

County commissioners are told nursing home made money

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners were informed at the Friday meeting that the nursing home, which they acquired in July, was making money.

Jeff Paulsen, Good Samaritan Village administrator, reported that the nursing home had shown a profit of \$1,909 in January. The senior apartments had made \$3,461. Total profit for the month was \$5,370.

Brett Poling, commissioner, said he had read where the Good Samaritan nursing home in Oberlin had made \$132,000. Mr. Paulsen said he wasn't aware of the article.

I thought we would see better numbers, Dr. Poling said. However, I am glad to see that the numbers are up this month. If we can rent out those other two apartments, it will be better.

Mr. Paulsen said, that of Friday, the nursing home had 34 residents compared to January's 30.3 average. The nursing home can hold 35 residents.

There are 14 apartments. Mr. Paulsen said 12 are occupied. One, he said, is vacant and the other is still being renovated. The man doing the renovating has been on vacation.

On March 30, Mr. Paulsen said an open house will be held so people can see the apartments. The newly renovated apartment and Donna Zweygardt's apartments will be open to the public. He said he will be handing out fliers and doing some advertising so people will be aware of the open house.

There has been a row of dead trees on the Village campus. Since the county now owns the facilities, the removal of the trees had been turned over to the road and bridge crew. Mr. Paulsen said they had recently removed the trees.

The remodel of the west entrance of the nursing home has been on the agenda for several months. Mr. Paulsen reported that Roger Jensen had been hired to do the work and he had been able to run the footings before the cold weather set in again.

At the January 31 meeting, the commissioners had discussed putting up carports for some of the apartments. Mr. Paulsen had prices for four carports, however he thought that a building with four stalls for vehicles might be better.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said he thought that people looking at the apartments might be more apt to rent one if they had a place for their vehicle.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, pointed out that in a snow storm, the open carports would catch snow which the maintenance men would be required to clear out.

Mr. Paulsen noted that carports and-or garages was not a priority. There were no decisions made.



READY TO PRESENT a yellow rose to his parents Stacy and Dale Hazuka on the Senior parents appreciation night is Connor Hazuka.
Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Doctor visits the hospital board

By Amanda Miller
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The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Thursday, Feb. 27 in the Clinic basement room as scheduled. At the Hospital Board meeting, NewLight Healthcare, an alternative to Great Plains Health Alliance, presented their material. In addition, Dr. Miller addressed the board.

All board members and pertinent hospital personnel were present. Les Lacy with Great Plains Health Alliance was not able to be present, however J.H. Seitz, Vice President for regional operations, was present. County Commissioner Dale Patton was also present.

Outpatient Coordinator Amelia Zuege and Pharmacy Manager Tammi Sherock came to give department head reports. Mrs. Zuege reviewed the many different outpatient specialists that are available at the Cheyenne County Hospital. She coordinates the scheduling and appointments for those specialists. Mrs. Sherock went over the procedures in place to scan all medications into the computer, update stock and work with local pharmacists.

NewLight Healthcare
NewLight Healthcare came to present information on their company. NewLight Healthcare is a hospital management and consulting company that serves the needs of Critical Access Hospitals, rural and small community hospitals such as Cheyenne

County Hospital.

Currently, Cheyenne County Hospital is a leased hospital with Great Plains Health Alliance. Under NewLight Healthcare, the hospital would be a managed one. One of the primary differences, according to the discussion that ensued, is that under a managed hospital the hospital board has a much bigger role. With a leased hospital, the board is looked to for input, but they are in charge of the bricks, mortar, and equipment, rather than making major decisions (such as employee decisions, etc.). An example of a managed hospital is Rawlins County Hospital, which is managed by Great Plains Health Alliance rather than leased.

The NewLight Healthcare team explained that they come in and provide the necessary tools and services for the hospital to flourish. They will work with the hospital board, complete studies, make graphs and then create a plan for reaching goals. The plan and schedule will be monitored on a monthly basis.

The board thanked the representatives for coming. No decisions were made at this time.

CEO Report
Prior to giving report, Dr. Mary Beth Miller came to address the board. She said that although her husband has submitted his resignation letter as Cheyenne County Clerk and will be moving to California, it is a lengthy process. Dr. Miller stated that her husband

will probably be moving earlier than her.

Dr. Miller wanted to reassure the board that she will absolutely not be leaving before Dr. Megan Brown begins at Cheyenne County Hospital in August of this year. Furthermore, she said if it was necessary she would gladly stay on until Dr. Dallas Walz begins in August of 2015.

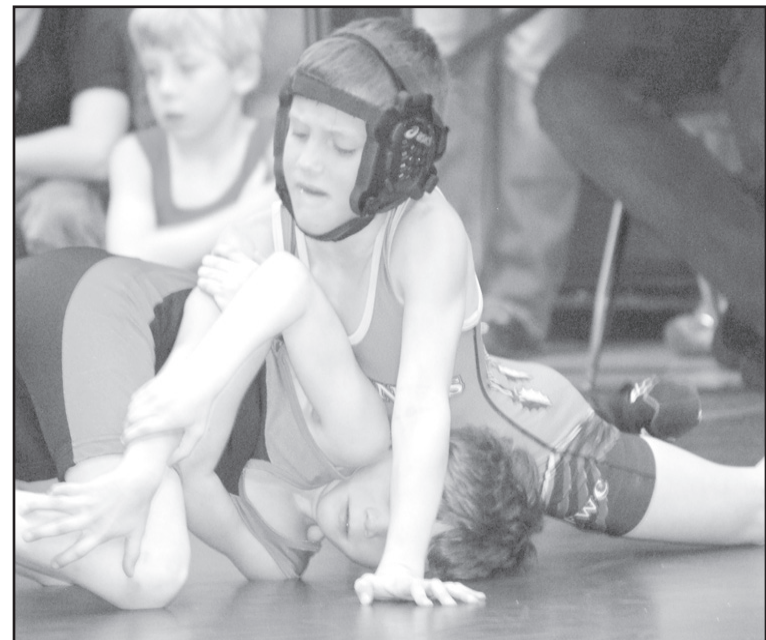
Judy Rockwood, CEO of Cheyenne County Hospital, announced that the hospital is now a Level IV Trauma Center, which is a great accomplishment. Mrs. Rockwood and Erika Zimelman, board member, said that Brenda Hays has done a fantastic job getting the hospital designated the achievement.

The sleep lab will start seeing patients on April 1. The hospital also bought a Dexascan machine. Mrs. Rockwood said Darrel Reed did a great job finding the machine for \$16,000.

Mrs. Rockwood also stated that emergency room visits were the highest they have been in the past four years. She thought this was probably attributed to the flu season being so bad.

Chief Financial Officer Heidi Tice reviewed the current financials of the hospital.

Next Meeting
The next Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting will be held Thursday, March 27 at 3 p.m. in the Clinic basement conference room.



LOGAN MCCARTY wrestles at the Benkelman tournament Sunday.
Photo courtesy of Shawna Blanka

Kids wrestle in tourney

There were nine St. Francis wrestlers participating in the Benkelman tournament on Sunday afternoon. All nine placed, with Shane Todd, Brady Ketzner, Logan McCarty, Kobe Tice and Shadryon Blanka, earning championship titles.

6 and under: Asher Robbins, 46 pounds, placed second. He lost a 5-8 decision and won by fall. Joel Gilliland, 52 pounds, placed second. He won by fall, won 13-2 decision and lost by decision. Shane Todd, 52 pounds, placed first. He won by fall, won by fall, won by forfeit.

8 and under: Brady Ketzner, 55 pounds, placed first. He won a 11-4 decision; won by decision and won by fall. Logan McCarty,

61 pounds, placed first. He won by fall, won 12-0 decision and won by fall.

10 and under: Kobe Tice, 76 pounds, placed first. He won by fall, won by fall. Shadryon Blanka, 96 pounds, placed first. He won by fall, won by fall, won by fall.

12 and under: Colton McCarty, 110 pounds, placed second. He lost by fall, won by fall, won by fall.

14 and under: Tayton Weeter, 100 pounds, placed second. He lost by fall, won by fall.

This weekend there will be several wrestlers attending the Western Kansas Classic in Hays.

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A014	-1.7	24	45	11	647/100	1249/100
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