

Board agrees to purchase hospital beds

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board agreed to pursue the purchase of 12 beds for the new addition of the hospital when they met on Thursday, Feb. 22. The beds will be bought with memorial funds.

Families and others will give funds in memory of a loved one. Traci Neitzel, board member, asked when someone gives a memorial for a specified item, is this documented? Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said Heidi Tice, chief financial officer, has a spread sheet with this information.

The beds and furniture for each of the rooms will cost approximately \$65,189. The old beds are 14-years-old and Administrator Lacy said that it is time that they be replaced.

Jerry Toler, board president, asked that the administrator bring more information about the beds and furniture and possibly a decision will be made at the next meeting.

Dr. Allard

Dr. Rebecca Allard will be coming to Cheyenne County on Aug. 6. A general practitioner, Dr. Allard will also be delivering babies.

In preparation for Dr. Allard's arrival, Shawna Blanka, administrative assistant; Tenille Lee, director of nurses; and Brenda Hays, nursing staff supervisor and the obstetric manager; have been working with the architect on the changes necessary to turn two rooms into one birthing suite.

Administrator Lacy expects the rooms to be ready by the time Dr. Allard begins her practice at the hospital. He also noted that when the rooms are not being used for obstetrics, they can be used for patient rooms.

State income tax credits

State income tax credits are again being considered by the board. The tax gives residents and others paying state income tax a chance to help the hospital with different projects while paying their taxes.

There are two projects which

could be funded with tax credits. They include the patient lifts for each room, \$70,000; and a cardiac monitoring system, \$120,000.

Budget

Last year, the hospital received a total of \$527,528 which included ad valorem tax and sales tax (1 percent). The board agreed that the administrator, when he goes to the commissioners' meeting, should ask for \$525,000 which includes \$325,000 in ad valorem tax and an estimated 1 percent sales tax of \$200,000.

In other business

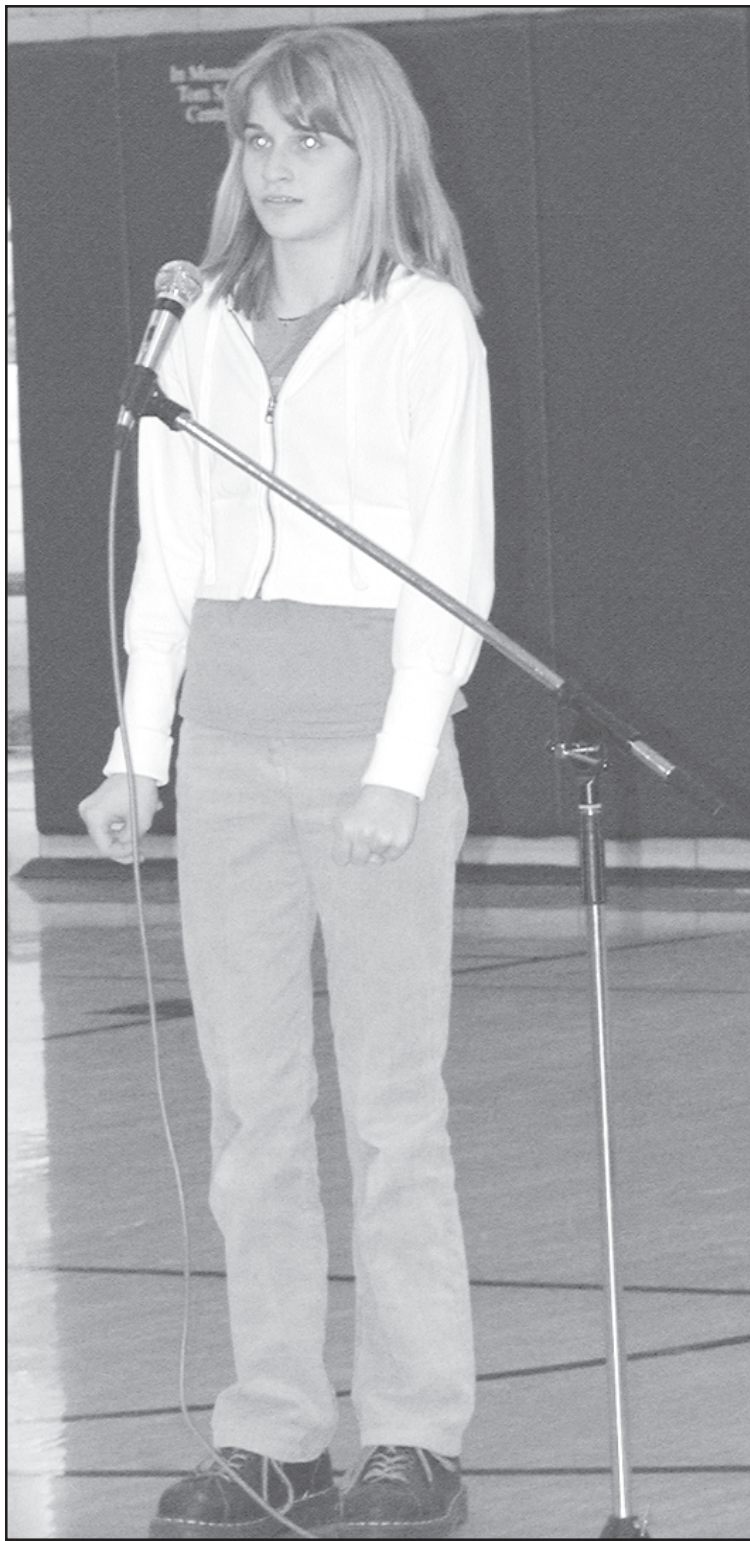
In other business:

• Kari Gilliland, board member, told the board about the Cheyenne Initiative Association which is being organized. The group chose to network with other communities in the tri-state area to take immediate action in the four strategic areas advocated by the Home Town Competitiveness approach to rural community sustainability. These areas include: mobilize and train local leaders for the task, capture and retain a portion of the wealth transfer in our county, energize entrepreneurship and attract young people to stay or move to our county. The organization is asking that certain organizations including the hospital donate \$100 to be used as support.... They expect to be off the ground and working for the good of the county within two years. The county will be working with Norton and Rawlins counties.

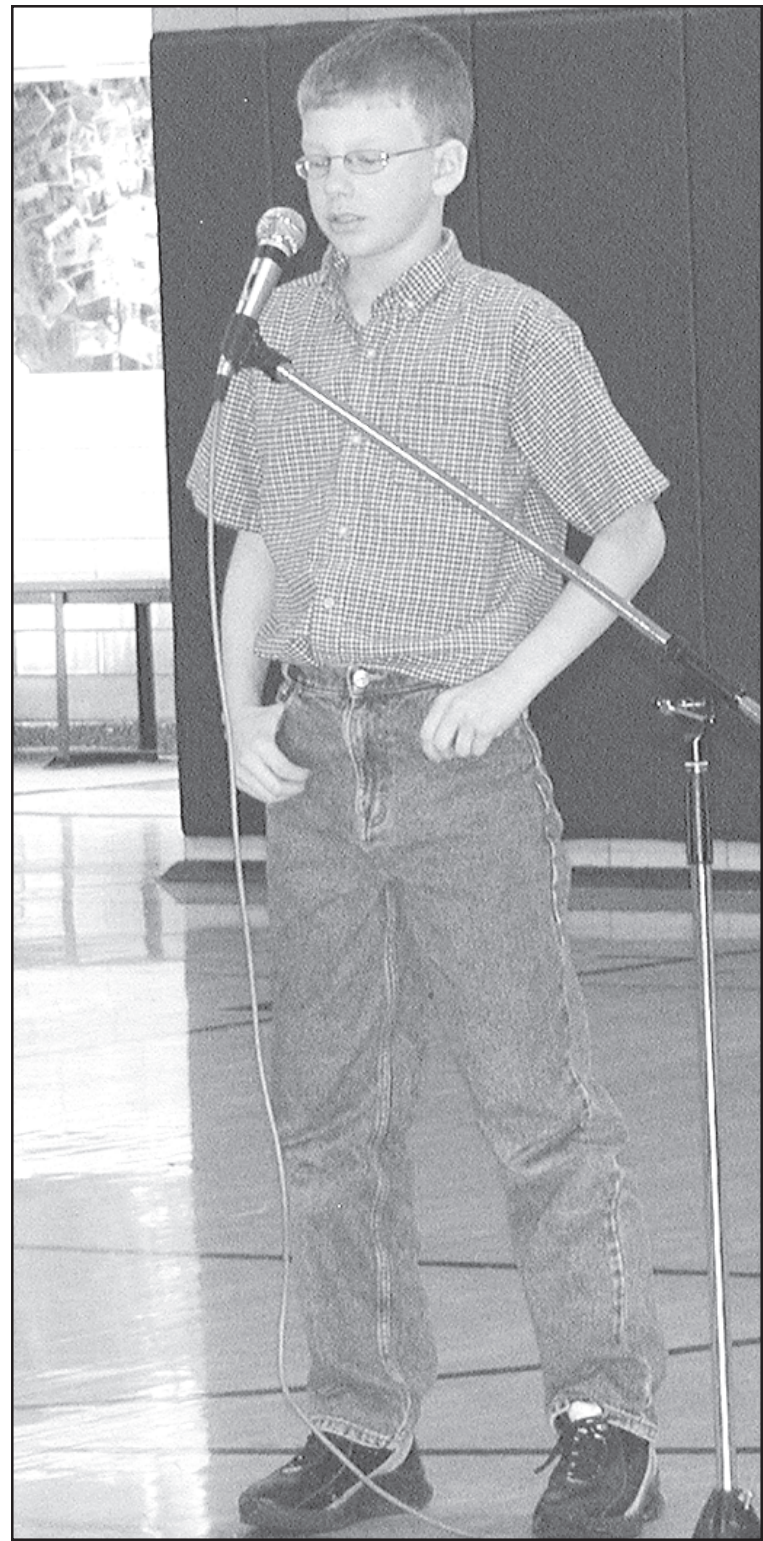
• Deana Grice, hospital employee, told about the maintenance department, how they cleaned, their schedule and the type of cleaner used. She said the new dryer which was recently purchased has been a great help. In December, the crew did 11,440 pounds of laundry; in 2006, they did 104,515 pounds of laundry. She said it was one of the hardest jobs she had ever done but was also the most rewarding job.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, in the clinic basement meeting room, St. Francis.



TERYN CARMICHAEL takes her turn during the first round of the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee held last Wednesday.



CONNOR HAZUKA concentrates on spelling his word correctly after hearing announcer Suzan Moyer repeat it.

Times Staff photos by Melinda Basnett

Thirty area students participate in the annual county spelling bee

By Melinda Basnett

There were 30 bright young faces gathered in the Bird City High School gymnasium for the annual Cheyenne County Spelling Bee. The group was composed of 15 students from Cheylin and 15 from St. Francis. Each grade fourth through eighth was represented.

After a practice round to loosen up their nerves, round one ex-

cluded 14 of the contestants. Round two saw seven more taking a seat in the crowd. There were four dropped in round three and then the competition got interesting.

The three remaining students, Clarice Neitzel, Isaac Schiltz and Mikaela Grace, all from St. Francis, carried on until round 10 when Clarice, a sixth grade, misspelled "polychrome" to leave Isaac Schiltz and Mikayla Grace to finish the day. In round 15,

Isaac misspelled "immersed" to leave Mikayla to spell "sucrose" and "memorable" in round 16 for the win.

Mikaela is the daughter of Robert and Debbie Grace. This is her second spelling bee win.

Mikaela will travel to Topeka on March 24 to the State spelling bee.

Those students who participated were; Alexa Reichert, Trevor Reed, Mason Schiltz, Derek Queen, Cade Bracelin,

Wyatt Landenberger, Caitlin Northrup, Alyssa Schlepp, McKayla Taylor, Mary Ann Orten, Brendan Finley, Allyson Northrup, Kelsie Malm, Nakita Schneider, Christina Schoenrogge, Shayna Johnson, Jacquelyn Ketzner, Teryn Carmichael, Connor Hazuka, Kylee Samuelson, Adam Orten, Shawn Pochop, Forrest Burr, Foster Grant, John Hoard, Sarah Whitmore, Clarice Neitzel, Jonathan Butler, Isaac Schiltz, Mikaela Grace.

Initiative program prepares the community for the future

Cheyenne Initiative Association, composed of a group of interested Cheyenne County citizens, formed to participate in the High Plains Cluster of the Ogallala Commons. The High Plains Cluster will give Cheyenne County the ability to network with other communities in the tri-state area with the same sustainability issues. Immediate action will take place in the four areas of the HomeTown Competitiveness concept: mobilizing and training our local leaders, capturing a portion of the transfer of wealth, energizing entrepreneurs, and re-

taining youth.

All members of the Cheyenne Initiative Association are meeting with their respective organizations to answer questions and ask each organization to approve and sign a Memorandum of Understanding. The memorandum states that the organization will support the efforts of the Cheyenne Initiative Association's participation in the High Plains Cluster in the form of manpower, services, equipment, facilities, and moral support for at least two years.

The Cheyenne Initiative Asso-

ciation is preparing for a Community Futures Forum, a public forum on the future of Cheyenne County. Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. on March 30 and watch the newspapers, brochures and flyers for more information.

For additional information about the Cheyenne Initiative Association, feel free to contact one of the core team members: Tom Keller, Dan Carson, Dara Carmichael, Cathy Domsch, Ned Smith, Roger Jensen, Troy Burr, Scott Schultz, Ernie Ketzner, Kari Gilliland, Kermit Bear, Norman Morrow or Susan Dinkel.

Arts Association to host a comedy March 4 at Goodland High School

Western Plains Arts Association will host one of the presentations of the comedy "Card Play," at 3 p.m. (central time) Sunday, March 4, at Goodland High School auditorium. Admission will be by Western Plains Arts Association season pass or at the door.

It is important to note that although there will be three performances of the play, only the Goodland show is sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association.

The Western Plains tickets will not be honored at the other two performances. For further information, contact Deb Bickner at (785) 460-4783 or deb.bickner@colbycc.edu.

This family comedy, performed by the drama department of Colby Community College and directed by Deb Bickner, portrays a big card game win which some of the smaller cards uncover a plot to throw the game. When they try to set things right, the stuttering

Queen of Hearts tries to get all of the cards involved in her cooking contest.

The fast-paced plot includes good guys and bad guys, chase scenes, disguised identities, and a couple of jokers. The play provides solid entertainment for all ages.

This show is made possible in part by Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency and National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



DOING HIS PART to help as the snow and ice melt in the warmer temperatures, Mayor Troy Burr chips up the ice at the edge of the street so the water will drain.

Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett