

Group collects items for babies

This is the final week of the Knights of Columbus pro-life baby shower drive. The Knights are collecting items needed to help raise a newborn baby. All items collected will be donated to the Mary Elizabeth Home for unwed mothers in Hays. The Home helps young unwed mothers by teaching them how to take care of a new-born baby until they are able to take care of them on their own. All the work done is through volunteer work and with the help of donations.

"If anyone has any new or used items they would like to donate

to the cause, please contact any member of the knights," said Mike Antholz, Grand Knight of Council 6665. "They will see to it that your items are taken care of or you may drop them off at the Catholic Church in either Bird City or St. Francis."

Items should be put in the baby beds located there. Cash donations will also be taken.

The items will be collected on Feb. 1 and will be taken to Hays on Feb. 26.

Those having questions should contact Mr. Antholz at 785-332-3482.

Obituaries

Joseph C. Adamson

Feb. 25, 1951 - Jan. 6, 2009

Joseph Charles Adamson was born in Wray, Colo., on Feb. 25, 1951, to Charles and Theresa (Strick) Adamson. He graduated from Wray High School in 1969.

During his school years he was involved in football, wrestling and Boy Scouts, in which he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He also received the God and Country Award and was able to attend the World's Fair in New York.

Joe worked for Chuck's Service for many years before going to work in the restaurant business. He married Joyce Perry on Feb. 2, 1973, and to this union two daughters were born, Julie Annette in 1974, and Janelle Leigh in 1975.

He later moved to St. Francis, Kan., and operated the La Fiesta restaurant and the Park Hill restaurant. Joe married Chris O'Dell on July 19, 1981, and was blessed with another daughter, Jinna Christine in 1982.

Joe later moved to Fort Collins, Colo., and managed an Everything's a Dollar store. There he met Lori Gehricke and they were married on July 4, 1993. Into the fold came three step-children, Alyse, Kevin and David. Joe and Lori moved to Rio-Rico, Ariz., where they worked in real estate. Joe worked for four years in a real estate company that they owned together and five years for Re/Max Associates.

During his life, Joe was involved as a Scout Master with Boy Scouts, the Rotary Club and Jaycee's. He was a past president of the Santa Cruz

Board of Realtors and a founding member of Rio Rico Chamber of Commerce.

Joe died on Jan. 6, 2009, after a four-year battle with a brain tumor.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Lori; parents, Charles and Theresa Adamson; sisters, Pat Kramer and husband, Judd, Judy Cheek and husband, Terry; brother, Bob Adamson and wife, Susan; daughters, Julie Jones and husband, Donnie, Janelle Wolfe and husband, Brion, Jinna Adamson; step-children, Alyse Sperle and husband, Kevin, Kevin Gehricke and David Gehricke; grandchildren, Brian and Matthew Jones, Justin and Jordan Wolfe and David Gehricke, Jr.; and numerous aunts, uncles, friends and cousins.

His positive outlook and caring spirit will be greatly missed. He was known to many as Mr. Wonderful in Arizona, Taco Joe in St. Francis or Little Joe while growing up in Wray. Joe enjoyed golfing, bowling and especially traveling.

He was a kind, caring and lovable man. He would go out of his way to help someone. Joe was never at a loss for words as he was blessed with a "gift of gab" and could make friends anywhere.

Funeral services were held at the St. Andrew Catholic Church on Jan. 24. Memorials may be made to the Carondelet Foundation, 120 N. Tucson Boulevard, Tucson, AZ, Carondelet Hospice in memory of Joseph Adamson.

Gertrude Elizabeth Biggs

May 19, 1917 - Jan. 23, 2009

Gertrude Elizabeth Biggs, 91, died Friday, Jan. 23, 2009, at Table Rock Healthcare in Kimberling City, Mo. She was a former Goodland, Kan., resident.

She was born May 19, 1917, at Fairfax, S. D., the daughter of Valentine and Margaret "Maggie" (Schlepp) Peters. She attended Sherman Community High School.

On May 21, 1939, she and Virgil Wright Biggs were married at Colby and they made their home together in Goodland and St. Francis.

She was member of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goodland.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Virgil W. Biggs; son, John; son-in-law, Jack Vaughn; grandson, Anthony Ross Biggs; her parents; and siblings, Howard, Fred, Leonard,

Rudy, Alice, Emma and Florence.

Surviving family includes two sons, Reverend Darrell Biggs and his wife, Rowe Ann of Girard, Claire Biggs and his wife, Norma of Kimberling City; daughter, Ardith Ann Vaughn of Thornton, Colo.; seven grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and one sister, Alma Connelly of Wichita.

The memorial service was held Wednesday, Jan. 28, at Koons Chapel in Goodland, with Reverend Carol Jolly officiating. Inurnment followed in the Goodland Cemetery.

Memorials may be designated to Community Hospices of America or Goodland First Christian Church, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

Fire marshal inspects hospital

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkanssas.com

The state fire marshal had inspected the hospital on Thursday, the same day that the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met. The marshal's comments made up part of the meeting.

The kitchen is in need of some wiring improvements to comply with code deficiencies.

Although this was a different fire marshal inspector, he still noted the need to make improvements in the kitchen area. Some of the wiring needs to be done now, rather than wait for the comprehensive project to meet these codes, Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said.

He and the board discussed different options and, in the end, decided to do a little more planning before proceeding with a major project. He said that Bill Wilger, maintenance, will soon have the building in back of the hospital remodeled and have his area moved into it. That would give Mr. Lacy a better idea of the room available and other options that might work.

The new fire marshal had another

matter which he felt needed attention and that was the east entrance/exit. He said the ceiling height was too low. Redoing this doorway has been on the long-range planning list but, the board had delayed it because there were other issues they felt were more important.

Mr. Lacy pointed out that one option was to demolish the concrete cap over the lower step and put a metal cover on at the appropriate height. This could likely be done fairly inexpensively.

Airport closed

Mr. Lacy said Ron Loudon, member of the county Airport Authority Board, had told him that, in October, there are plans for the airport to be closed for rebuilding the runway. The renovation will take about five weeks and during that time, different arrangements will be made to fly out patients for further treatment.

The board talked about bringing in helicopters. Mr. Lacy said helicopters used to land in the grass to the west of the hospital but there is supposed to be 300 feet from the nearest residence.

Helicopters still land at the airport and the ambulance meets the crew there. Patients can also be transported to the Goodland airport to meet a medical flight.

Mr. Lacy pointed out that they have had some notice so they will be able to work out whatever arrangements would be needed.

Morale issue

The matter of the morale issue with the hospital staff which was brought up in the interview for the hospital board position. Mr. Lacy agreed that at times, there may be a problem but he didn't see it as a severe problem. The board was encouraged to talk to the administrator if they hear of problems.

Numbers up

Mr. Lacy said the number of visits at the Cheyenne County Clinic in St. Francis is holding stable with 503 reported in December. In Bird City, there were 83 visits in December.

He pointed out that the number of ancillary surgeries was increasing. There was a total of 82 in 2008 which was over the 2007 total by 26. Endoscopies had a total of 103 which was over last year by two.

The big surprise to Mr. Lacy's budget was the number of babies born last year. He had budgeted for eight births but, instead, there were 24 babies born in the hospital.

Slow this year were the number of people using the physical therapy department. He pointed out the high degree of variability in the numbers.

He noted that he is still looking for a urologist to work in the specialty clinics.

Primary Care Clinic Grant

New grant applications are out for the Primary Care Clinic Grant. The current grant was originally for \$75,000 and is being cut to \$70,900 by the Governor. This grant helps with the cost of un- and under-insured patients and provides funds for Case Management Services. Mr. Lacy will be writing this grant.

The future of CT

A communication from the American College of Radiology outlined the changes that will be necessary in certifications and equipment to continue to do some types of CT images in the future. At

some point the hospital will need to upgrade the CT machine to be able to continue to provide this service in the community. It was noted that there are some types of images that are not done locally due to the limitations of the equipment.

Programs

Mr. Lacy said Candi Douthit, RN, had successfully written a grant that would make funding available for a farm family safety program, farm extrication program, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety program and to pay for the rural road safety program which she is doing with the high school.

Mrs. Douthit had previously arranged for the hospital to host the first two programs several years ago. This grant will need to be rewritten each year and will likely be oriented at an array of educational programs for the community.

The "Buckle Up or Eat Glass" program has already been presented at the St. Francis high school. It will be held at the Cheylin School in February.

Funding

Funding the depreciation fund was discussed. Mr. Lacy said that, historically, the hospital has needed funds in January but, not this January. He said that he would like to suggest that, for this month only,

depreciation not be funded. Traci Neitzel, board member, said that she would agree to the arrangement this month but she wanted to make sure that this wasn't continuing. We don't want to get out of the habit of funding it, she said.

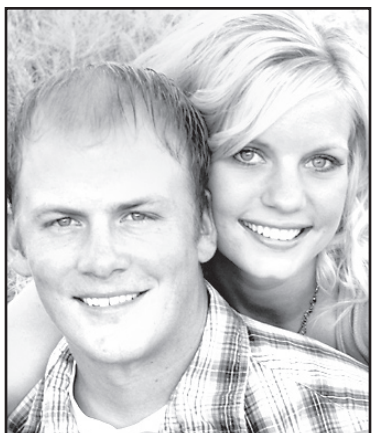
Great Plains report

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, had an update on what is going on within the Alliance. She said the Cheyenne County Hospital is one of four hospitals that have been with Great Plains for over 50 years. The other hospitals were Smith (County) Memorial Hospital, Smith Center; Harlan County Health Systems, Alma, Neb.; and Phillips County Hospital, Phillipsburg.

In other business

Mr. Lacy said he and Rick Reeser, Good Samaritan Village administrator, would be approaching the Northwest Kansas Educational Services Center concerning the school nurse position for the Cheylin. Mila Bandel had identified this as a potential option to assist with that aspect of service to the community.

The same officers were re-elected: president, Jerry Toler; treasurer, Traci Neitzel; and secretary, Joy Anderegg.



Wahlmeier and Olson

Couple to marry

Kerrie Beth Olson and Nicholas Jon Wahlmeier plan to be married on Saturday, May 2, 2009, at Immaculate Conception Church in Leoville, with a reception to follow at The Gateway civic center in Oberlin.

Parents of the couple are Randy and Sharon Olson of Oberlin, and Jeff and Mary Wahlmeier of Clayton.

Grandparents of the couple are Ruben and Darlene Feikert, St. Francis; Eunice and Glenn Martin, Oberlin, and the late Lowell Olson; and Stan and Ramona Shaw and Agnes Wahlmeier, Jennings, and the late Lawrence Wahlmeier.

The bride-elect is a 2004 graduate of Decatur Community High School and a 2008 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in elementary education. She is employed as a first grade teacher at Washington Grade School in Ellis.

The prospective bridegroom is a 2004 graduate of Jennings High School and a December 2008 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in agriculture business. He is currently engaged in farming in the Jennings community.

Do you Currently Own A 99 Or Newer GM? If So at Vince's GM Center You Can Get Up To \$3000.00 Off A New 2008 Or 2009 GM Vehicle As A Loyalty Customer plus Up To \$4500.00 Consumer Cash On Select Models.



2009 GMC Reg Cab, Stealth Gray



2009 Chevy 1/2 Ton Crew Cab, Silver



2009 Cadillac DTS, Crystal Red



2009 Buick Lacrosse, Silver

So Call Mel, Jeff Or Tim Today For More Details

Vince's GM CENTER
1697 Rose Ave. • Burlington, CO
719-346-5326 • 1-800-546-5541
www.vincesgmc.com

For Sales:
Jeff Eberhart 719-340-5541
Tim Miller 719-340-7231
Mel Brisending 718-346-4127

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

To list your business drop us a card!
Call 785-332-3162 today.

DISH Network

Sunflower Satellite Sales and Repairs
Randy Lee
Goodland, KS 67735
785-728-7103



DISH Network upgrades, new installs, receiver and TV add-ons, new home cable work for TV's. Satellite systems for homes, trucks, and RV's.

* Get your local channels with a converter box. Only \$50!

Located at the Burlington Country Club
58680 Snead Dr., Burlington, CO
James Thomas - 719-346-7855

Catering Special Events
Corporate Parties

We can host up to 300 for Weddings, Banquets & Parties.

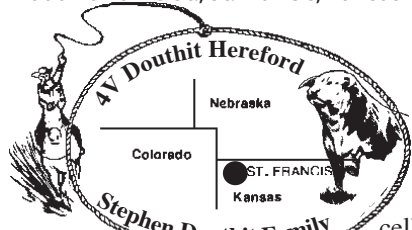
Bison
Rx compounding & Therapy

Customized prescriptions for patients with unique medical situations requiring unique medical solutions.

James E. Hampton, RPh, PCCA Member
416 State Street, Suite A
Atwood, Kansas 67730
(785) 626-3237
(800) 696-3214
Bison Rxcompounding@atwoodtv.net

4V Douthit Herefords

600 Lorraine St., St. Francis, Kansas 67756



STEVE
(785) 332-2323
cell (785) 332-7192

stephendouthit@sbcglobal.net