

Group says food is affordable

The Cheyenne County Farm Bureau reports that, according to statistics, in just five weeks, the average American will have earned enough disposable income to pay for his or her food supply for the entire year. As a result, the Cheyenne County Farm Bureau is celebrating Jan. 29 through Feb. 4 as Food Check-Out Week. The latest statistics compiled by the Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service indicate American families and individuals currently spend, on average, just 9.5 percent of their personal income for food. "Not only is American's food supply the world's safest, but it's also the most affordable," said Jeanne Dunn, board member. "Our nation's increasing standard of living would certainly

be reduced without the safe, abundant and affordable domestic food supply produced by America's farmers and ranchers." Food Check-Out Week tracks the amount of income needed by Americans to purchase food on an annual basis, Mrs. Dunn said. The Cheyenne County Farm Bureau is donating \$50 to the Food Pantry to mark the occasion. Members will also put out information in restaurants and give bookmarks to students. In comparison to Food Check-Out Week, most Americans work until mid-April to pay their taxes in 2005, according to the Tax Foundation. Mrs. Dunn said the high-quality, affordable food we enjoy is a product of our successful food production and

distribution system, as well as America's farmers retaining access to effective and affordable crop protection tools. This week should hold meaning for most Americans, Mrs. Dunn said. "As food producers, we are concerned that some Americans cannot afford to buy the food they need, but we are proud of the role Kansas farmers play in making our food supply more affordable for all. The percent of disposable personal income spent for food has declined over the last 34 years. The United States Department of Agriculture figures show food is more affordable today due to a widening gap between growth in per-capita incomes and the amount of money spent for food.

CREDITS

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Election of officers
The election of officers found all the officers retaining the same positions. Mr. Toler will remain the chairman of the board. Secretary is Mrs. Anderegg and treasurer is Traci Neitzel.

Emergency room door
The board had a bid for \$2,950 from Dependable Glass, Goodland, for emergency room entrance doors. The doors are radio controlled and have push pads.

Eddie Lauer, St. Francis, before his death, had indicated he would pay \$1,000 toward the installation of the doors. His son Roger said he would honor his dad's wishes. The rest of the money for the doors will be taken out of the hospital's memorial fund.

Administrator's Report
Administrator Lacy said the Veterans Administration will be putting in an outpatient clinic somewhere on the plains of Colorado and Kansas. Sites they have indicated interest are in Goodland, Burlington and Yuma. "We have made several contacts to be sure the our site (Cheyenne County Hospital/Clinic) will also be considered," he said. "We will continue to pursue this."

He pointed out that the facility has a variety of assets, including interactive television (ITV), a robust electronic network and an available clinic setting. Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, said Roger John, Chief Executive Officer of the Alliance, will be calling Pat Roberts, U.S. Senator, on behalf of the hospital.

Dr. Rebecca Allard will be coming to join the hospital staff on Aug. 1. The hospital administration is implementing a concealed weapon policy prohibiting weapons on the hospital premises for individuals not formally engaged in law enforcement. See related article.

BEST

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with winning hands, there will be a draw off with the highest number/suit being the winner. Check out the businesses and the specials they are offering for Valentine's Day. The special ad and information is located on Page 10A of this issue.

Health fair

A health fair has been set for March 26, 27 and 28. Two health fairs have been scheduled this year with the second one being held during the last full week in September. More information will be available closer to the date.

Strategic plan

The hospital's strategic plan was reviewed. The goals of the strategic plan fall into 5 main areas: Market Share, Financial, Workforce, Community and Facility. It was noted that many of the goals had either been achieved or were on track. Lacy pointed out that there were several of the community goals that needed more focus.

The board also did an Annual Program Evaluation, which entails a discussion of the hospital's services, volume, needs and future. Another strategic planning session will be scheduled sometime this summer.

In other business

In other business:
• Mrs. Neitzel said Bankwest was underpledged after she had deposited \$206,127 received from the county treasurer. The board recommended that she have some of the funds be transferred to First National Bank.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 3 p.m. on Feb. 22 in the St. Francis clinic's basement board room.

WEAPONS

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other persons entering the hospital for any reason. The only individuals permitted to carry a firearm on the premises are on-duty law officers.

Signs will be posted at entrances of the hospital announcing the policy and prohibition of weapons.

If someone discovers a person with a weapon, notify the hospital administrator. The administrator will inform the person of the hospital's policy regarding possessing a weapon and will ask the person to remove the weapon from the hospital property.

If the person refuses to comply with the policy, law enforcement will be

contacted, as it is a class B misdemeanor for a licensee to knowingly have a concealed weapon at a business that prohibits people from having concealed handguns on the property. In an emergency situation, people are to notify law enforcement immediately.

"Cheyenne County Hospital strives to remain socially responsible and to protect the safety of patients, visitors, employees, medical staff and volunteers, as well as the overall community," said Les Lacy, administrator.

Those having questions or concerns, should contact Administrator Lacy.

FUNDING

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Airport Improvement Program in 1999 with funding authorized as part of the Comprehensive Transportation Program.

"This is a program designed to stretch state dollars by requiring participation from local communities. Including this year's projects, which will be for fiscal year 2008, the Kansas Department of Transportation has provided approximately \$27 million to help fund more than 200 projects," Ms. Miller said.

Under guidelines of the program, project sponsors are required to pay a minimum of 10 percent of the total project costs or a maximum of 50 percent of the total project cost based on population.

Before passage of the Comprehensive Transportation Program, Kansas was the only state in the country that didn't provide state funding for airport improvements. Miller said that commerce, air ambulance service, agriculture and law enforcement have been key beneficiaries of the airport improvement program.

Among those area airports included in the projects besides the Cheyenne County Airport are: Colby with two projects, a taxiways and ramp repairs, and markings; Hoxie - repair and resurface runway, taxiway and ramp; Leoti - runway and taxiway repair and remarking; and Trego County/WaKeeney - replace lights, upgrade wiring.

First Baby Contest

We're celebrating the first special delivery of the Year 2007! The winning baby and parents will receive these bundles of gifts, courtesy of these businesses.

Parents Rules:

1. The parents must have lived in Cheyenne County for at least one month.
2. The Saint Francis Herald office must be notified as quickly as possible after the birth. The Herald's number is 785-332-3162.
3. A 60-day limit following the baby's birth is required for taking advantage of these outstanding gifts & services.



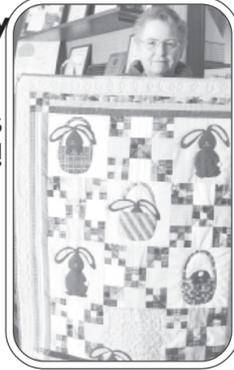
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11TH ANNUAL CATTLEMAN'S CHOICE BULL SALE

February 28, 2007, 1p.m. CST
Oakley Livestock Commission - Oakley, Kan.

SELLING: Over 100 bulls that excel in calving ease, performance and carcass traits



- 70 Balancer and Gelbvieh bulls sell. Black and Red Bulls sired by leading A.I. sires like Future Direction, Morgan's Direction, Shear Force, 1023, 112, Retail Product and Cherokee Canyon
- 45 Angus bulls sell. Sired by leading A.I. sires like Future Direction, Traveler 004, Newline, New Level, In Focus and Foreman
- 5 Simm-Angus Bulls sired by Top Dawg
- 15 Angus open heifers sell with show heifer potential
- 15 Balancer open heifers sell
- Many Calving Ease Bulls Sell
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