

## SPECIAL

Continued from Page 1

taught in the St. Francis schools for 12 years) send her cards and call. Some say that they never really understood her birthday until they were older.

This year, she went to work as usual.

"If I would have stayed at home, I would have had to clean house and I didn't want to!" she said.

She is a title insurance agent/abstractor in her business, Jaqua Abstract on Main Street. During the day, she received plants, bouquets and balloons from friends and family. Her children, Chris and wife Jill, and Susan and husband Randy, along with grandchildren and other family members, held a birthday party.

"There was lots of camaraderie and special moments," she said.

"Yes, it's OKAY to have a Feb. 29 birthday."



**MARCH ROARED IN LIKE A LION and brought a blizzard to the St. Francis area. But, by Monday, only a trace remained.**

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## REMODEL

Continued from Page 1

had two options prepared for the board at the Thursday meeting. He said that he was the mediator and, the end decision would be up to the board but, at least they would have options to choose from.

The first option was to go with the original plan to remodel two rooms and make one room for the labor and delivery room and the cost would be around

\$180,000. The kitchen would also be remodeled, possibly taking space out of one of the existing basement rooms to enlarge the dining area and the cost would be around \$200,000.

Mr. Lacy and Shawna Blanka, administrative assistant, had measured off an area south of the nurses' station in hopes of building a new wing (option two). The expansion project

would add 1,900-square feet and would be used for the labor/delivery/recovery rooms. The basement area would be used for building a new kitchen. The advantage of building a new kitchen would be that the old kitchen could be used until moving into the new facility. Otherwise, there will be some down time when the kitchen will not be usable.

The cost of the expansion at \$300 per square foot would be right at \$1.1 million. This amount did not include architect fees, contingency items nor kitchen equipment.

If the board decided on option two, the matter would be voted on in a general election.

"The decision (for building the expansion) would be up to the public," Mr. Lacy said.

Traci Neitzel, board member, was told that there were 14 deliveries planned through September. It was noted that the Cheyenne County Hospital's delivery department was one of the most stable in the area and there are obstetric patients coming from outside the area.

Mr. Lacy pointed out that right now, the plan is functional but limited. The new wing would free up rooms for other patients. Currently, there are times when there is a shortage of rooms, especially on surgery days or when the influenza is rampant.

He also said that the extra space in the basement could be used for outpatient treatment.

Whatever path they choose, the board was looking at the projects

that would not be finished until 2009 because it would take that much time to raise the money.

In option one, the money for the kitchen would come from a Community Development Building Grant with the county hospital matching half the amount. The approval of the grant would not be known until 2009.

The labor and delivery remodeling funding would come from Kansas Income Tax Credits. "We are talking for the whole community," Mrs. Neitzel said.

"You need to look at finances and figures," said Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance. "Outpatient treatment rooms and other services are things that help with reimbursements from Medicare."

Mr. Lacy handed out pieces of paper to each of the board members present (Mrs. Neitzel, Joy Andregg, Jerry Toler and Jane Young; Kari Gilliland was absent) and each was asked to write down the option they were in favor of and three reasons for choosing the option. When totaled, all four members had voted for option one (remodeling the existing kitchen and labor/delivery room). Among the reasons were: The obstetrics department was new and the numbers were uncertain; the cost was high and one member felt that the county could not afford it; and the board needed to make better use of funds.

"I think this (option one) is the right decision for now and we will look at it in the future," Mrs. Neitzel said.

# Physical therapy director reports on her department

By Karen Krien  
karenk@mwkansas.com

The director of the physical therapy department reported at the Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting on Thursday.

Shara Johnson, physical therapist, is the director of the physical therapy department. Working with her are JoAnn Klie, certified physical therapist assistant and risk manager; and Sara Houtman, certified physical therapist assistant. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Houtman are also contracted by Aegis to conduct home health visits and nursing home visits. Mrs. Houtman takes care of the ergonomic checks for each department every year. Ergonomics is the science of fitting the workstation to the employee. In monitoring this, it will help reduce worker injuries and illnesses and aid in improving worker comfort which increases productivity. Mrs. Johnson said the Kansas Legislators now allows physical therapists to have direct access to patients if they have seen them in therapy within the last year with the same diagnosis. Before, it was necessary for the patient to have a doctor's referral.

"It is nice that, now, the patient can come to the therapists immediately instead of having to wait to see a doctor," she said.

She said the therapy pool had been very good for the department. In 2007, there were 407 uses of the pool. Some of those using the pool are coming from out of town.

People are coming to the department to use the exercise equipment. Mrs. Johnson sees it as a preventive service for patients. She said patients often ask questions and the therapists are able to catch a minor problem before it becomes a major problem.

She noted that Kody Krien, Krien Pharmacy, is carrying most of the handicap equipment needed for patients, including walkers and canes.

**Meeting with the commissioner**  
The hospital board and Les Lacy, administrator, will be attending a county commissioners' meeting. Since 1996, the board has been receiving \$525,000 in tax money each year. Mr. Lacy pointed out that there has been a great deal of inflation in the last 12 years. Also, in that time, the hospital took over running the county health department which costs the hospital money. However, the administrator is looking at a Primary Care Clinic Grant to reduce those losses.

The county does give the hospital

\$10,000 to help run county health care but that doesn't even pay the county nurse's salary.

The board agreed to ask the commissioners for \$650,000 for the next year. The extra money will help the board keep up with the rate of inflation and keep the hospital from having to ask for no-fund warrants to purchase equipment.

### Airport runway

The administrator said he had talked to Dave Yost, president of the county Airport Authority, about the airport improvements. Mr. Yost said the plans and work are moving along as quickly as possible. He said the lengthening of the airport should be done in 2010 with the dirt work being done in 2009 and the paving completed in 2010. When it is completed, the new runway will be 5,000-feet long and 75-feet wide.

The airport runway will handle any emergency medical planes flying in, winter or summer. Right now, there are times when some of the larger aircraft cannot fly in and it is necessary for the patient to travel by ambulance to Goodland. The improvements will also aid in the availability of speciality doctors who fly in.

### Flu epidemic

Mr. Lacy said the hospital has been full because there are patients with the flu. In fact, the facility has limited visitors to immediate family only. He and the board talked about how patients have been taken care of and that the staff has been taking a medicine, Tamiflu, which will help lessen the flu symptoms.

### Next Meeting

The next hospital board meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, in the clinic basement, St. Francis.

## TITLE

Continued from Page 1

young people from all over the country. The program emphasizes seven elements: getting a good education, community service, proper nutrition, staying fit, living by moral principles, setting goals and striving to reach those goals.

Since its beginning in 1958, the program has helped over 500,000 young women obtain education and opportunities. The overall awards including scholarships, cash, bonds and merchandise offered to contestants at the national, state and local levels are expected to exceed \$4 million.

## LOOKS

Continued from Page 1

Mrs. Bowers wanted to know if the 911 Board had been selected and was told that the list had not been made. She noted that she had hired Ken Johnson, Bird City, to help set up the laptop computer. She said he had followed up later to make sure it was working properly, a service that she appreciated.

### Dispatch director report

Carol Gamblin, dispatch director, said she had been contacted by the St. Francis city manager about having the tornado siren moved to the 911 dispatch office. This way, if there is a tornado, the office, which is manned 24 hours a day, could sound the siren immediately.

It will be necessary to have a phone line put in for this service and she was wondering if the city would stand the cost of the line. Andy Beikman, commissioner, will contact the city manager about the matter. The commissioners felt that

it was important to get moving on the installation as quickly as possible as the tornado which destroyed several farms in the Bird City area happened in March.

The commissioners wondered if they would also be sounding the 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. whistle but Mrs. Gamblin said later that the city crew will continue doing this.

She said she will be hiring a part-time person to work in dispatch for approximately \$10 an hour. They will fill in whenever needed.

### Road and bridge

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, and the commissioners talked about purchasing two new tractors. The supervisor will look at the prices.

Mr. Flemming said Tal Earl had submitted his resignation and Darrel Zwegardt will be moved from part time to full time as of March 1.

### Executive sessions

In all, there were four executive sessions and all sessions were asked for to discuss personnel. Mrs. Bowers asked for 5 minutes on one executive session and 15 minutes for the other session; Mr. Ketzner asked for 5 minutes and Mr. Flemming asked for 10 minutes. No decisions were made after any of the sessions.

### In other business

In other business:  
• Cathy Graf, appraiser's office staff, was approved to go to a week long class to learn about measuring buildings and farm ground. Mary Morrow, register of deeds, was approved to attend the regional meeting in Colby.

• Roger Jensen, St. Francis, was re-appointed to the Regional Recycling Board.

• Tammy Pettijohn and Carol Rogers, representing High Plains Mental Health, were at the meeting just to touch base. Mrs. Pettijohn has moved to Kensington but still works with Cheyenne County. Mrs. Rogers serves on the board. It was noted that she seldom misses a meeting and is serving as the vice president of the executive board.

## SOCIETY

Continued from Page 1

county to support this proposal by telling how it would positively impact our county.

Do so by accessing <http://myhometownhelper.com/viewproject.aspx?tell=2&id=36957>. Once there, people are asked to read the entire proposal and post their comments. The site also allows people to send the link on to a friend, so they can post their comments.

Awards will be based both on community support and on the merit of the project, including its impact and support within our community. Hamburger Helper will evaluate the proposal on the following criteria: 1) demonstrates a need in the broader community; 2) illustrates a helpful, creative or innovative concept that meets this need; 3) clearly identifies change/s that can be made as a result of receiving the award.

## LINE

Continued from Page 1

Surveyors plot where the line will go. This is followed by clearing the path and the stringing out of the segments of steel pipe.

Heavy equipment is used to trench the bed for the line. It will be under at least four feet of dirt. When it reaches the Republican River, a hole will be bored more than 20 feet below the river bed.

As the pipe is lowered and laid, some sections are cut and the connections are sanded. This makes for a better welding surface. Welders join the pipes and the seams are coated with a weatherproof layering.

To insure that each weld is up to standards, an X-ray team uses gamma rays to view every seam.

When the line crosses a road, test sensors are placed on the pipe. These can be checked periodically for corrosion.

After the section is complete a backfill crew covers it up. Following them are the pre-clean up, clean up, restoration and fencing workers.

Throughout the process are the surveyors and inspectors. One of the inspectors for the project is Travis Duffey of West Monroe, La.

"This crew will work on the line until it reaches Colby," Mr. Duffey said. Then another group will take over where Mr. Calvin and his team is relieved.

Not only are there men working the line, but several women are making it happen also. Gina Farrow heads up the coating crew, who put the weatherproofing on each seam and place the test sensors on, and Rita Figuera is a welder helper.

When completed, the Overland Pass Pipeline will carry raw natural gas from southwestern Wyoming to Conway in central Kansas. Conway will serve as one of the largest natural gas hubs in the nation. The transported gas will be used to make ethane, propane and butane.

The completed line will be 760 miles. Cheyenne County will have 38 miles of the pipeline.

## BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

To list your business drop us a card!  
Call 785-332-3162 today.

### Western Kansas Center for Comprehensive Dental Diagnosis & Rehabilitation

1690 W. 4th • Colby, KS  
460-3999 or toll free 1-866-305-3999

### Jeffrey M. Rayl, D.D.S.

- Comprehensive bite analysis
- TMJ/TMD diagnosis and rehabilitation
- I.V. Sedation for all dental procedures including surgical removal of wisdom teeth
- Dental Implants: surgical placement and restoration
- Complete endodontic services (root canal) molar and anterior teeth
- Extensive cosmetic procedures
- Laser periodontal (gum disease) therapy
- Esthetic crown and bridge restorations; all ceramic (no metal)
- General dental procedures: cleanings, tooth colored fillings, partial dentures, biologic dentures

### Kelli Githens CTX Mortgage Company

Giving back to the Great Community I was raised in and meeting your home financing needs. Local references available about the Great Care you will receive.

Toll Free • 888-749-4253  
Cell • 303-257-3766

kelli.githens@ctxmart.com  
www.kelligithens.com



CTX Mortgage Company

### Ken Johnson Computer and Network Service



785-734-7075

<http://biz.kennethmjohnson.net>

Customized prescriptions for patients with unique medical situations requiring unique medical solutions.

## Bison

Rx compounding & Therapy

James E. Hampton, RPh, PCCA Member

416 State Street, Suite A  
Atwood, Kansas 67730  
(785) 626-3237  
(800) 696-3214  
Bison Rxcompounding@atwoodtv.net

### Water Well Service

- Windmills
- Stock Wells
- House Wells

## B's Pump & Well

Rex Smith  
785-899-6302 ~ Goodland, KS

### Heritage Corner Cafe

1950s Soda Fountain

104 W. Bressler Bird City, KS

Phone: 785-743-2275

Hours:  
Mon. & Fri: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Tues. & Thurs.: 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sat.: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Sun: 9:30 - 2 p.m.

email: [heritagecornercafe@yahoo.com](mailto:heritagecornercafe@yahoo.com)

