

Lady named new assistant

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkanssas.com

Kate Jenkins has joined the Cheyenne County Health Department as an administrative assistant and the Health Start Home Visitor.

As the administrative assistant she will be doing clerical work, supporting the county's bio-terrorism plan and working with immunizations by entering data into KSWEBIZ, the Kansas web site. Mrs. Jenkins will also be participating in outreach services and a variety of tasks assigned to her.

As the Health Start Home Visitor, she will be visiting expecting moms and new parents and babies. Her primary role is to provide education, support and give local resource referrals to the parents.

The Health Start program has been around for a long time but, sometimes parents are not aware of it or have forgotten it. Mrs. Jenkins comes only on invitation or by referrals but, when she arrives, she comes with a bundle of information, helps answer questions and, when the new baby arrives, she has a bag full of useful goodies.

"Each family I visit is unique with individual wants and needs," Mrs. Jenkins said. "The program has been designed to assist families of any income level or social status."

Some of the benefits of the program include: pump rentals for breastfeeding, information on nutrition, stages of the baby's development, creating a healthy



NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Kate Jenkins is taking over her duties at the clinic. Herald staff photo by K. Krien

environment, immunization, well baby checks, the Health Wave insurance and Women, Infant and Child (WIC) programs. There are more and parents are urged to contact the county health office, 785-332-2381 for more information.

Mrs. Jenkins and her husband, Carl, moved from Colorado to St. Francis in 2005. They have four grown boys and nine grandchildren.

She has various health care ex-

perience both professional and personally. Home Visitors are mothers themselves who have been trained to help other mothers with their concerns. She will be working with public health nurses who may also make home visits as needed.

When she has time, Mrs. Jenkins enjoys creating different dishes and breads for her family and friends and likes working in her home.



COMMISSIONER Andy Beikman (left) and Dave Flemming, (right) road and bridge supervisor recognize Mike Antholz at recent meeting. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Man recognized recently

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karenk@nwkanssas.com

County employee, Mike Antholz, was recently recognized at a commissioners' meeting for working 24 years with the Cheyenne County Road and Bridge crew. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said Mr. Antholz had done a very good job and was now transferring from grader operator to road foreman.

Mr. Antholz began working in March 1983 driving a gravel truck and the spare grader when needed. He said the county equipment has come a long way since 1983. Radio communication has greatly improved. The newer graders are computerized and easier to drive and the crew has gone from driving a dump truck that holds 10 yards to a 20-yard semi truck. There are now only 11 or 12 employees in the department compared to 18 employees 24 years ago.

"We get a whole lot more work done with less manpower," he

said. Mr. Antholz was grading roads in a territory southwest of St. Francis before transferring. He said he enjoyed the work as he saw the changes of the seasons, from watching the trees leaf out to seeing the beautiful autumn colors along the river bottom. He saw all sorts of wildlife including bald eagles, antelope, deer and turkey. He also saw all sorts of weather.

"I grew to hate snow," he said.

When he first started, the county had five or six weeks of snowy weather. He said they would get the roads cleared and the next weekend, it would snow and blow the roads shut again.

During a storm in the early 90s, he and one of the other crew,

started out in their graders to help some people who were stranded. Mr. Antholz ended up stuck and it was 11:30 that night before he was able to get out.

He has been among the crew using county equipment to fight fires and he has helped clear the way for ambulances to get through to a sick people.

His new position as road foreman will find him checking road conditions, keeping employees busy and training new employees. He will also fill in when Supervisor Flemming is not available.

Moving to the new position will not take him away from one of the more enjoyable parts of the job and that is continuing to work with a super crew and supervisor.

Business celebrates success

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkanssas.com

Ten years ago, Bird City couple, Jim and Cindy Leach, set out on a venture that would become a full-time business instead of a hobby. Today, they are "Jim and Cindy's Tours" out of Wichita.

They have over 10,000 people in their data base who are people who have traveled with them or have requested a tour book. This year, they have 1,100 people signed up for tours. They do five cruises a year plus motor coach tours and fly trips. They will be on tour with customers 160 days this year.

The Leaches have been together since they graduated from Bird City High School. They farmed for the next 30 years, taking time to travel throughout the United States, seeing all 50 state Capitols. They even ventured overseas to Europe, catching the international traveling bug.

In May, the two traveled around the world on an 11 country, 28-day scouting trip. They stopped in Japan, Korea, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Indian, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. So far they have been to 43 countries and plan to see 17 more in the next six months.

Now they are ready to take customers traveling, whether it be abroad or in the United States or on

a cruise. They do Hawaii and Alaska every year.

Mr. Leach plans the trips and Mrs. Leach books the hotels and attractions. Their goal is to make the trips unique and a pleasant experience.

Quite a few people from Cheyenne County have traveled with them. Several are going on the Broadway Fly trip to New York City in August.

"We love traveling with home-county people," they said.

In July, the Leach's bus will come through Goodland on the Pacific Northwest tour. People can meet them in Goodland and, after the 16-day tour through 10 states plus Canada, the bus will drop them off in Cheyenne County.

On the Canyonland Tour through Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico starting May 30, the bus can pick travelers up at Goodland and drop them off in Johnson.

"On some of our cruises or fly trips, we can fly you out of Denver,"

Mr. Leach said. "If you have friends in other areas, we fly people from all parts of the U.S. to meet us for cruises or other trips."

"Or, you can always make the six-hour drive to Wichita and join us from the start!"

See the Jim and Cindy Tours ad in this week's Herald and Times for more information.

A tour book is available at Bankwest, St. Francis, or check the web at www.jctours.com.

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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 1, 2008 at the following locations:

**St. Francis - Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office
City Office
St. Francis Equity Co-Op**

**Bird City - City Office
Frontier Equity**

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.

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