

# Tax credits denied hospital

By Karen Krien  
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The Cheyenne County Hospital Board were told that the Community Service Tax Credit application had been denied. Had the application been approved, the hospital kitchen would have been remodeled and there would have been six patient lifts purchased with the funds.

Since both projects are important for the hospital, the board and Les Lacy, administrator, turned to figuring out how these projects could be completed. Another project equally important is the completion of the labor/deliver room.

Administrator Lacy said that it is just a matter of time before the kitchen is declared to be out of compliance by inspectors. Jackie John, area director of Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, told how inspectors had been with some of the other hospitals she oversees.

The hospital has been funding their depreciation expense and so has money available for these kinds of projects and a limited amount of emergency repairs. The board also has a reserve fund and money that is held in uncommitted status for support of the hospital. Most importantly, people have also given memorial funds to help with such projects.

A complete remodeling needs to be done in the kitchen. The appliances are old and the freezer leaks. It is poorly arranged and the dining area is too small. Moving a wall, putting up cabinets and rearranging appliances could lead to problems so Mr. Lacy recommended hiring Kent

Carmichael, the architect who has engineered the last two projects. He already has experience with the building and has been good to work with.

The board directed the administrator to pursue bids on the remodeling of the kitchen with Mr. Carmichael and come back with a report. Mr. Lacy said that October is the time when the inspectors generally arrive and, if he could show that plans are being made for the remodeling, that would help satisfy them.

As for the patient lifts, Mr. Lacy recommended getting all the lifts at the same time to get a better deal. He said that the hospital does have mobile lifts but after a lift is used in one room, it has to be cleaned before it can be used again.

By having the lifts in each room, it will cut down on workman compensation expenses and improve the hospital's ability to recruit and retain staff. It might also help keep injuries down and keep the employees on the job.

The lifts, with a discount, will cost \$41,182. There is sufficient money for this purchase in the Memorial Fund. The board agreed this purchase would be a good way to spend some of the Memorial money.

The central component of the labor and delivery room remodeling will cost in excess of \$10,000. Mr. Lacy reported that this created a situation that the entire project will need to be bid out. Dr. Rebecca Allard, M.D. will formally begin her family practice here on Aug. 6 and will bring obstetrics to the practice as well as an array of family practice skills similar to Dr. Miller.

Mr. Lacy said the new hospital

beds and room furniture had arrived.

Equipment needed is a system to store digital X-rays and an ultrasound machine were discussed. The board discussed purchase of the equipment but came to the agreement that, when the time comes to proceed, they would like to see a lease agreement opportunity for local banks. Before any purchase is made, a special board meeting will be held.

### In other business

In other business:

• JoAnn Klie, employee, gave a report on what is happening in the Risk Management area.

• The Memorial Garden is being completed. Some cement has been poured between the transformer and transfer switches. Then there will be some grading done and the grass installed.

• The hospital will soon be taking over the Lifeline services. More information will be available in the near future.

• The board went into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss personnel with no decision being made when coming out.

### Next meeting

The next meeting was changed from Aug. 23 to Monday, Aug. 20, in the clinic basement meeting room. The starting time is 3 p.m.



HOSPITAL STAFF members including Priscilla Grice help set up the 14 new beds delivered on Wednesday, July 25.  
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Hospital receives new beds

By Karen Krien

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Wednesday morning, a semi-truck arrived at the Cheyenne County Hospital loaded with 14 new hospital beds, mattresses, over-bed tables, side cabinets and new visitor seating for the patient rooms.

The hospital staff was helping with setting the furniture up, wiping it down and getting it into the rooms.

"I was really impressed and

proud of the staff and the way they worked together to make things happen quickly," Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said.

Tenille Lee, director of nursing, said the new furniture also included a sleeper chair for the labor and delivery suite.

"The staff was really pleased with the new furniture — the new updated look is nice," she said, adding that patients have also been enjoying it.

The old beds were old! Most of them had been purchased in the early 1970s. The cabinets and

bed tables had been bought in 1988. In the late 1990s, the Hospital Guild purchased three new beds and Mrs. Lee said that two of those beds have been kept for emergencies. She also noted that the bed in the hospice room had been purchased recently and a new bed for the obstetric suite was only a year old.

The beds are made by Hill-Rom and have more positioning options. One has a patient monitor system and a scale. The beds and furniture cost around \$72,000 and the money was taken out of the hospital's operation fund.

## Club Clip

### Plum Creek 4-H Club

The members of the Plum Creek 4-H Club met Saturday afternoon, July 21. The members toured the farms of five members to see livestock projects. The members then gathered at the Catholic Church meeting room for pizza and a business meeting.

Members with non-livestock projects described their fair exhibits. Sue Zimelman and Mila Bandel, club leaders, reviewed dates for fair events. Members signed up to work the food booth at the fair.

The members and parents then gathered at the swimming pool to conclude a fun evening.

Mikaela Grace, reporter



LaForge

## Introducing

### Adele Gianna LaForge

Elmer and Dorothy Kellner announce the birth of their granddaughter, Adele Gianna LaForge, born July 8, 2007 at Wichita. She

weighed in at 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Parents are Brad and Shalom LaForge.

Adele is a great-granddaughter of Bluford Kellner.



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