

STAFF

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potential for a high number of injured.

"I was proud of the crew and the community volunteers," he said. He and the board talked about the use of the generator and how different departments would handle the lack of power for a longer length of time. Mr. Lacy said the new generator was in and installed.

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, said at the Alliance's Roundtable meeting on March 30, the disaster which snowstorms cause, was discussed.

Administrators impacted by the major ice storms shared their experiences. They found that the frail, elderly people needed support with heat and electricity to operate their oxygen concentrators. Some assisted and extended care units in these communities did not have emergency generators and requested to transfer their residents to the hospital.

She said that hospitals have disaster drills but they mostly do drills on trauma situations. In most cases, the generators were not providing power to all areas needed in an extended disaster. At some facilities, contractors had installed red emergency outlets (indicates generator powered outlet) at locations that really didn't have emergency power. Making provisions for fuel to keep generators was a challenge when the gas pumps did not have electricity.

Mrs. John said that those saving the day in every community were the loyal employees who worked more hours, traveled on icy roads and worked where needed.

"The most valuable resources hospital's have is the people," she said.
Community Service Project

Mr. Lacy said the Community Service Project grant application will be sent by May 4. He said that \$20,000 has already been committed.

If granted, the income tax credits will be used to buy six room lifts and renovate the hospital's kitchen/dining area.

The hospital has received three other tax credits which were used to remodel the clinic, physical therapy and ambulance entrance, along with the installation and purchase of the heating and air conditioning system in the hospital. Les Lacy, hospital administrator, will be writing for the Kansas tax credits.

There are around 100 applications but only about 28 are granted. He estimates that the two projects will take around \$135,000.

If the hospital receives authorization for the credits, tax credits would be available for 2007 and 2008, all donations will need to be in by Dec. 31, 2008. The community can help with letters of support and commitment for the tax credit project. Mr. Lacy said a letter had been sent out requesting this support to people who had participated in the past.

Office manager's report
Erika Lehman, clinic office manager, talked about what her job entails. She said that she was new on the job but liked her job as she sees herself and the clinic as "making a difference in people's lives."

"The clinic has a great staff who know what their jobs are," she said.

One of the challenges, she said, was making sure the clinic is in compliance and said Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, is a good source of information.

She talked about the electronic medical records system, notebook

computers are used to document each patient visit in the clinic. She sees the system as being better and easier than the paper record, creating a better "paper trail." She looks forward to implementing the full capability of the system.

She said the patients have commented on the modules and the feed back has been very positive.

She said the staff has talked about expanding clinic hours in both the St. Francis and Bird City clinics. Jackie John, area director for Great Plains, suggested evening clinic or Saturday morning clinic hours.

Mr. Lacy commended Ms. Lehman, saying she was, "very aggressive in her work — a self starter."

In other business
• Mr. Lacy said the hospital has reached a 15 year volume record with 14 patients in the hospital at one point in March.

• The staff is once again looking at the options for equipment used for storing digital imaging. The administrator plans to have bids available for the board to talk about at the May meeting.

• The hospital has received \$5,000 in funding on the statewide Diabetes Quality of Care project. The money will be used to improve help for diabetic patients.

• The hospital was approved for a \$10,000 emergency preparedness grant and a Small Hospital Improvement grant of \$9,000. This grant will be used to improve patient safety and quality of care.

Next meeting
The next hospital board meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 24, in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis.

RELAY

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personally but want to purchase a luminaria, contact Sherry Schultz at 785-332-2860 or Keely Loyd, 785-332-2438," Mrs. Loudon said.

Suzie Walz is in charge of the Survivors Ceremony and invites anyone who has participated in the past and those who have never celebrated survivorship to call her at 785-332-2968.

"Start making your plans to support and participate in this year's Relay," Betty Petersen, corporate chairman said.

The second annual auction will once again be held in the band shell.

FARMERS

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tained and others were not. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said the private drive he was referring to is maintained because years ago when K-27 was put in, the county road was closed and, to get to the farmer's house, the county had agreed to maintain the drive.

Mr. Leibbrandt said the county could put in a road on a section line which would come to the Leibbrandt's place. The supervisor said there is no road there now and the land is very hilly. The commissioners pointed out that to put in a new road would cost the taxpayers a great deal of money.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said that he felt that the landowner needed to take some responsibility

for his own drive. If he used a 3-point blade, the road could be kept in reasonable shape. Mr. Leibbrandt said they didn't have such a blade.

The county's policy is not to maintain private drives. If there is deep snow on the drives, it is hard for maintainers to turn around in yards and they can easily ruin a \$1,500 tire because they cannot see what is under the snow.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, asked why some county roads which are seldom traveled were better maintained than roads that were heavily traveled. He thought that all the county needed was two or three good roads in the county.

They talked about the county helping the Leibbrandts straighten up their road with a maintainer, then put a little gravel on the drive where it comes off the main road.

Mr. Flemming warned the commissioners that there were going to be other people calling if they do this for the Leibbrandts. "I guarantee it!" he said.

Before any decisions will be made, Mr. Flemming will look at the drive and see what the situation is and what work will be required.

PROJECTS

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"When they (leaders) speak, people listen," he said.

Why can't we do this under one heading? he asked.

"I just don't want a year to go by, see a power struggle."

Mr. Beikman said he felt that some of the local businesses really don't want the competition and Mr. Butler confirmed the statement, adding that he didn't think the county businesses should be competing with themselves.

They said that it was frustrating when there is someone who wants to put in a business such as Dollar General, then people fight to keep it out.

"It would be better if everyone (organizations) was in the same boat," he said.

They discussed ideas on how the county could be a hub for big busi-

nesses such as internet-oriented or trucking businesses. Mr. Butler said he had contacted 30 companies proposing the county for something like this.

He said he will continue to keep the commissioners informed.

Two students invited to join Choir in festival

Megan Rice and Brandon Rueb, seniors at St. Francis Community High School, have accepted an official invitation to join the 2007 Kansas Select Choir in the "King Kamehameha Choral Festival" June 26-July 3. Elite Choir International is the organizing body for this event.

Neal Allsup, director of choral activities at Hutchinson Community College has been chosen for the fourth consecutive year to lead the Kansas delegation. He is joined by Tracy Resseguie, choral director at Shawnee Mission East High School.

Other directors for the event are Dr. Brad Barrett, University of Northern Iowa; Dr. Joey Martin, Texas State University and Charles



Rice



Rueb

"Bud" Clark, Missouri Southern State University.

Performances will take place on the USS Missouri and at Hawaii's oldest church, Kawaihoo Church. The King Kamehameha Choral Festival concludes with a concert at Waikiki Beach.

Sightseeing will include Pearl Harbor, Aloha Stadium Flea Market, North Shore, Iolani Palace and a Paradise Cove Luau.

GROUP

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marketing the county on the front range; maintaining school population and quality, developing a fund for starting up businesses and develop a transportation program for the elderly. There were many other suggestions which, in time, the Association plans to follow up on.

Rick Reeser, St. Francis, is the head of the Wind Energy Committee. He said he has been interested in wind energy for some time and has a background in education. On the committee is J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis who has worked with the electrical companies. By working together and with others who are interested in the project, they feel that they can make progress. Because of the enormity of the project, this project may take time to see any type of progress.

Mr. Reeser is the administrator of the Good Samaritan Village nursing home. As an example, he said the staff at the Village each has his/her own jobs and specialties and, working together, they are successful in providing a good service for residents.

"The Association members are a team, working together," he said.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said he and the other commissioners felt there are too many groups such as the Association in the county.

"I would like to see one such organization in the county," he said.

Mr. Keller said the Association covers as many organizations and entities as possible. He said, in the past, the Development Corporation didn't have the base of members to cover the whole county. There was also not the funds available. However, there are two members from the Development Corporation on the Association board.

Several times, people mentioned the fact that the Development Corporation, which is funded by both cities and the county, basically had its hands tied because it only had \$20,000 a year to operate on.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said that if funding is holding the county back, maybe this issue needed to be addressed. This included salary

for a part-time coordinator, office supplies and utilities.

Mr. Ketzner asked the group how many would be interested in seeing their taxes raised to fund the Development Corporation? All those present indicated that they would be in favor of a tax increase for this purpose.

Mr. Keller pointed out that, interestingly at the public forum, wind energy had the support of 69 people while the last project was raising taxes and only one person had signed on that.

The county's group involves representatives from the Cheyenne County Development, Bird City's Century II, the New Generation Fund, Ministerial Alliance, schools, hospital, nursing home and other organizations.

Those representing the Association at the commissioners' meeting besides those listed above were Cathy Domsch, Les Lacy, Scott Schultz, Norman Morrow, Erika Lehman, Dara Carmichael, Carla Lampe, Janet Carman, Louanne Isernhagen, Carl Werner and David Butler.

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nurse, is urging everyone to stop by.

Downtown activities
The Chamber and downtown businesses will once sponsor the Poker Walk. People will want to stop at the park and pick up their card. As they go to participating businesses, they will be able to draw a card. The best hand wins.

Trunk sale
The PEO will hold a "Trunk Sale." This sale is unique as sellers have their wares in the trunk of their car. In other words, people are taking the sale out of the garage and moving it to the trunk.

Pedal Pull
The Kids Pedal Pull for ages 4 through 12 will be held behind the band shell. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the action will begin at 1. Winners are qualified to pull at the Kansas State Fair.

Engine rebuild
An engine rebuild will be held. The morning of the show, high school girls and guys can sign up to build an engine under the guidance of Bryan Herrich. Mr. Herrich teaches automotive mechanics at North Platte Community College.

Four names will be drawn and those four will put the engine together. The club will then give the engine away during the awards at 4 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to stop by and watch the students work.

Pin-stripping artist
Mik Young, a professional pin-stripping artist, will be doing pin stripping on cars and motorcycles.

Mr. Young said he has been pin-stripping every working day since 1954 and is able to create designs and motif where every design he does is what the customer wants — no two designs are alike.

He pin stripes about 400 cars a month including everything from street rods to super stars.

For more information about Mr. Young, contact Scott Schultz, coordinator of the show.

"We encourage the public to come to the park and enjoy the show," Mr. Schultz said. "There will be beautiful vehicles to look at and enjoy."

"Don't forget to pick up a ballot and vote for your favorite vehicle that will be given a special award at the conclusion of the show."

Quilts, sofa given away
During the awards, three quilts, made by Deborah Farland, Dorothy Smestad and Mary Nicklos, will be given away. Also given away will be a 7-Up cooler donated by Ted Patch of Bird City. The club members restored the cooler and made it into a sofa.

"Join us for a day of fun in the park," Mr. Schultz said.

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