



ABC PRESCHOOL STUDENTS were having a great time as they presented their Christmas program on Dec. 19. Pictured standing in front is Aiden Meyer; (left to right) are Andrew Andrisc, Isaac McCormick, Macy Workman, Sarah Allard, Dailey Rose, Brecken Tieg, D.J. Hoard, Reagan Milne and Zarik Enfield. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Top five happenings in Cheyenne County

Each year, there are many things that happen throughout the year and 2012 was no exception. There are new businesses, people and groups receiving awards and many events of interest.

Everybody has their opinion on what they think is important, said Karen Krien, publisher.

The Herald and Times staff came up with five topics they thought were the most important through the year. They included the continuing saga of the Good Samaritan Village ownership, the completion of the Cheyenne County

Airport runway, the drought and how it affected the wheat and fall harvests, the completion of the Robinson-Griffin-Bacon Memorial building, along with the nearing completion of the Legion hall in Bird City, and opening of the new Prairie Land Electric Co-op east of St. Francis.

Good Samaritan Village

The Good Samaritan Society started in February visiting about the lease between the county commissioners and the Society. The Society said the Good Samaritan Village had been renovated back

to where they felt it was sufficient but, was not back to the number of patient beds it had before the October 2010 fire. An open house was held to show the public the improvements.

Six weeks later, Randy Fitzgerald, the Society's director of operations, was unable to meet with the commissioners but said that the Society would not consider profit sharing with the county. However, they didn't want to have ownership of the facility. They offered the nursing home and the independent living apartments to

the county for \$1. In exchange, they wanted a 5-year lease to run the nursing home, with the county picking up all expenses.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said, the people have voted to subsidize the Village up to 6 mills (approximately \$200,000) a year. In 10 years, that is \$2 million. That would go a long way toward building a new facility.

Mr. Fitzgerald was at a May commissioners' meeting. He had a proposed lease. Dr. Mary Beth Miller was there, asking questions as to why three other area Good

Samaritan Society facilities were operated with less money than the St. Francis facility. Mr. Fitzgerald said the Society never owned those buildings but the Society still owns the St. Francis property.

But, she said, why, after we (county) pay the dollar, are we being treated differently? It really isn't a gift because our lease is different?

Those facilities, Mr. Fitzgerald said, have historically done well.

I thought we had done well, too, Dr. Miller said.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that he will

be looking at the budgets of the three nursing homes mentioned earlier. We are not going to be wasting money. Our administrators are held accountable, too.

Two weeks later, the lease between the county and Good Samaritan Society was not any further along. One of the main hold-ups was the lack of a proposed budget from the Society. We need to know why the society wants \$200,000 from Cheyenne County but others pay only \$20,000, said Andy Beikman, commissioner

See TOP FIVE on Page 9

Christmas lighting winners



Ian and Michele DeWaal, Ash Street



Joe and Jan Fortin, South Benton Street



Don and Jennifer Krien, north on Parks Road



William and Nicole Wilburn, East First Street