



## Christmas in Berthoud

For a list of all the events and how you can help Berthoud families in need this Christmas, please go to the website, [www.ChristmasinBerthoud.org](http://www.ChristmasinBerthoud.org)

## FOOD DRIVE

Drop sites for non-perishable food are the Berthoud Community Library, Berthoud Living Center, Berthoud Weekly Surveyor, Hays Market, L&M Garden Center and Main Street Car Care. Clothing drop sites for the selected Christmas in Berthoud families will be at Main Street Car Care and the Berthoud Weekly Surveyor.

## Change to Christmas in Berthoud schedule on Saturday, Dec. 7

4:45 p.m. Caroling and Christmas Tree Lighting will happen before the parade.  
5 p.m. The parade will begin at Seventh Street and Massachusetts Avenue and proceed east on Mountain Avenue.  
5:30 p.m. BUMs of Berthoud Lasagna Dinner and Latter Day Saints Bake Sale at the Community Center  
Please see the [ChristmasinBerthoud.org](http://ChristmasinBerthoud.org) website for the calendar of all the other events.

"In towns where there is a strong sense of community, there is no more important institution than the local paper."

... Warren Buffett

# BERTHOUD WEEKLY SURVEYOR



"Covering all the angles in the Garden Spot ... where good things grow"  
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## Milking cuteness for all it's worth

By Heidi Kerr-Schlaefler  
The Surveyor

A framed black-and-white photograph of a little boy in a straw hat and overalls hangs in the Jessen's kitchen. While some boys want to be firemen or astronauts when they grow up, Chris Jessen always wanted to be farmer.

Today Jessen and his wife, Pam, live on a small farm just north of Berthoud. They've got chickens, peacocks, three donkeys, a wallaby and a kangaroo, but the primary focus on this farm is the miniature and micro-miniature cows. These small cows aren't for eating, but rather for petting and loving.

That's right, while still considered livestock, these cows are bred to be pets.

The Jessens live on five acres, and Chris wanted a way to maximize his small amount of acreage when a friend recommended lowline Angus cows. However, eight years ago, Jessen bought two miniature panda cows instead, and is glad he went this route.

"Over the years I realized miniatures are still pretty good-sized cows. They can get over 1,200 pounds. When I finally stumbled across micro-miniature cows I realized that's more what we wanted," said Jessen. "I didn't grow up on a farm, so this has all really been a learning lesson."

Miniature cows grow to approximately 44 inches tall, while micro-miniatures come in at 36" tall or under. One of the benefits of smaller cows is that they require less acreage. There are nine mini and micro-mini cows on the Jessen's five acres, an area that would hardly be adequate for one standard-size cow.

Some readers may remember the Jessens from a segment on "Good Morning America" in January 2011. They were invited to be on the show because one of their cows had birthed a perfect panda cow. These little cows, with the markings of a panda bear, are extremely rare. Ben, the Jessen's cow, was only one of a hand-

ful in the world at the time of his birth.

"Over the last eight years we've had two perfect pandas," said Jessen. "We had the one that was on television and another one this year that we sold to folks in New Mexico."

The Jessens have sold miniature cows to people in California, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas and Tennessee. One family actually flew to Colorado to handpick their calf. Once they picked their favorite, a week later the little cow was flown to his new home in California where he takes daily walks with his owners to the downtown coffee shop.

"I get pictures of the cows that we've sold all the time," said Jessen.

Cows are extremely social animals, and miniature pet cows need a lot of attention. They come when they are

called and will lick your hand like a dog. The Jessens current calf, a miniature belted bull born on Aug. 12, is a sweetheart, and he loves getting head scratches.

As social animals, cows need interaction with humans and other cows, and Jessen advises his clients to spend at least two hours a day with their pet cow. If they can't spend that time, they could consider buying another one so the cow doesn't get lonely.

Miniature cows are great for families with smaller children. The Jessen's 1-year-old daughter is allowed in the field with the farm's cows and interacts with them daily. They are not good 4-H animals because there isn't a miniature-cow category for showing, but they are great for teaching kids responsibilities without the

worry that comes with owning a large animal. There's also a market for folks who want to buy micro-miniature cows for children's bull riding.

"There are probably less than 100 micro-miniature cows, like the ones we have, in this country. We're talking really short and stocky cows," said Jessen.

When the Jessen's first panda cow was born, news agencies began circulating a rumor that this rare cow was worth \$30,000. This was far from the truth. The Jessen's cows, including pandas, sell anywhere from \$500 to \$2,500. Micro and mini cows can live up to 20 years, so these pets are not a short-term commitment.

The Jessen's farm is online at [LovableLittleOnes.com](http://LovableLittleOnes.com) or can be reached directly by calling 970-566-1839.



Photo by Heidi Kerr-Schlaefler

Chris Jessen poses with his micro-miniature cows at his acreage north of Berthoud.

## Citizens group returns signed Haworth annexation petition

By John Gardner  
The Surveyor

A citizens group behind a referendum petition seeking to repeal the contentious Haworth annexation has acquired the needed signatures to move forward.

The group supporting the petition, Citizens for a Better Berthoud, turned in the petition last week to Town Clerk Mary Cowdin. According to a statement released by the group late last week, the group acquired nearly 400 signatures, more than double the amount needed, to get the referendum on a future ballot where voters could decide if the Haworth annexation would remain, or be repealed.

"What grand results and a huge level of support," reads a statement from the group.

Cowdin has 30 days to validate the signatures and then the Town Board will have 20 days to address the issue, Cowdin said. Trustees will have to decide to either accept the petition and reverse the decision to annex the property, or they can choose to have an election allowing voters to decide the property's fate. If the Town Board doesn't repeal the annexation based on the petitions, it will need to set an election between 60-150 days of approval of the signatures.

According to the group's website, Citizens for a Better Berthoud is a pro-growth group composed of concerned residents and business owners.

The Haworth annexation was approved by the Berthoud Board of Trustees at its Oct. 22 meeting by a 5-2 vote. The Haworth property is located northwest of the Larimer County Road 19 and Highway 56 intersection, to the west of Berthoud. The group opposes a density higher than a Larimer County annexation plan that called for 35 lots on a section of the property. The town's plan could allow up to 55 lots on the approximately 80-acre parcel.

The group has also collected enough signatures to support an initiative petition seeking to require future annexations outside of Berthoud's Growth Management Area as it existed on Dec. 31, 2012, to be put to a vote of the people.

The deadline for the referendum petition to be returned with signatures was Dec. 2, while the deadline for the initiative petition is not due until next May. However, CBB has decided to wait to submit the initiative petition until after the Town Board considers the referendum petition.

"We have plenty of time," Byers said regarding the initiative petition. But it may not be submitted at all depending on how the trustees decide to go regarding the repeal, according to Byers.

In the statement released, Byers said, "CBB looks forward to a future of smart growth focused on Berthoud's town center and in accordance with our comprehensive plan."

## Rocky start for new TSD Board of Education

By John Gardner  
The Surveyor

Three of the four new board members for the Thompson School District Board of Education were formally sworn in at a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday evening.

Carl Langner, Bryce Carlson and Donna Rice officially took the oath of office in front of a packed room at the school district administration building in Loveland.

Lori Hvizda Ward was the only newly elected member to not take the oath Tuesday, because she took the oath of office on Nov. 26 after some confusion regarding when and where the new members would take the oath.

Nevertheless, all four members are now sworn in, but that didn't diffuse the board's confused state.

During the first part of the meeting the board elected and appointed new officers. In a 4-3 vote, Bob Kerrigan was voted in as the new board president, over Pam Howard. Carlson was elected as the vice president, again over fellow nominee Howard. Rice was

appointed as the board secretary, while Denise Montague was appointed as the board treasurer.

If the appointment selection was any indication of how the board is split, it may be a precursor to how the next two years will go. In each of the three appointments for president, vice president and secretary, the vote was the same with Langner, Kerrigan, Carlson and Rice all voting for the elected nominee, while Montague, Howard and Hvizda Ward voted no. Montague, nominated by Kerrigan, was the only member unanimously elected to her position.

The division between board members seemed to continue as Kerrigan announced that each of the board members would have a couple of minutes to address the crowd; again, Langner, Carlson, Rice and Kerrigan each had prepared statements while the other three seemed surprised by the announcement.

"I would have appreciated

**BOARD** cont. on page 2



Photo by John Gardner

Newly elected Thompson School District Board of Education members (from left) Carl Langner, Bryce Carlson and Donna Rice take the oath of office Tuesday night at the District Administration Building in Loveland.

## Yachik pleads 'not guilty' to child abuse

By John Gardner  
The Surveyor

Jeremy Yachik, the former Berthoud Police officer fired after he was charged for allegedly abusing his then 15-year-old daughter in 2012, is headed to trial in the case.

Yachik appeared in Larimer County Court in Loveland on Dec. 2 and pleaded not guilty to four charges of child abuse and one count of false imprisonment.

Yachik was fired on Oct. 25 after his arrest in the case on Oct. 23. Berthoud Police Chief Glenn Johnson remains on paid leave as the internal investigation regarding the offices handling procedures regarding the Yachik accusations continues.

Berthoud Town Administrator Mike Hart said that he had a brief conversation with investigators last week about the status of the investigation, but he was told only that the sheriff's office hoped to wrap up the investigation and deliver its report to town officials by the end of December.

"We've still not heard anything about the chief," Hart said.

### Look who's in the news!

Don Lehn  
Kendall Baker  
Zach Bracken

Christy Headrick

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