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New board members appointed

By Karen Krien

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Six people applied to serve on the Cheyenne County Hospital Board. On Monday, the Cheyenne County Commissioners made their selection.

Two seats previously filled by Traci Neitzel and Joy Anderegg, were filled by Mike Bandel and Erika Zimbelman. Other candidates were Ryan Murray, Randy Wieck, Jerry White and Jared Douthit.

Commissioners, Dale Patton and Ernie Ketzner, made the selection. Andy Beikman was out of town.

"It was a difficult decision," said Mr. Patton. "All were good applicants."

"We appreciate the interest," Mr. Ketzner added.

Candidates were asked three questions: 1) What interests you about the hospital board? 2) What talents can you bring to the board? and 3) What are your expectations of being on the board.

Erika Zimbelman

Erika Zimbelman formerly worked at the Cheyenne County Clinic and says she is still very interested in health care. We need to keep the hospital strong, she said. She still serves as an emergency medical technician.

In answering the second question, she said that, by having a history with the hospital, she will be some strength. She also has a good understanding of the financials of a critical access hospital. I'm a committed person, she said, noting that she is also on the St. Francis Community Foundation Board.

While working with hospital administrator, Les Lacy, Mrs. Zimbelman said she has also maintained a working relationship with Mr. Lacy even though there were some disagreements.

She now works for Farm Service Agency in Goodland and noted that her boss is a member of the Goodland Regional Medical Center, Goodland. I feel that we will be able to exchange ideas

and, she has already agreed that I will be able to attend the hospital board meetings.

She said she expects accountability out of the board members, including herself, if selected. Board members need to talk to the patients and the staff. That feedback, she said, is needed. A board member needs to make sure all issues are followed up and carried out. The board, she noted, is serving the county taxpayers.

Mike Bandel

Mike Bandel said he had been in the community for years and wanted to do something to "give back." I knew the opening for the hospital board was available and the hospital is important to the community," he said. "Being on the board is something I can contribute to."

He went on to say that he didn't have all the answers but his experiences with the bank and community could help. I have a strong background in finance, he said. Being on the board will be challenging and I expect it will continue to be.

As for what his expectations are, Mr. Bandel said that he doesn't have any preconceived expectations of the board. At first, he said, I will probably sit back and listen until I know what is going on. He saw no problem in getting away from his job at Bankwest to attend the meetings and any training's that would be necessary. Bank officers, he said, are encouraged to become involved in the community.

Ryan Murray

Ryan Murray said he was interested in being on the board because the hospital is a critical part of the infrastructure to the county. We need to keep the building up to code as the budget allows.

Mr. Murray, now the emergency preparedness manager, previously worked at the hospital as the director of diagnostic imaging and was also the hospital's emergency preparedness manager.

I have an insider's view and See **NEW on Page 12**



BIG SNOWFLAKES WERE HITTING the ground Monday morning, putting a white frosting on trees and everything else it touched. The sun came out Tuesday and melted some of the snow.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Cold weather blasts St. Francis area

The temperatures began to drop Saturday night and by Sunday morning, many people woke to snow on the ground and very cold temperatures.

Throughout the day, it continued to snow, sometimes big flakes, other times just light flakes. Actually, the flakes were very light with little moisture. Kathy Woodcox,

St. Francis weather observer, said there was only .17 inch of moisture in the total snow fall.

By Tuesday morning, the temperature had dropped to -15. Windows in houses and cars were frosted over. Up and down the streets, there were cars and trucks with the hood up, much of the time, there was someone with an-

other vehicle jump starting them or hooking up the battery charger.

The forecast earlier had called for more snow over the weekend but, as of Tuesday, the forecast was partly sunny skies and highs in the mid 40s. Lows are predicted to be in high teens to 20. A welcome change from the below-zero temperatures.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Jan. 4	42	09	
Jan. 5	42	11	
Jan. 6	52	17	
Jan. 7	44	16	
Jan. 8	42	17	T
Jan. 9	22	07	.15
Jan. 10	12	-15	.02

Village plans to reopen

The Good Samaritan Village advisory board and staff received encouraging news on Thursday when Randy Fitzgerald, the Society's director of operations for Kansas and Texas, reported that the Society plans to continue providing care in St. Francis.

Rehabilitation and skilled care for seniors in the St. Francis area, he said, will continue to be provided at Good Samaritan Society - St. Francis Village, starting in spring 2011.

The Oct. 19 fire caused extensive damage to the Village building and displaced 48 residents. All residents, he said, were successfully relocated to area care centers or home by that evening. Fortunately, there were no injuries to residents or staff.

In the near future, the Village will begin phase one of the building recovery process which includes rehabbing 22 units for residents and kitchen renovations as well as new flooring, paint and communications systems.

Phase one, he said, is expected to be completed by March 1. In phase two, the center plans to finish 10 more units for a total of 32 by May 1. Decisions have not been made for plans after phase two.



FIRE AT THE GOOD SAMARITAN VILLAGE on Oct. 19 left parts of the middle section in shambles. Now, that is behind as the Society begins rebuilding.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

"After a tragic fire, we are pleased to be reopening Good Samaritan Society - St. Francis Village to continue providing care and services for seniors and others in need," Mr. Fitzgerald said. "I am

thankful that the restoration of St. Francis Village has received such enormous support from community, staff and family members. I look forward to further discussion with the community to determine

what will happen after phase two." The Society, a not-for-profit provider of long-term care and senior services, operates more than 240 long-term health care centers and retirement living centers.

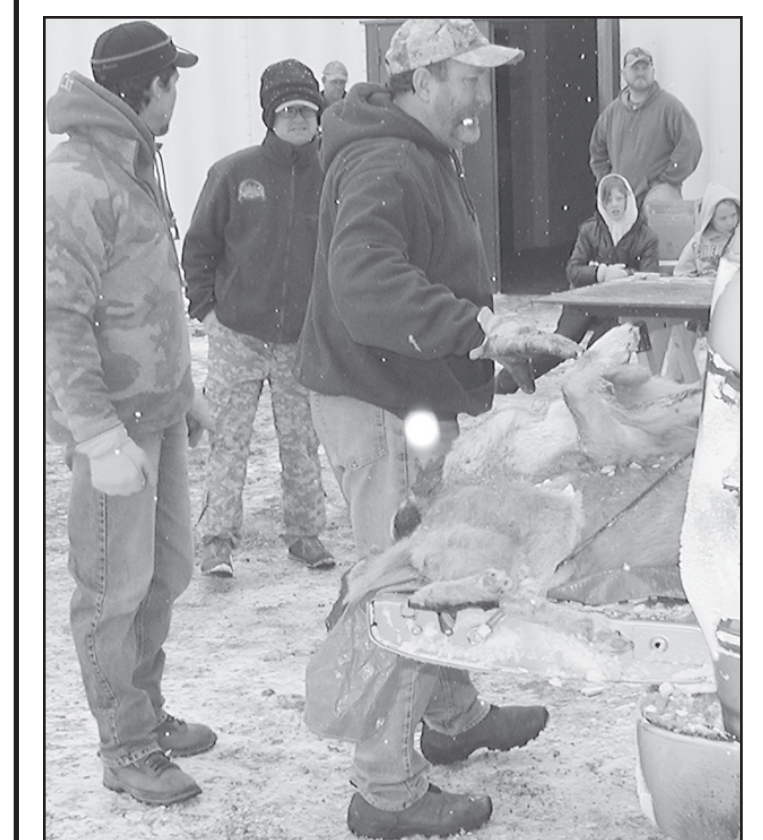
Cheer for Sainty

Rita Stephens, St. Francis, found the following Reader's Digest site and nominated St. Francis because of the Good Samaritan Village fire. People can log on to the site, cheer for St. Francis, and choose not to receive any promotional e-mails.

To enter, log on, enter the zip code (67756) and cheer for St. Francis.

<<http://wehearyouamerica.readersdigest.com/town.jsp?town=SAINT>

The contest ends on Feb. 7, and



COYOTE CALLERS came to St. Francis from all over the United States to participate in the Midwest Calling Event over the weekend. Look for the results in later issues of The Herald.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick