



# Bird City Times

Thursday, January 28, 2010  
Volume 85, Number 4  
Bird City, Kansas 67731

22 Pages Including Special Section

75 Cents

## Kansas Day in Bird City on Friday

Kansas Day will be observed in Bird City at the American Legion Hall on Friday. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. and at noon there will be a potluck meal followed by a special program.

Join a team of young "Detectives" as they board a magic time machine and travel back to the 1880s in a quest to learn more about local history. The young

detectives are students from St. Francis junior high under the direction of Marti Schlittenhardt. Dorthy Mast and Rosemary Powell invested many hours of research documenting the facts that unfold in this "History Detective" documentary. Don't miss this unique presentation.

Cheyenne County has celebrated Kansas Day since 1930,

when the Mother's Circle of the Bird City Methodist Church organized the first celebration, a "Kansas Day Picnic," which turned out to be an all-day affair. Down through the years, Kansas Day has been celebrated in Bird City with skits, dances, poems and songs.

Not many communities in Kansas observe Kansas Day, so

come on out to Bird City this year and celebrate the birthday of our state.

During the celebration there will be a table with information about the Bird City 125-year event in June. At the table will be commemorative pins, an opportunity to reserve one of the limited edition belt buckles, as well as see the commemorative rife, and the quilt top that is yet to

be finished, given out to winners on June 12. For more information on the belt buckles, contact Lynn and Candy Glasco at 785-734-2797.

Also at the table will be various memorabilia from Bird City 50th, 75th, and 100th year celebrations for viewing. Stop by the table and purchase the fun Shaving permit and Brother of the Brush permit.



## Lower rates impact report

By Karen Krien  
karen.k@nwkans.com

In the past few months, the hospital has lowered its rates and experienced changes in the interim payments. Both changes will have an impact on the hospital's cost report settlement in June.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, told the Cheyenne County Hospital Board at the Wednesday meeting that the lowered rates had affected both cash flow and revenue as expected.

In addition, Mr. Lacy said, the hospital will be using cash to cover 2009 expenses that had been pulled from the 2010 budget to improve the 2009 cost report.

So far, Mr. Lacy said, the hospital has used \$130,000 from funded depreciation. However, he expects a large portion of this to be recovered when the cost report is filed in June.

The number of patients days in the hospital in December was 116. Mr. Lacy said January was also busy.

He talked about several departmental offices which were being moved and set up in the basement. He said the kitchen improvements necessary to pass a portion of a state inspection had been scheduled.

On Thursday, Kent Carmichael, architect, was scheduled to be at the hospital to talk to the nurses and others staff working with obstetrics, emergency room and the kitchen. He will meet with each department, Mr. Lacy said, to go over their recommendations as Mr. Carmichael develops a floor plan.

We have to make sure everything is right and we have a stable floor plan before we take a next step, Mr. Lacy said.

### Annual review

The board reviewed the Critical Access Hospital annual executive summary. The review meets a statutory requirement and is used to help in making facility-wide improvements.

### Board input

Mr. Lacy had four questions asking for the board's input:

- 1) What are future risks to the county's health care community?
- 2) How can the risks be avoided?
- 3) What other services can be explored?
- 4) How can the hospital be better stewards of people's health?

The board and administrator identified some of the risks as declining population, the economy, health care reforms, retaining health care providers and staff, and meeting the needs of all age groups.

In avoiding the risks, Mr. Lacy pointed out that the board, administration, and Great Plains Health Alliance need to continue to look at potential changes that will help the hospital meet the community's needs more economically. New services are implemented as needed, he said, but they need to be things we can do well, meet a community need, and create a good balance between our mission and resources we have available.

## Local help needed

In order to utilize the funding in the grant received by Bird City for housing rehabilitation, it will be necessary in some instances to reduce the overall cost to meet grant guidelines.

"It appears that we may be able to do that by the use of volunteer labor. Those wanting to help the

## December statistics

Total Patient days: 118 –  
This would be an average of 3.8 patients per day.  
Lab tests: 1,719  
Outpatient specialty clinic visits: 100  
Emergency room visits: 42  
Outpatient services: 2,003

They talked about the services already available at the hospital. Mr. Lacy said the hospital is one of only two counties in Kansas to take on a county health department but, he said, it creates a better environment to pursue a healthy community.

As far as being better stewards of people's health, Mr. Lacy said the hospital's stance on the vaccine programs, the Primary Care Clinic program, case management, and community education programs such as the weight loss group, the diabetes support group, and the obstetrics program are good examples of its position.

Lacy pointed out that one alternative to the Rural Health Clinic might be the Federally Qualified Health Center model. He indicated that a grant is being pursued to complete a pro-forma evaluation of that potential.

### Great Plains' report

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, talked briefly about the proposed health reform, noting that legislation of this magnitude, impacting such a significant segment of the budget, has never been developed and is predicted to be passed into law on a strict party-line vote.

Both Mrs. John and Administrator Lacy talked about the cuts the Kansas Legislature is proposing including those to schools and health care. One of the cuts is a 10 percent reduction in funding all agencies providing care to Medicaid people. Mr. Lacy said there will be a significant impact from this Medicaid cut at nursing homes across Kansas as well as Good Samaritan Village.

He talked about a community meeting to discuss the challenges of state budget cuts and problems.

### In other business

• Brooke Lohr, St. Francis, was present to ask the board for help as she works toward a degree as a lab technician. She is presently working at the hospital in that department.

### Next meeting

The board decided that, for the year, they will be meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month. The next meeting will start at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25, in the meeting room in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis.



IT WAS TEAM WORK FOR Cheylin students Joseph Augusta (l), Nellie Hespe, and Briana Vandike when they took to the task of making homemade pretzels during the Sunflower District extension presentation on Kansas' number one crop, wheat.

Times staff photos by Linda Schneider

## Students learn about wheat

By Linda Schneider  
dublinsms@gmail.com

Last Thursday, the Cheylin kindergarten and first grade students got an hour off from regular class lessons and traveled to the Cheylin cafeteria to participate in a Kansas Day awareness demonstration of the state's main agricultural crop, wheat.

The students listened as Melinda Daily, family and consumer sciences district extension agent for the Sunflower District, presented a question and answer session on wheat and its uses.

She began by asking the students what food group did wheat belong to, as well as what types of foods are made with wheat. Students raised their hands and answers ranging from pancakes, to crackers, to macaroni, to pretzels.

The students then had a hands-on project by making their own homemade pretzels. The students were put into small groups and each took turns adding ingredients (see recipe.) To finish the pretzels, each student kneaded the dough and formed their own pretzel to be cooked and enjoyed.

After the pretzels were made, the students heard from Jeanne Falk, multi-county agronomist from Kansas State University.

The students learned about the number one crop of Kansas was wheat, as well as learning about other crops such as milo, corn

and sunflowers that were grown in Kansas.

As an added demonstration, Ms. Falk had made a stop on her way to Bird City and filled a paper cup with an early growth of wheat and the classes were able to see what wheat looked like in the field.

### Homemade Pretzels

Made by Cheylin kindergarten and first grade students

Ingredients:  
2 cups of white flour  
2 cups of whole wheat flour  
1 package of yeast  
1 1/3 cups of hot water (120-130 degrees)  
2 tablespoons cooking oil  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 egg  
1 tablespoon of water  
Coarse salt

Directions: Put 1 cup of white and 1 cup of wheat flour in a one gallon ziplock baggy.  
Mix in yeast. Add the hot water, sugar, oil and salt.  
Close bag and mix until smooth (about 2 minutes.)  
Add remaining flour to baggy,

close and knead for four minutes. Remove dough from baggy onto floured freezer paper.

Shape into oblong, cut in half, cut each half into three pieces, cut each of the six pieces in half once more, total of 12 dough balls.

Roll each piece into a rope 15 inches long, bend in half and make a twist with the ends.

Attach the ends to the bottom of the rope loop, enlarge holes with fingers.

Place pretzel on greased baking sheet.

Beat egg in cup with fork, add 1 tablespoon of water and beat slightly.

Brush pretzel with egg mixture and sprinkle light with coarse salt. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes. Enjoy!



JEANNE FALK shows the many different crops that grow in Kansas.

## New irrigation business in St. Francis

By Karen Krien  
karen.k@nwkans.com

The irrigation business east of St. Francis on U.S. 36 has a new name and new owner.

Ian De Waal purchased Western Sprinkler in October and the name has been changed to Tri-State Irrigation.

Mr. De Waal has been the manager for the last five years and is well known throughout the tri-state area. Mr. De Waal began his career with Western Sprinklers in 2001 and started managing the St. Francis branch in 2004. The business will provide irrigation products and services for farmers and landowners in Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwestern Nebraska.

We have long been recognized as the leader in the irrigation industry, said Mr. De Waal, particularly the center pivot business sales and service area.

The business will sell and install

Valley center pivot irrigation systems, pvc pipe, and underground wire. They will also service and repair all brands of irrigation systems. Tri-State Irrigation is currently expanding their services to include grain storage bins and grain handling equipment.

"We have been asked by many of our customers to expand into the grain storage and handling equipment, I am excited to be able to provide these products and service for our area customers." Mr. De Waal said.

"We personally install the products we sell with occasional assistance of subcontractors," he said. "Our trained and experienced service staffs maintain and provide timely assistance to our customers. Our goal is to help our customers maximize their profits, minimize their downtime through our service and management."

While the staff has been consis-

tently recognized as a "Performance Plus" level winner in the Dealer Performance Program each year, Mr. De Waal said they will continue to provide outstanding customer service.

By concentrating on the tri-state area, the business will be able to deliver a service that is superior to anything currently on the market.

The service department is lead by Ian De Waal, he said "We are excited to have increased our service team members this year, to allow us to continue our fast service response time for our customers. The service team members are Jesse Laten, Dean Miesner, and Vic Martinez. Each of the technicians have fully-equipped service vehicles with GPS positioning, laptop trouble shooting, computerized mapping monitoring devices and welders for onsite welding for their customers.

Brent Rueb is the in-house parts manager and onsite manufacturing.

He has 30-years experience in farming as well as being involved in retail and wholesale sales.

Jill Zweygardt recently joined the staff in the office and will be doing clerical and customer service work.

Michele Nichol is the insurance and account manager. The last four years, she has been working in the insurance industry. She will be working with the company's Market Diversified Full Replacement Insurance program and increasing the program to help the customers. She is also an AFLAC agent.

Tri-State Irrigation is planning an open house and expo for this spring.

"We are planning to have several ag industry leaders speak during the event about their industry products and solutions," said Ms. Nichol.

Farmers are urged to stop by the office located east of St. Francis on U.S. 36 and discuss plans or questions with the Tri-State Irrigation staff.