continued from Page 1A**

most of the grant funds which are now being received by each of the counties. Mr. Rogers said that next year, Cheyenne County will probably receive around \$20,000 through Homeland Security but the following years, it will probably be only \$5,000 with the rest being sent to the regional councils.

Mr. Rogers is the only representative from Cheyenne County and he is actually one of two representing the Emergency Preparedness Management.

"We have had some pretty nice grants but we are not going to see them any more," Mr. Rogers said.

### In other business

In other business:  
 • Emergency manager Rogers said the Bird City street signs were done. (See related article.)

- The commissioners set a public meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, to discuss Enhanced 911. (See related article.)

- The commissioners reorganized for 2006 voting Andy Beikman in as chairman. (See related article.)

- The commissioners approved \$1,016 in ambulance write offs for December.

- Mary Morrow, register of deeds, was given permission to hire part-time help.

- County-wide cleanup of metal and iron was tabled again until more information was available.

- Abatements were signed. Kansas Association of Commissioners dues, \$1,132, was approved. The commissioners agreed not to join the League of Kansas Municipalities. The Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas agreement was signed.

# Congratulations are now in order



## To JAZMIN & HAVON

Jazmin Raine, born at 1:09 p.m. MT and Havon Jade, born at 1:22 p.m. MT made their first appearance on Wednesday, January 4th at the Presbyterian/Saint Lukes Hospital in Denver. *Congratulations to their parents Damon & Billie Rickard; and older twin brothers Kadon & Devon.*



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# Matthew!



Matthew Ellis Berens celebrated his first birthday on Thursday, January 5th. Matthew was the First Baby born in 2005! *Congratulations to his parents Kevin and Angie; big brother Joshua*