



PHOTO CONTEST WINNER — Allison Grice is the winner of the 2008 Community Calendar picture contest. Deb Patton shows members the winning picture.

Board members okay two equipment purchases

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Hospital Board agreed to purchase two important pieces of equipment for the hospital when they met on Monday, Aug. 20. Equipment included an Ultra Sound and a picture archival communication (PAC) system which will be used to store digital X-ray and CAT scan images. The Ultra Sound equipment has been discussed for almost a year but administrator Les Lacy wanted to make sure there would be patients to help pay for the equipment. Now, with Dr. Rebecca Allard coming to the hospital and delivering babies, the need for the equipment had increased.

Shawna Blanka, administrative assistant, reported that Dr. Allard had arrived to work at the hospital on Aug. 6 and already had three OB patients.

As the board discussed the pros and cons of getting the Ultra Sound, Kari Gilliland, board member, said that the hospital needed to be on the cutting edge of technology. Swede Calnon, board member, agreed saying that the board needed to give the staff the equipment they needed to work with.

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, said that, by getting the equipment, it sends a message to the physicians that the board cares about them and provides the needed equipment.

They had three bids for the Ultra Sound equipment which had been converted to 5 year costs: a GE for \$113,335; Toshiba, \$125,690 and a Phillips IU22, \$139,560.

Darrell Reed, lab technician, recommended purchasing the Phillips. Mr. Lacy had looked into lease purchases and Western State Bank, St. Francis, offered the lowest interest

rate of 4.74 percent. The rate at Bankwest, St. Francis, was 5.45 percent; and at First National Bank, St. Francis, 5.75 percent. The board agreed to purchase the Phillips for \$139,560 and using Western State Bank for the lease agreement.

There were three options for purchasing equipment to store the digital images, which were also presented as a five-year cost: a Sectra, \$103,000; Novarad, \$54,000; and Opal, \$73,500. Mr. Reed had gathered the information for each piece of equipment and recommended the Novarad but said that, with the CAT scan usage, he expected the storage space to last only four years. Since this is a replacement for equipment, the board agreed that the purchase could be made out of Funded Depreciation, instead of board funds.

Report by human resource manager

Sandi Murray, human resource manager, reported that she started at the hospital in 1996 and moved to human resource manager in 2000.

She meets with the new employees, gives them a tour of the hospital, gets their orientation set, explains insurance, benefits and gets all their paperwork filled out and signed. She continues to work on the orientation to constantly improve the entire process and make it better.

She reported that there are 59 full-time employees and 14 part-time employees for a total of 73.

Sandi also does the daily in-patient charges and helps record in the emergency room if needed. She said the biggest improvement has been the addition of the CAT scan machine, adding that it has saved lives of patients in the emergency room.

She said she really enjoys her job and getting the new employees ori-

Administrator's report

The administrator reported that the work on the memorial garden behind the hospital had been pretty much completed. The staff will be adding some shrubs and/or plants and a picnic table.

Dr. Karen Johnson, a dermatologist, has a temporary Kansas license and will begin seeing patients in St. Francis on Aug. 30. There are 11 patients scheduled to see her that day. Dr. Johnson plans to be at the hospital only one day a month.

Michelle Luther, RN, has been hired to work in nursing. She has obstetrics and intensive care experience.

Mrs. Blanka will be handling the Lifeline project. Other staff training as installers will be Bill Wilger, Crystal Ludowese, Ryan Murray and Mary Ruth Burkett. See related article in this issue for additional information.

Administrator Lacy said the kitchen staff is working on preparing information to help make the architect's time in St. Francis more productive when it comes to planning the kitchen construction. He said there may be some floor plans for the board to look at during the September meeting.

Labor/delivery room

Mrs. Blanka said the bids for work in the labor and delivery room will be opened at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 20. She also noted that the hospital does not have a nursery but, in keeping with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment regulations, a multiple use room has been designated for newborn care as needed.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been set 3 p.m. on Sept. 27 in the clinic's basement meeting room, St. Francis.

Kevin Walters, Heath Funk and Eric Pfeifer won the Colgate Country competition Saturday night, Aug. 18, in Great Bend. They will now compete at the Kansas State Fair on Sept. 16. They were the musicians at John and Yvonne Eggers anniversary celebration. Kevin is Angela Eggers' husband. One of the songs they sang was an original that they had written, "On This Day" and the other was "Wave on Wave."

Guests of Wilma Lampe on Saturday were Linda Gutsch of Denver and Mel and Sylvia Gazzard from Queenstown, New Zealand.

The Gazzard's were here for the wedding of Leah Gutsch on Saturday, Aug. 18, in Boulder and have been sightseeing in Colorado and staying with Mrs. Gutsch.

While in St. Francis they all had lunch at Park Hill Restaurant, toured the town and went on a drive through the Breaks.

On returning they enjoyed desserts and visiting at Wilma's before leaving.

Linda had wanted to show her New Zealand friends her home town where she grew up and to have a tour through our fascinating Arikaree Breaks.

Mr. Gazzard and Mrs. Gutsch had exchanged jobs as principals of their schools in Colorado Springs and Queenstown a few years ago for six weeks. The two families exchanged schools, houses, cars and even cats for six weeks, and have remained friends since and made several return visits between the two counties.

Sheila Davis of Denver was a visitor of her mother Erna Schlepp of

Benkelman over the weekend. On Saturday, Erna and Sheila returned to Erna's apartment in St. Francis where they enjoyed a family get-together.

Guests included Calvin and Dorothy Zimbelman and Jay Zimbelman of Burlington, Colo., Arrilla Zimbelman, Edna Zimbelman, Raymond Zimbelman and Carl and Connie Williams. Everyone had a great time visiting and a phone call to Clarence and Ruth Zimbelman in Boulder, Colo.

Ernie and Marlene Lebfrom stopped by later to visit.

Kasey Raile, Eric Harper, Donna and Norvin Northrup were Sunday dinner guests at the George Harper home, celebrating Eric's birthday.



Bonnie Burr

Reception planned

The children of Bonnie Burr will be celebrating her 80th birthday at a come-and-go reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 2, at the Church of Christ building in St. Francis. You are welcome to attend.

Club Clip

McDonald/Bird City Red Hatters

Lunch was enjoyed at the Heritage Corner Cafe in Bird City on Aug. 21, with the McDonald/Bird City Red Hatters reminiscing over cherry limeades from the soda fountain. Conversations were enlightening and at the adjoining table was U. S. Senator Pat Roberts and his entourage traveling from St. Francis to Atwood on their August listening tour of town hall meetings and events. They welcomed comments from the Red Hatters.

The afternoon activity was decorating red hats.

The business meeting was designed around preparations for hosting the St Francis Red Hatters on Sept. 18.

Attending the lunch were: Florence Antholz, Frieda Black, Beverly Higgins, Iris McIntosh, Carol Mears, Edna Roesener and Phyllis Wingfield, the McDonald/Bird City Queen.



Dawsen DeGood

Birthday celebrated

Dawsen Dean DeGood

Dawsen Dean DeGood celebrated his first birthday on Aug. 14. His party was decorated with footballs, baseballs and soccer balls.

Present for the occasion were big sister, Paige Elizabeth; parents, Darris and Adele; grandparents, Bonnie Cram and Dwen and Charilyn DeGood; great-grandparents, Marvel Gleason and Coy and Neva DeGood; his aunt and uncle, Ione and Mike Slattery; his aunt, Heidi Tice; cousins, Madi and Kobe Tice and friend, Denise Mentlick.

Club Clip

McDonald/Bird City Red Hatters July meeting

The July 27 Red Hatters gathering was held at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Threshers annual show and was attended by Florence Antholz, Frieda Black, Bonnie Burr, Vernetta Haack, Beverly Higgins, Carol Mears and Edna Roesener.

The ladies toured the Eggers building and visited in the kitchen with lunch in the cafeteria.

WANTED

Bird City Times

Associate-Editor

Looking for an energetic person, living in the Bird City area. The applicant must have some computer, writing and some photography skills, get along well with customers, be able to cover meetings, school activities and other happenings within the communities of Bird City and McDonald.

To apply or for more information, contact Casey McCormick or Karen Krien at the St. Francis Herald, 785-332-3162 or stop by the office at 310 W. Washington, St. Francis.



Left to right: Rhonda Born, Kay Shay, Bridgette Antholz, Leigh Ann Faulkender, Gloria Bracelin, Rodney Shay

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