

Commissioners select board members

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners had a difficult decision to make when they met on Monday. There were four applicants wanting to replace two of the seats on the hospital board. After considerable debate and interviewing of two candidates, the board voted with there being a three-way tie between Leon Brethower, Traci Neitzel and Joy Alderegg. The tie was broken using a ranking system and this time, Mrs. Neitzel and Mrs. Alderegg were voted in as the new hospital board members, each serving four years. The terms of Kelly Gienger and Mr.

Brethower would be up at the end of the year and Mr. Gienger had already expressed a desire to be off the board however, Mr. Brethower, who has already served for eight years or two terms, wanted to be considered again for a third term. While he had been on the hospital board, he had been the chairman of the board and had seen the hospital bond issue be voted down and then come back with a lower bond amount which passed. He would have liked to have seen the clinic remodeling and new addition and remodeling of the hospital completed while he was on the board. Mr. Brethower was out

of town and was unable to interview with the commissioners.

The other person applying for the hospital board positions besides Mr. Brethower, Mrs. Neitzel and Mrs. Alderegg was Laverne Boll.

Joy Alderegg

Mrs. Alderegg had interviewed with the commissioners for two years and the commissioners excused her from a third interview. In a previous interview, she reported that she had moved from Denver to Bird City several years ago. Prior to her move, she had spent 35 years in nursing but was not retired.

She said that she had extensive medical background as well as knowledge in management. She had worked in corporate-owned hospitals and was comfortable with budget and cash flow management.

She felt that everyone needed to be a team player but when push came to shove, she felt that it was important to go ahead with what needed to be done.

She is a member of the Cheyenne County Development Board, had been through the Leadership, Cheyenne County class and was interested in seeing the county and communities survive.

Traci Neitzel

Mrs. Neitzel, who was born in the Cheyenne County Hospital and whose mother, a registered nurse, worked in the facility for many years, said that she wanted to make sure that the hospital and clinic kept on running efficiently. As a loan officer at First National Bank, she felt that her banking and financial experience would help her not only understand budgets quicker but could also benefit the board.

She said she was easy to get along with but had a reputation of speaking up when she needed to.

"I want to hear both sides before

making decisions," she said.

She pointed out that females often had a different view point than males and thought that the board, which is now comprised of all men, could use a female's point of view.

Commissioner Tim Raile asked how she felt about lowering the taxes collected for the hospital if there came a point when all of the tax money was not needed. She replied that, at this point, she did not have the experience to answer that question.

Mrs. Neitzel has served on the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce. **See Commissioner on page 7**

Winning scrip number claimed

Bob Hankins, St. Francis, claimed one of the two \$50 scrip certificates by matching his red ticket number to one of the numbers printed on Pages 1, 2 and 3B of last week's St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times. That left only one number unclaimed and it was given away during the Christmas On Us drawing held Sunday in the park in St. Francis.

This year's winners of \$50 in scrip besides Mr. Hankins were: Jeanne Dunn, Ed Marin, Laura Pugh, Cliff Semler, Brenda Delano and Becky McAtee. The winner of the \$50 scrip in the park drawing was Andy Beikman.

Other winners were: Bertha Rogers, \$1,000 in scrip; Patricia Lawrukiewicz, \$500; and Tobe Zwegardt, \$100.

It was estimated that around 50,000 tickets were in the bin waiting to be pulled out on Sunday. That meant that \$500,000 was spend in St. Francis and Bird City as a ticket was given with each \$10 purchase.

Mr. Zwegardt reported that in all of

his years (and those years are adding up), he had never won a prize so he decided to share part of his winnings and purchased food for the county Food Pantry.

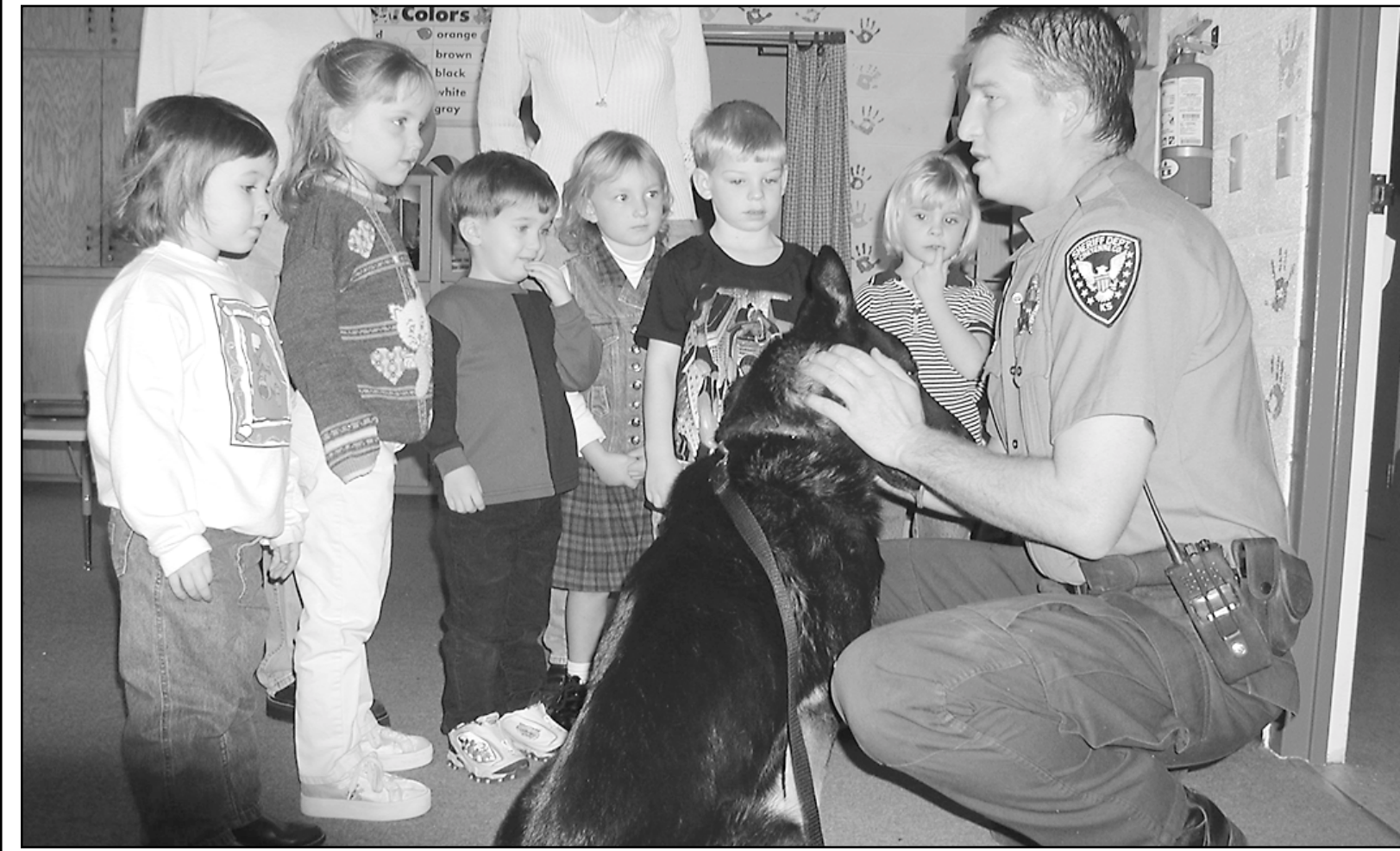
Mrs. Rogers said that she was going to share half of the money with Amy Hilt, whose step father took the tickets to the drawing and claimed the prize. Amy said she was going to share her part of the winnings with her family.

Mr. Hankins figured most of his winnings would go to the grocery store but was glad to have it.

"The opportunity for people to win some big money would not have been possible if it had not been for the participation of the 21 St. Francis and Bird City businesses in the Christmas On Us giveaway," said Karen Krien, publisher.

Those participating in the Christmas On Us giveaway were: Bankwest of Kansas, Bier's Hometown Store, Burr Retail Liquor Store, Cheyenne Bowl and Dairy King, Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus, Decision Weather, Downtown

See Scrip on page 7



ABC PRESCHOOL KIDS enjoyed a treat when Undersheriff Cliff Flock and his drug dog Bronson visited the school last Tuesday. The kids donated their pocket change to the program which amounted to over \$60. Pictured left to right are: Craig Elsa Burr, Elizabeth Keltz, Gordon Richmeier, Kelsey Miller, Devon Janic ke and McKenzie Taylor.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Elementary program deemed a success

By Peggy Horinek

The Cheylin Elementary Christmas program was presented to a large audience on Monday night at the high school gym. There were a lot of smiles and applause as the kindergarten through sixth grades presented "Nicky and the Christmas Song Search."

A Christmas concert started the evening with the fourth grade band



playing, *First Flight*, *Rolling Along*, *Hot Cross Buns*, *Go Tell Aunt Rhodie* and *Jingle Bells*. That was followed by the fifth and sixth grade choir singing, *Here Comes Santa Claus*, *Silver Bells*, *Santa Claus is coming to Town*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* and *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*.

Nicky and the Christmas Song Search was a big success with the audience and had kindergarten through sixth grade students participating with various songs, accompanied by Kayla Teimeyer on the piano.

Rose Hengen and her staff of helpers need to be commended for the great Christmas programs that they have produced.



A LARGE AUDIENCE attended the elementary Christmas program held Monday night. Those participating in the concert were kindergarten through sixth grades, the night opened with the fourth grade band.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Commissioners show concern with fences put up along the edge of county roads

By Karen Krien

At the Monday meeting, the commissioners showed concern about a certain farmer who had placed an electric fence on the edge of a county road and the water tank was located almost to the road.

Not only was it impossible for the county crew to grade the road but it was also dangerous. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, had asked the farmer to move the fence. The commissioners asked that he contact the farmer again and, if he had not moved it, he was to have the county attorney send a letter telling him that the fence was to be moved immediately.

The commissioners discussed the liability issue and that, if the situation was ignored, and an accident happened, the county would be liable because they knew about the fence.

The board would allow the fence to be moved to the bottom of the ditch but did not want fences going up the ditch toward the road.

Supervisor Flemming told the commissioners about a scraper which was being sold on the internet and that he was being bidding on it. He once again discussed illegal dumping and several of the parties which have illegal dump-

ing on their property which is spilling onto the roadway had agreed to clean up the site. The supervisor will be checking into additional information on another site.

The supervisor expressed concerns about the governor's withholding of city and county shared funds. Until more is known about the states financial stability, Supervisor Flemming will not be proceeding with some of the planned projects.

Sheriff's report

Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring asked about replacing a computer in his office. The funds were not available for this year but the commissioners agreed that a new computer be purchased after the first of the year. Clerk Terry Miller said that the old computer might be used as a third computer in the sheriff's office.

The commissioners were concerned about the cost of the office cell phone bill. The sheriff said he was aware of the high bill and he and the undersheriff had discussed the matter. The board felt that \$94.20 be reimbursed by the undersheriff for personal calls while he was attending a training and the department's cell phone not be used for personnel calls unless absolutely nec-

essary as it could, as in this case, push the bill over the free minutes.

The commissioners also asked that repairs to the department's vehicles be done locally.

In other business

In other business:

- Commissioner Brubaker asked for executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made.

- The commissioners signed the Household Hazardous Waste plan.

- The commissioners agreed to give employee bonuses with full-time employees receiving \$200 and part-time employees receiving \$100. All are given in scrip certificates.

- Danny Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor, was okayed to go to a West District Weed meeting but the commissioners denied the request to "blanket" all meetings — that he needed to notify the commissioners before each meeting.

- After discussion, the commissioners agreed to comply with the Hays Daily News' request to submit all minutes of meetings in 2003 and to notify the staff of a special meeting.

- The commissioners selected Traci Neitzel and Joy Alderegg to serve on the hospital board.

- Tim Carson, representing Corporate Plan, the county's health insurance company, reported that the county had a low rate of claims in the last four years. He recommended increasing the county's specific deductible. The board agreed to the increase but to keep the employees' deductibles as they are.

- Eric Fiala, the representative for Western Plains Resource Conservation and Development, asked that he not be put down to serve another term. He recommended several other people for the position.

- Larry Gabel, emergency medical service coordinator, will be asked to attend the next meeting to discuss personnel and the emergency medical technician training class.

- Following the meeting, the commissioners, county clerk went with Supervisor Flemming to view the proposed gravel pit on the Gale Walz land. It was decided to keep digging to the north of the current site rather than start a new pit. If this is unacceptable to Mr. Walz, the county will use the pit to the east located on Thad Douthitt's land.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be held at 8 a.m. on Dec. 31 at the courthouse in St. Francis.

Santa Day in Bird City is Saturday

Soup, sandwiches, dessert served at 11 a.m.
Drawings start at 12:30
Santa arrives after drawings



Methodist Church to present program

Immanuel United Methodist Church of Bird City will present a Christmas pageant entitled, "The Not-So-Silent Night" on Sunday, Dec. 22. This performance will replace the usual worship service at 10:55 a.m.

This is not the usual Christmas production. In this play, the shepherds are on trial for disturbing the peace on that Christmas Eve so long ago. It's a zany

look at the Christmas story, which features a very hip music piece called "The Not-So-Silent Night Rap." Many of the most loved Christmas carols will be sung.

Immanuel United Methodist Church will hold its annual Christmas Eve service Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

Resident honor by cooperative as ‘Westerner of the Year’

Western Ranchers Beef Cooperative has announced that Mike Callicrate, St. Francis, will be honored as “Westerner of the Year” at the annual Western Ranchers Beef Profit Conference. The seventh annual Beef Producers Profit Conference will be held again at John Ascuaga’s Nugget on Jan. 4. In addition to the award, the conference will provide beef producers with the tools to add value to their herds.

This year’s “Westerner of the Year” will be Kansas feedlot operator Mr. Callicrate. For years now, Mr. Callicrate has spoken out against consolidation in the beef industry. He has also developed a unique beef processing system and a Ranch Direct marketing program that provides a high-quality product to consumers and a fair profit to producers. In 1996, he testified before Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman’s panel on “concentration.” He is also a lead plaintiff in a national class action antitrust lawsuit against Tyson/IBP.

In addition to Mr. Callicrate, speakers at the conference will include Chad Ellingson of Genex; Roger Ingram of the University of California Extension Service; chief executive officer Bill Bullard of R-CALF USA; and Donald Nelson of Washington State University.

Mr. Nelson will present an extensive program entitled “Creating a Sustain-

able Future.” This program will touch on issues facing ranchers and look toward sustainable means of production. Currently, Nelson is the Extension Beef Specialist for Washington State University. He also works through the WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources. In addition, Nelson is certified by the Allan Savory Center for Holistic Management and is in training in Stephen R. Covey’s “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.”

His previous experience includes working with the Texas Beef Industry

Council as director of a branded-beef program, and as a professor, a ranch manager, and an executive officer for the American International Charolais Association.

In addition to the above headlines, a program entitled “Getting Back To Basics” will focus on the things that you can control as a beef producer. The program will address all segments of the beef industry, including nutrition, cull cows, added-value products, and ensuring sustainability.

For more information about the program, call (530) 233-2334.

County Health Talk

By Susan Roelfs

Cheyenne County Health Nurse

Smokers should exercise for their health, but if you smoke, you will probably become breathless more quickly than your nonsmoking friends. This is because your smoking habit has taken a toll on your lungs and your body.

But keep exercising! One study showed that smokers who exercised while trying to quit smoking were more likely to succeed. Another study has found that regular exercise reduces a smoker’s risk of heart disease - although still not to the level

of a nonsmoker.

However exercise does not lower a smoker’s risk for lung cancer or emphysema, nor will it protect your loved ones from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Diabetes and smoking are an especially deadly combination. If you are a smoker who has diabetes your risk of heart disease is up to five times that of the average nonsmoker.

These are just a few reasons to quit smoking. Replacing your bad habits with good ones - like exercising with your friends - could improve your life and possibly save it!



SIXTH AND FIFTH GRADE CHOIR presented several songs Monday night at the elementary Christmas program. The program was under the direction of Rose Hengen.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Commissioners

Continued from page 1

Board, on church committees and has been through the Leadership, Cheyenne County class.

Laverne Boll

Mr. Boll was of the firm conclusion that the hospital needed to improve but needed to keep account of the expenditures. Several people had asked him to apply for the board position and, while he thought he was qualified, he also thought the job might be bigger than most expected.

He was concerned about Great Plains Health Alliance having a lot of control and that Cheyenne County had no control. In the board’s five-year plan, he was concerned about what would happen if more money was needed. At that point, he, Commissioners Raile and Ron Krien discussed that the hospital collected \$325,000 in ad valorem taxes and approximately \$250,000 in sales tax year.

Mr. Boll said he was not going in

with a negative attitude and was not necessarily a “follower.”

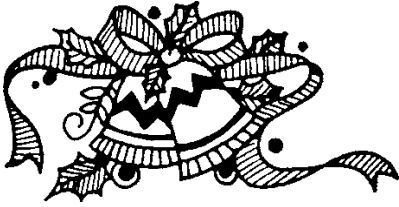
He said he still works on the farm and had served on the school board, the Wheeler Co-op Board and church boards.

“If I am selected to serve on the board, I will treat it like my own business,” he said.

Scrip

Continued from page 1

Repair and Auto Sales, Tim E. Poling, D.D.S., Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Lampe Hardware, Owens True-Value, P and L Ideal Meat Market, Pizza Hut, Park Hill Restaurant, and Lounge, St. Francis Equity, The Saint Francis Herald/Bird City Times, Saintry Super Foods, Schultz’s, Stevens’ Kansas Territorial Store, Tri-State Lumber and Tubing, Video Kingdom.



I am a mother of three (ages 14, 12, 3) and have recently completed my college degree.

The last class I had to take was Sociology. The teacher was absolutely inspiring with the qualities that I wish every human being had been graced with. Her last project of the term was called “Smile.” The class was asked to go out and smile at three people and document their reactions. I am a very friendly person and always smile at everyone and say hello anyway, so, I thought this would be a piece of cake, literally.

Soon after we were assigned the

project, my husband, youngest son, and I went out to McDonald’s one crisp March morning. It was just our way of sharing special play time with our son. We were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around us began to back away, and then even my husband did. I did not move an inch - an overwhelming feeling of panic welled up inside of me as I turned to see why they had moved. As I turned around I smelled a horrible “dirty body” smell, and there standing behind me were two poor homeless men. As I looked down at the short gentleman, close to me, he was “smiling”. His beautiful sky blue eyes were full of God’s Light as he searched for acceptance. He said, “Good day” as he counted the few coins he had been clutching. The second man fumbled with his hands as he stood behind his friend. I realized the second man was mentally challenged and the blue eyed gentleman was his salvation.

I held my tears as I stood there with them. The young lady at the counter asked him what they wanted. He said, “Coffee is all Miss” because that was all they could afford. (If they wanted

to sit in the restaurant and warm up, they had to buy something. He just wanted to be warm). Then I really felt it - the compulsion was so great I almost reached out and embraced the little man with the blue eyes. That is when I noticed all eyes in the restaurant were set on me, judging my every action. I smiled and asked the young lady behind the counter to give me two more breakfast meals on a separate tray. I then walked around the corner to the table that the men had chosen as a resting spot. I put the tray on the table and laid my hand on the blue eyed gentleman’s cold hand. He looked up at me, with tears in his eyes, and said, “Thank you.” I leaned over, began to pat his hand and said, “I did not do this for you. God is here working through me to give you hope.”

I started to cry as I walked away to join my husband and son. When I sat down my husband smiled at me and said, “That is why God gave you to me, Honey. To give me hope.” We held hands for a moment and at that time we knew that only because of the Grace that we had been given were we able to give. We are not church goers,

but we are believers. That day showed me the pure Light of God’s sweet love. I returned to college, on the last evening of class, with this story in hand. I turned in “my project” and the instructor read it. Then she looked up at me and said, “Can I share this?” I slowly nodded as she got the attention of the class. She began to read and that is when I knew that we as human beings and being part of God, share this need to heal people and to be healed.

In my own way I had touched the people at McDonald’s, my husband, son, instructor, and every soul that shared the classroom on the last night I spent as a college student. I graduated with one of the biggest lessons I would ever learn: UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE.

In order for her to work, you must pass this on to the people you want watched over. An Angel wrote: Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

To handle yourself, use your head. To handle others, use your heart.

God Gives every bird it’s food, but He does not throw it into it’s nest.

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