

Cheerleaders earn trip to bowl game over school break

By Karen Krien
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The St. Francis Community High School cheerleaders said their trip to Orlando, Fla., was "A trip of a lifetime."

For months, the cheerleaders have been holding fundraisers. They gave away Bronco tickets, a quilt, beef bundles and sold items at bake sales, just to name a few. People from far and near donated money and, by the middle of December, they had enough money to go to Florida from Dec. 29 to Jan. 2. There, they performed at the Capital One Bowl game and went to Disney World.

Cheerleaders going were: Taryn Richard, Andrea Holzworth, Sarah Guthmiller, Cara Hunt, Megan Gilliland, Amber Smull and Aubree Schlepp.

When asked what they thought was the most fun on the trip, three of them said it was the rides at Disney World and the other three thought it was the privilege of being able to dance on the field. Whatever, the whole experience, they said, was "memorable."

The cheerleaders were among 600 other cheerleaders and a total of 1,000 people counting the sponsors.

It was awesome, Sarah said. The cheerleaders earned a Superior Award at the Universal Cheerleaders Association camp this summer. This gave them the opportunity to perform at the Capital One Bowl game. They earned enough money to make the trip and said they appreciate all the support they have had.



SAINTY CHEERLEADERS worked hard to earn money to travel to Florida. They came home with smiles on their faces and Mickey Mouse ears. Pictured (l to r) Andrea Holzworth, Aubree Schlepp, Cara Hunt, Megan Gilliland, Amber Smull and Sarah Guthmiller.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

First birthday enjoyed

Cody Austin Wright celebrated his first birthday on Nov. 26 with his parents, Ashley and Justin Wright, Colby.

Also helping Cody celebrate were his grandparents, Sharon and Bruce Feikert, St. Francis, and Sandy and Dave Wright, Lakin; great-grandparents, Marilyn and Stan Martin, Goodland, and Darlene and Ruben Feikert, St. Francis; honorary great-grandparents, Peg and Duane Hanke, Goodland,



Wright

and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Risk manager tells of new reporting software

JoAnn Klie, risk manager at the Cheyenne County Hospital, said, at the Nov. 24, board meeting, that the most exciting thing in risk management this year was the installation of the free software for reporting. This gives employees an opportunity to sit at the computer and fill out the form and then e-mail



Klie

it to Mrs. Klie, who then can run reports.

This, she said, makes tracking and trending a lot easier.

Mrs. Klie also assigns those to review the report and also sends this via e-mail.

The most challenging thing is with the nursing going live on their electronic medical records. She currently has to review on both paper and the computer.

She reported that when the surveyors were here, the risk management department received a good review.

Department heads explain duties

Department Head report – Susan Roelfs, Quality Coordinator/Utilization Review



Roelfs

Susan Roelfs is back to work as the quality coordinator/utilization review person after some medical leave. However, she is no longer in the county health department. She is continuing as the quality coordinator as before and has also assumed the duties of utilization review and the recovery audit contractor coordinator contact person.

Quality is becoming a bigger priority for facilities, she said. We are moving away from soft quality (such as crash cart checks, temperature checks) and moving to more improvement items such as in physical therapy where they have created exercises for moms and made a brochure for the expecting mothers.

The utilization review is a process of chart review to be sure care is delivered under the correct setting, she said. This has been done retrospectively in the past but is being transitioned to concurrent review to protect our reimbursement.

Mrs. Roelfs does chart review to identify Severity of Illness and Intensity of Service. Her role is to go to the providers, determine what their plan is for the patient; and rec-

ommend changes that may be necessary to be sure the hospital gets paid for the care delivered. She reported that the evaluation and management of the patients care has been a huge learning curve for her.

She has also been helping with long-term care placement. She said we have had to send several out of area due to a lack of space at the Good Samaritan Village.

The hospital participates in two benchmarking projects that compare results with other Kansas hospitals in clinical measures. A couple of those measures include making sure inpatients receive their flu and pneumonia shots. This has been added to the nursing assessment on the new electronic record.

One of her other duties is the Recovery Audit Contractor coordinator and contact person for the facility. Documentation is a big part and the facility is learning and preparing for it. She also screens cases for nosocomial (hospital acquired) infections and reports these to Tenille Lee, the director of nursing.

Dee Epperson, Health Information Management director, said there are three employees in the medical records office – Jackie Ritchey, Rita Keeker and herself. They also have Janelle Glidewell that does dictation and Steve Stroup who comes over from Benkelman and does outpatient coding. Mr. Stroup usually comes once a week.

Traci Neitzel, hospital board member, asked Mrs. Epperson to

explain the daily functions of her office. She said they assemble the patient charts and papers which come from different departments at different times. She does the coding of the inpatients and their diagnosis. The goal of their office is to have the physician dictation on the chart within 24 hours of admission.



Epperson

The staff has statistics they do for individual procedures which show up on the board's monthly statistical reports. They receive a lot of release-of-information requests from patients, other clinics, hospitals, physician offices and attorneys.

The newest item is the electronic medical record and the hybrid record. She said this has been a good

system so far with good training. It has already saved on paper.

The staff also spot checks charges on diagnosis before they go to the business office for billing. Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, said that the Wisconsin Position Services (insurance company) has not followed the same codes as Blue Cross Blue Shield did so there has been some adjusting and changes along the way.

Mrs. Epperson said she was asked by some of the employees who are not department heads to express that they would like to know the board members better and that it would be nice if they would stop at the hospital and made rounds to the departments once in awhile.

Editor's note: The above article was taken from the Dec. 22 minutes of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting.

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Happy Birthday Susan!

You Haven't Changed A Bit!

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Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

Rising energy costs have created some difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of your energy bill is now available for income qualified applicants.

CCEAP Applications will be available starting Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at the following locations:

- Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office
- City Office
- St. Francis Equity Co-Op
- First National Bank
- BANKWEST
- City Office

Bird City -

- Frontier Ag
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- SRS Agents - Goodland and Colby

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