



ROY SHRADER AND DAWN PETTY build forms to construct the new volleyball pits at the park. The sand for the new pits will be donated and will come from Benkelman.  
Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett

## Board hears from nursing director

By Karen Krien

The director of nurses told the Cheyenne County Hospital Board about what was going on in her department when the board met on Thursday, Sept. 28.

Director Tenille Lee reported, due to recent staff changes, the hospital now has seven registered nurses and five licensed practical nurses working in the facility. When asked, she said the hospital is very competent in handling the nursing load including the emergency room. She said there is also a high school nurse aide who is continuing to work at the hospital

as a co-op student.

Mrs. Lee said the hospital has five heart monitors and six portable monitors. In the future, the staff is hoping to have patient lifts in each of the new hospital rooms.

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, and Les Lacy, hospital administrator, told the board they were very satisfied with the job Mrs. Lee is doing. "She has a good manner in how she approaches the job," Mrs. John said.

### Administrator's report

Administrator Lacy, in his report, said September had been a

busy month at the hospital. The new ambulance entrance had gone into service on Sept. 1 and was used within an hour after opening. The front steps, ramp and pad was finished on Thursday.

Ryan Murray is now in lab school and Kary Meyer has finished and passed the exams, giving her a Medical Laboratory Technician. Darrel Reed and Warren Harkness, with board's monetary support, are taking ultra sound education. They will each have a pay back to the board of five years.

Erika Lehman has taken the po-

sition as manager in the St. Francis Clinic and will begin her duties on Oct. 9.

Eddie Lauer had requested putting handicap doors on the doorway access between the hospital and the new ambulance entrance. He said he would donate \$1,000 to the cause. The additional money needed will be taken out of the hospital's memorial fund.

The hospital received \$33,750 in memorial donations from the Alvin Hempler and Lottie Hempler estates.

Administrator Lacy said, because of low usage of the health

insurance, hospital and clinic employees will receive a premium holiday. In November and December, Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, will pay the employee's health insurance premiums. This is a bonus for the employees as well as the hospital.

The administrator pointed out that there were over 90 CAT scans in August, compared to 70 in 2005 and less than 40 in 2004. There were 113 X-rays compared to 70 in 2005 and 37 in 2004. There were 496 patients using the physical therapy department, compared

to 379 in 2005 and 408 in 2004.

### Hospital one of the first

Mrs. John said the Cheyenne County Hospital, along with the Rawlins County Health Center and two other systems, completed the first steps in implementing electronic medical records when they achieved the "go live" with the Siemen's Clinical Laboratory System. She said the hospitals laid the groundwork for other hospitals to follow.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board will be 3 p.m. on Oct. 26 in the clinic basement meeting room.

## Rural emergency addresses in county are nearly complete

In just a couple of weeks, everyone outside the city limits in Cheyenne County will have a new 911 physical address.

Sheriff Troy Gardner reported that staffs in the appraiser, engineer and his office have been working hard on updating the new address.

"This project is almost complete," he said.

Residents will be notified by mail of their new 911 physical addresses. The addresses are currently undergoing approval by the United States Postal Service.

"It is never enjoyable to get a new address," he said. "Telephone companies, credit card companies, magazine services, and just about anyone else with whom one does business has to be notified. But in the long run, this addressing scheme will be a great boost to the county."

Parcel delivery services will now be allowed where rural route addresses were not previously recognized by the delivery companies. This will also bring election proce-

dures up to par.

Postal boxes are not recognized as legitimate addresses for voting. Therefore, a physical address is required to legally vote.

The new addresses will also greatly benefit emergency service response.

"It is very difficult for a dispatcher to send services to a postal box," Sheriff Gardner said.

The new addressing scheme will allow emergency responders to pinpoint exactly where they need to respond. By simply knowing the address, responders will know: what road the address is located on, what the cross roads are, on what side of the road the residence is located, and how far the residence is located from the nearest cross road.

The new addressing scheme is required in order to facilitate the grant process for obtaining state/federal funding for Enhanced 911. Under Enhanced 911, the address from which someone is calling is displayed to the dispatcher. This is

very important for situations where the 911 caller is unable to give directions to their location.

"We know the address changes will place a burden on those who have formerly held rural route boxes, but it will greatly enhance the ability of emergency services to respond to those same residences," Sheriff Gardner said. "We have tried very hard to make the process as easy as possible on our citizens, and have checked, rechecked and checked again the corresponding addresses."

"The United States Postal Service and the telephone companies will cross-reference them an additional time. I know that problems will probably arise but please bear with us — the benefits will greatly outweigh the burden."

Those having questions should contact the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office at 785-332-3330 or the Cheyenne County Appraiser's Office at 785-332-8830.

## Guitar program planned Sunday

Ron Radford will share his program of international folk guitar at 3 p.m., central time, on Sunday at the Sharon Springs High School auditorium, sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association. Admission will be by season ticket or at the door.

Flamenco Guitar is a rare musical art, characterized as "the Gypsy music of Spain." Ron Radford's concerts include a variety of styles, from haunting Gypsy melodies to fiery Spanish dance rhythms. He typically relates to his audience through motivation and encouragement.

On Monday, Oct. 9, Mr. Radford will give two school presentations, one in the morning (location to be announced) and one in Brewster at 3 p.m. His school programs are developed for the purpose of encouraging children in their uniqueness, and to use their talents to make the world a better place.

This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

## Training classes set in Goodland

Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, reports there will be a training class for emergency medical technicians starting Oct. 9 at the Goodland Regional Medical Center. She told the county commissioners at the Sept. 29 meeting there are two people interested in taking the class.

Emergency medical technicians are needed in the county. Anyone wanting to take the class should contact Mrs. Bowers at 785-332-8888 or Bruce Gleason, EMS director, 785-890-3625.

The Cheyenne County Commissioners said they will pay for anyone from the county wanting to take the class. The class fee is \$750 but does not include college hours. Those wanting to take the class and also have the college hours will need to pay an additional \$250.



MOVIN' THAT LITTLE PONY ALONG was Heidi Lengel of Burlington. Heidi was a participant in the Gage Roesener Memorial Gymkhana held Sunday in St. Francis.  
Times staff photo by Lezlie McCormick

## Office may lose renewal service

In an effort to tighten homeland security and prevent another 911 catastrophic disaster, federal legislation has been passed in the form of the "Real ID Act." This act creates a new federal identification card which will be issued to all United States citizens replacing existing drivers' licenses.

To implement and process this Act, one proposed option is to create regional centers that will replace existing drivers' license offices

managed by county treasurers.

Dolores Jenik, Cheyenne County Treasurer, sees this move as a hardship to senior citizens, disabled drivers and the working class. All will have to take time off and travel out of county to a regional center miles away to apply for their federal identification card.

In an effort to retain drivers' license renewals in the county treasurer's office, a petition is be-

ing circulated requesting signatures.

"If you would like to continue to renew your drivers' license in the Cheyenne County Treasurer's office as opposed to a regional center, stop by the treasurer's office and sign the petition," Mrs. Jenik said.

"Hopefully a large number of signatures will convince state and federal officials to continue service as is and not move this service to a regional center."