

# Hospital board prioritizes projects

By Karen Krien  
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The hospital administrator, at the Thursday Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting, identified a way to prioritize projects which had been developed from the staff's list of hospital needs.

At a previous meeting, the board was presented a list which included everything from a cappuccino machine (submitted by a fun-loving employee) to a new kitchen. Of course, the cappuccino machine had been eliminated immediately. Other items that were very low priority given the hospital's position and needs were another public bathroom, larger hospice room, mirror lighting, a front foyer, better ramp in front and a second conference room.

Still on the list and rated highest were the remodeled kitchen and remodeling the check-in area so there is more confidentiality when patients are entering the hospital. The hospital's east entrance, which was recently pointed out by the state fire marshal, is in the process of being adapted to fit the regulation.

Shawna Blanka, administrative assistant, reported on a security system. The nurses had said they did not feel safe at night. The city police were asked to patrol the facility regularly but the nurses felt that a security system would help. A security system would also be helpful in certain emergency situations when hospital operations demand that

the building be able to be secured quickly.

Mrs. Blanka had talked to Rob Schiltz, St. Francis high school superintendent, about the security systems recently installed in both the junior-senior high school and the grade school. He said he had been very satisfied with the company, Access Control Systems.

Mrs. Blanka had figures for a system with two cameras and one without cameras. Without the cameras, the system will cost \$14,750; with the two cameras, it was only \$250 more (\$15,500). The system also has software for programming on a computer and entry cards for the staff.

The board agreed to purchase the system with the two cameras. They will probably be installed toward the end of March or first of April.

Several other prioritized projects may have to wait for more secure funding, including improvements to the obstetric area and increasing out-patient rooms.

**Administrator's report**  
Administrator Les Lacy reported on equipment that needs to be replaced. He said the hematology analyzer is several years old and will need to be replaced. The cost will be approximately \$41,000. He said that the hospital can maintain performance while saving money if the purchase is made before migrating to the new Lab Information System.

He also reported that one of the electrocardiogram machines had broken down and is not repairable. He said the staff is researching options to replace it but would like to be sure we get a best price. The machine had been on the capital equipment budget but was not scheduled to be replaced for a year or two.

The hospital needs to replace the crib which is not in compliance. The cost for the crib will be a little less than \$5,000.

Mr. Lacy had talked with several people with the Kansas Association of the Medically Underserved and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment regarding the criteria for a Federally Qualified Health Center. He said the discussion showed a variety of issues that will need to be addressed before a decision to apply for a grant to become a Federally Qualified Health Center.

The statistics were reviewed. Hospital volume was stable. The clinics in both St. Francis and Bird City were stable with number of patients visiting the Bird Clinic being slightly higher than budget. St. Francis' clinic showed a few less.

He said one baby had been born in January and the hospital had been very busy during the month of February.

**Area director's report**  
Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the

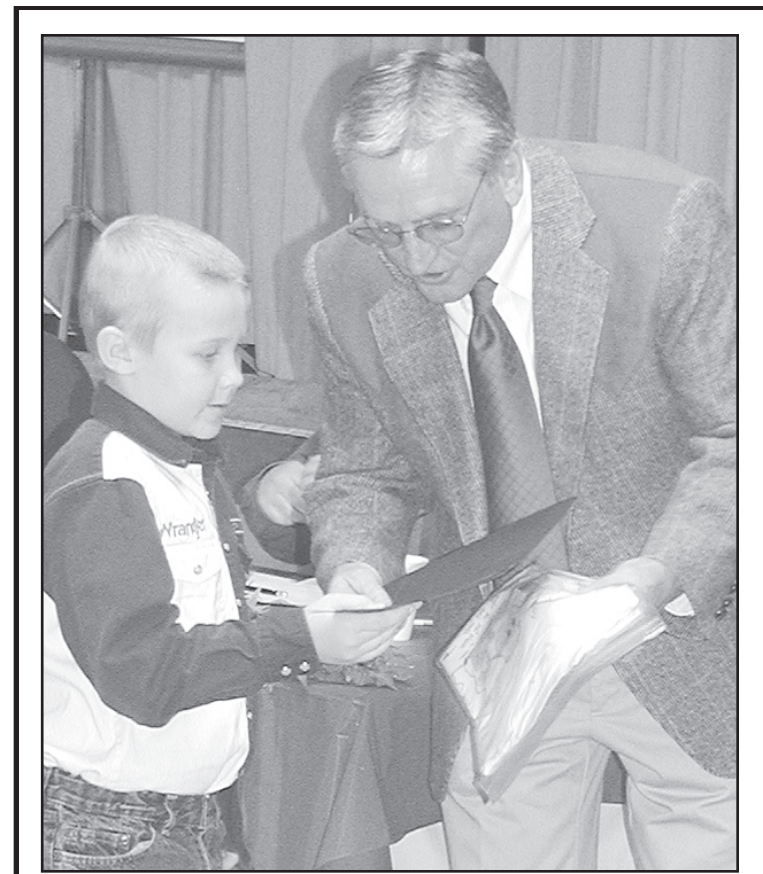
company which leases the hospital, said the company's Swingbed Roundtable had met in Salina and 33 hospital staff members were present. Medicare has released new notices that must be given to Medicare patients within 48 hours of discharge from skilled care. It advises them of their appeal rights if they think they are being discharged too soon. The Kansas Foundation for Medical Care will review the record and either confirm the patient's readiness for discharge or their need for further care. Reviewed was a manual which assists in identifying criteria, developing care plans and documentation of care delivered in a swing bed situation.

The Alliance is evaluating the participation in a new purchasing partnership which is being developed by six Kansas and Missouri systems.

The Alliance is also looking at improvements in electronic medical records for pharmacy. The system will allow identifying where the patient has been, the products used, tracing the name, birth, address and other information which will give a more positive identity of the person.

**In other business**  
In other business:  
• Shara Johnson, physical therapist, gave the report of her department.  
• The Facility Improvement Plan had been sent to Kent Carmichael, architect.  
• Tabettha Ketzner has been hired to fill the Human Resources position.

**Next meeting**  
The next hospital board meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, in the basement meeting room at the St. Francis Clinic.



JESSE BAXTER, left, was a winner of the coloring contest. Randy Rueb presents the award.

# Supervisor applies for federal grant

By Karen Krien  
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The possibility of receiving money to put an asphalt overlay on one of the county roads was discussed by the Cheyenne County Commissioners when they met Friday morning.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said the federal government was going to put \$2 million into northwest Kansas projects that qualified. Mr. Flemming said the county road which runs north on Benton Street, St. Francis, is already an asphalt road but needs work. He believes this road would qualify.

In order to get the funding, it was recommended that the county put up a certain amount of money. It was suggested that the amount be \$54,000. However, the county does not have that amount of money. Mr. Flemming said he was certain there would be money leftover from the bridge project that is being completed but was not sure how much and probably would not know until the first of June. On top of it, the county would need to pay for the preliminary engineering which he estimated at \$8,000.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said he had heard that the Kansas Department of Transportation had overpaid a number of counties. Was the state going to have those counties repay that amount? Or would all Kansas counties be shorted? Would the county, at the end of the year, be short of money and employees would need to be laid off?

I don't oppose that project, said Mr. Patton, and we could lose that money. But the way things are changing with feds and the state, we don't know what the rules are.

State and feds don't know what they are doing either, said Andy Beikman, commissioner. The first of July, we get a whole new set of rules to play with and every rural county in Kansas will be in trouble.

I hate to give away what might be a good project and be subsidized, Mr. Patton said, but, at this time, I don't want to gamble away money that we might need for salaries at the end of the year.

At the end of the meeting, the commissioners agreed to have Mr. Flemming apply for the grant by the deadline, March 13, but only put \$22,000 toward the project. If they get accepted, they could probably come up with the money and if they are not accepted, then "fine." Mr. Flemming said he would know the outcome of the grant by March 20.

## STEPS

Continued from Page 1

Terry Miller, clerk, said there had been several other contractors calling asking questions. One had even visited the courthouse to personally look over the steps. They all appeared to be interested in bidding the job and he was surprised that none of them had submitted a bid.

During discussion, Fed Ex delivered two envelopes marked as bids for the step project. The delivery was 2:45 p.m. which was too late for acceptance. These bids were from Restruction Company, and MTS Contracting. Mr. Johnson said the envelopes could not be opened.

The county received a Heritage

Trust Fund grant for \$78,384 from the Kansas State Historical Society and the commissioners had put back around \$20,000 to cover the county's share. Greg Kite, former resident, now serving on the Sedgwick Historical Society, called shortly after the bids were opened and said there was a chance that the county could get another \$10,000 or \$11,000.

Mr. Johnson said he would need to get a statement of qualification for Stupka's work on historical structures and he would have that information the first week of March.

Dale Patton, commissioner, asked if they had to accept the low bid. Mr.

Johnson said that if the bidder was deemed not able to complete the job as specified or was not qualified, the commissioners could reject the bid.

The commissioners questioned the extreme difference in the amounts of the bids. They wondered if Mr. Stupka had maybe omitted something in his bid. No matter what, the commissioners agreed that the steps were not worth \$274,961. Besides, the county did not have the money to pay the difference. The big question was "why was the Shamber's bid so high?"

The commissioners will be discussing the courthouse steps again. Until then, the south steps will remain closed.

**Steps closed in December 2007**  
The courthouse steps were closed in December 2007 after the insurance company refused to cover the county. The steps are uneven and considered a liability.

The bids for the steps would include having the present steps removed and the dirt, which was placed underneath when the new steps were built, removed. Then floating pavers would be installed. There was a possibility that the concrete at the end of the steps would need to be removed and replaced.

The courthouse is on the Kansas Historical Register. All the remodeling and renovation needs to be approved by the Kansas organization before it is done. In order to help have the steps put in correctly, the grant was awarded. Because there was so much trouble in getting bids, the grant was renewed but there is a time limit on the project.

## FLU

Continued from Page 1

get tested. Also strongly recommended is that infected people do not go to work, avoid public settings such as the stores, and church, don't go to school, and try to avoid people especially babies and the elderly.

The best treatment, Dr. Miller said, is prevention and that means avoiding sick people, or if you are sick, avoid being around well people.

"A person will be contagious for up to 24 hours after no further fever, she said. "And of course, you can be contagious for several days before you even get your symptoms."

It is recommended that people with the illness do not visit at the hospital or nursing home to limit exposing people in those settings. As always, good hand washing is critical.

Take home points:  
• Those sick with fever and cough, call the clinic and get tested and treated as indicated.

• If sick, avoid exposing others.  
• Already immunized? Consider getting re-vaccinated.  
• Those who have not had the flu shot, get one now.

Remember, Dr. Miller said, the vaccine you get protects others because then you aren't getting the disease to pass around.

"Don't underestimate the power of the flu virus to make you very sick and can even cause death," she said

People are urged to contact the clinic, hospital or health department if there are questions.

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STORM DATE: MARCH 16 2009

AUCTION LOCATION FROM ATWOOD: 8 MI. EAST ON US HWY 36 TO ROAD 29, 10 MI. SOUTH, THEN 3/4 MI. WEST TO FARM SITE

SELLER: MARVIN NELSON

2005 J.D. 7820 MFWD, Shuttle Shift Trans., 3-Rem, 3pt., 985h, S#RW7820RO38354; 746 J.D. Loader, 8' Bucket, Grapple Fork, Joy Stick; 2000 J.D. 7710 MFWD, Shuttle Shift Trans., 3 Remotes, 4485 hrs., S#RW7710RO37941; 740 J.D. Loader, 8' Bucket, Grapple Fork; 2002 Dodge 2500 4x4, 87,000 actual mi.; 28' Quinstar Fallowmaster; 1995 Suzuki 4x4; NH TR70, 1235 hrs.; Gleaner L2; 2003 NH 1431 Disbine Swather S#Y7B250017; NH 688 Round Baler, Net Wrap; Tonnuti Hay Rake; J.D. 4020 Diesel; IHC 560 Diesel, Farmhand F11 LDR; J.D. 720; Diesel, Pwr. Steering, S#7212832; J.D. 60 w/Farmhand F11 LDR-Hay Basket; Flex-King 5-5' Sweeps; 500 Bu. Grain Cart; Shank Ripper; Flex 3-5' Sweep; J.D. 3-8'x12" Drills; J.D. 12'-12" Drills; J.D. 8 Row Planter; Sunflower 20' Disc; Krause 20' Tandem Disc; IHC 2-8'x12" Hoe Drills w/Alfalfa Boxes; 1990 Dodge Ram150; 1995 Chevy Van; NH 490 12' Swather; NH 495 12' Swather; 1965 Dodge Truck; 1964 Chevy 60 Truck; Hesston 30A Stackhand; Rocut 10' Rotary Mower; 10' Speed Mover; 1997 7'x20' Diamond D Gooseneck; 10-Bale Hay Trailer; H-1100 Haybuster Tub Grinder, Rebuilt, S#8912225; IHC 856 Diesel, 3 pt. w/Farmhand F11 LDR; NH 315 Square Baler; 1973 Gleaner L; Case 1270 Tractor; J.D. 70 w/Pwr. Steering, PTO; J.D. G Tractor; J.D. 70 w/2 pt. Farmhand F11 LDR; J.D. Fenders; 2-NH 490 Swathers; J.D. 896A Delivery Rake; W-W Squeeze Chute; Stroberg Gates & Panels; W-W Panels; Feeder Panels; 1994 8970 FWA, 6620 hrs., Super Steer, S#0407806.

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