

GRADER

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Mrs. Bowers said she will be ordering needed supplies for the ambulance before the end of the year.

Business incentives

Carol Redding, Cheyenne County Development coordinator, along with Kim Zwegardt, Development chair, presented the two businesses asking for help through the county's incentive plan. Dorothy Smestad, Sainty Stitches, had submitted all of the paperwork and her plan was approved. Since the amount needed was less than \$400, the commissioners agreed to pay for the incentive.

Aimee Northrup, Main St. Coffee, was missing a lease agreement of the paperwork because of illness in her attorney's family so the commissioners will wait until the paperwork is complete.

The county does not have the incentive money budgeted for 2007 but plans to have \$5,000 budgeted in 2008.

In other business

In other business:
• Dan Schlittenhardt, prairie dog

control, said some of the farmers and ranchers with problems were making an attempt to treat their prairie dogs. He also said he would like to start looking at good used pickups to replace the department's 10-year-old pickup.

• The voucher for Troy Porter's work on the courthouse steps was

rejected until more research is done. A special meeting was held on Tuesday to further discuss the matter.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 29, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

STEPS

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the top slab in as it was satisfactory and Mr. Porter was concerned about the bricks falling.

Mr. Landenberger said that the hand rail on the steps was not up to code either. He said that code only allows for 88 inches between rails and there should be three hand rails on the stairs.

Terry Miller said he would talk to the Kansas Historical Society. Since the courthouse is listed in the national register, it might be possible to have only one railing. Mr. Landenberger said as long as there

was certification from the Society, the one hand rail would be satisfactory. If three rails are required, the county will pick up the expense of the rails.

Those present at the meeting besides Mr. Porter, Mr. Beikman, Mr. Miller and Mr. Landenberger were: Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor; Carl Williams, courthouse maintenance; Roxie Neitzel and Kelly Frewen, insurance representatives; Justin Barrett, county attorney; and commissioners Jane Brubaker and Ray Lee.



THREE \$100 SCRIP prizes were given by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce. Gloria Bracelin, Chamber secretary, helps Santa with the drawing.

Herald staff photo by Sandy Barnhart



FOOD PANTRY RECEIVED \$50 scrip from an anonymous donor when the ticket number matched the Christmas On Us number in the ad. Rodney Neitzel, owner of Hilltop General Store, delivered some items to Janet Jensen, Pantry coordinator.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Plain Sense

Changing families

Plains Sense by High Plains Mental Health

During the holiday season, family images portrayed by the media focus on the happy family and perfect family gatherings. In reality, such get-togethers are often much less than perfect for a variety of reasons. In recent years, the structure of the American family has changed a great deal. Divorce, remarriage, and/or single parenting add a different dimension to family dynamics, which sometimes contributes to difficulties this time of year. New family members, including stepchildren, require changes in family interactions.

decision that requires a great deal of planning, communication, and compromise. For families of divorce or remarriage, this can become even more of a challenge, trying to satisfy the wants and needs of everyone involved. Children often feel unfairly pulled back and forth between divorced parents, and their new households, and between several sets of grandparents. This becomes even more difficult when divorced parents have not maintained good communication in regards to their children. Discussing holiday plans and expectations early in the year can help everyone feel more comfortable and will help reduce last minute confusion and conflicts. Children will also feel

better when they know where they will be, and when.

In addition, as families grow and change, so do holiday rituals and traditions. Such changes are not always welcomed by all members of the family and can result in bad feelings. It is a good idea to talk about family traditions with the goal of preserving past traditions that are special, as well as encouraging new ones. The holiday season is considered a time of giving and forgiving. With good communication and planning ahead, family experiences can help strengthen all who are involved.

Contributed by Karen D. Schueler, LCPC, Consultation and Education Department

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Courtney Douthit

Grade: Sophomore

Parents: Steve & Melva Douthit

Student of the Month

Courtney, a sophomore at St. Francis Community High school, is the December Student of the Month.

She is involved in FFA, Pom, Desktop Publishing and Yearbook.

Courtney also participates in Dance Ranch, 4-H and Church.

After St. Francis Community High School, Courtney plans on attending Colby Community College and then K-State University.

Ten years from now Courtney plans to have graduated from college and succeeding in her career.

Courtney's favorite quote is: "Every successful man I have heard of has done the best he could with conditions as he found them and not waited until next year for better."

—Edgar Watson Howe

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