



75¢

The Saint Francis Herald

12 Pages

Thursday, September 4, 2008

124th Year, Number 36

Golf tourney raises funds for kitchen



By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, is encouraging people to get their golf clubs out and join in for a fun day of golf on Sunday.

The Cheyenne County Hospital is sponsoring the sixth annual "Swing Fore Your Health" benefit golf tournament at Riverside Recreation Golf Course in St. Francis.

There will be prizes, good food and lots of fun for even the amateur golfer.

People do not have to be a member of the golf course or be on a golf team to attend the luncheon. The public is welcome. It is a "free-will" luncheon which runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. prior to the start of the tournament at Riverside dining room. The menu will consist of roast beef, cheesy potatoes, vegetable, rolls and dessert.

"Enjoy eating out while supporting the Cheyenne County Hospital's Major Appliances

fund," said Mr. Lacy. "It will be greatly appreciated.

The kitchen area has not been remodeled since the construction of the hospital 56 years ago. The proceeds from the tournament will benefit the hospital's major appliances needed when the kitchen is remodeled.

Mr. Lacy said the kitchen and its appliances must stay in compliance with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's state regulations to serve patients and their family members while staying in the hospital.

People are urged to come out and wish their local community members good luck as they tee off for the sixth annual tournament.

For more information regarding the luncheon, contact Mila Bandel, 332-2149, or information for the golf tournament, call Heidi Tice or Shawna Blanka, 332-2104.

Fall sports begin this week



ON THE SIDE LINES — An accident isn't keeping Scott Carmichael, football coach, from being the side lines. He is talking to Sam Sowers about the last play. The Indians will be in action at home on Friday playing the Colby Eagles.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Ambulance director looks toward moving in

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

The ambulance director told the Cheyenne County Commissioners on Friday that her department is getting closer to moving into the new St. Francis Emergency Building.

Jannelle Bowers, director, and Mike Hanson, technician, talked about moving

into the new location. She said that the shelving bought from Lampe Hardware still needs to be paid for.

However, there is a problem with the cement near the drain. Mr. Hansen said that the floor has cracked and it is crumbling. They didn't know what the problem was but figured that area of cement would need to be taken out and re-poured.

They and the commissioners talked about who to contact — the contractor or the city. The commissioners reminded the technicians that when they had wanted to change locks to ensure the records were safe, the council had informed them that it was the city of St. Francis' property. They assumed the condition of the cement was also the council's problem.

Andy Beikman, commission chairman, said he would stop by and look at the cement following the meeting and try to talk with Dale Weeks, councilman.

The bid for the new ambulance has gone out. Mrs. Bowers was worried, because of the timing, if they could get a bid on a 2008 chassis. The commissioners thought the grant could be adjusted.

Mrs. Bowers said she had been told that it would cost \$250 to have a radio repaired. She had given permission to have it repaired as, she said, it was still cheaper than spending \$800 to \$900 to purchase a new radio. She also ordered four new radios.

Mr. Beikman asked if there were for- See MOVING on Page 7

Board spends much time planning

For nearly 10 years, the St. Francis Board of Education has been discussing the issue of building a new gymnasium for the St. Francis schools. The initial plan was to save enough capital outlay money to be able to build the gym without placing an additional tax burden on the district tax payers. Plans for the project have been developed over the years and have ranged from a "Dream Gym" which would seat 2,200 people with all the bells and

whistles, to a bare minimum practice gym with little or no seating.

After hours of discussion at several board meetings, it would always come down to the fact that the school could not save capital outlay money fast enough to keep up with the rising costs of building materials and other factors that relate to the cost of construction. It seemed also, that board members over the years did not agree with the concept of just a practice gym, or it probably

would have been built by now.

For a little over a year now, the gym project has once again been a regular item on the board's agenda. After much discussion, design, and re-design over the last 12 months, the board has chosen the floor plan for a new gymnasium. Although the plan has been scaled back considerably from the "dream gym," it is still a very nice facility that will serve as the St. Francis school's primary gymnasium for events.

With construction costs rising year after year, the gym is still out of the school's price range in terms of paying for it with capital outlay funds. Because of this, the board decided to let the patrons of the school district vote whether or not to pass a bond issue on the project. The bond election will be held in conjunction with the general election on Nov. 4.

The proposed new gymnasium See PLANS on Page 7

Administrator updates board on staff

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

The Cheyenne County Health Department has a new county health nurse.

At the Aug. 28 hospital board meeting, administrator, Les Lacy, said Mila Bandel, R.N., had accepted the position of county health nurse. She will begin on Sept. 5.

Mr. Lacy said Mrs. Bandel is

excited about the job and has many plans. He noted that there is the Emergency Preparedness responsibilities handled by that department that are very important as well.

Working 24 hours a week, she will be dividing time between St. Francis and Bird City. She will be re-assessing needs in the county.

Mr. Lacy said there had been some extensive work to get the

PanFlu and Emergency Preparedness work plans completed in a timely fashion.

The administrator said that Lori Bunjes, LPN, had joined the hospital staff and will be pursuing a registered nurse degree. Dana Rose is a certified nurses aide who will take on some aide and ward clerk duties. She is also interested in going on to nursing school.

He noted that Darrel Reed, lab

technician, will be in school through December but when he has completed his training, he will be the only certified ultrasound technician in the area. This will permit a full range of ultrasound services at the hospital.

Laura Robins has been hired as a receptionist/admissions clerk, filling the job vacated by Susanne Todd. Melissa Hoyes See STAFF on Page 7

Farmers getting ready to plant

By Kimberly Davis

k.davis@nwkansas.com

With the time near to plant next year's wheat crop, farmers in northwest Kansas should keep disease away from tender young plants.

Otherwise, wheat mosaic viruses could cut profits as much as 50 percent.

Brian Olson, area agronomist for Kansas State University, said it's important that farmers kill any volunteer wheat, which he said has sprung up in fields all over because of the moisture this year.

The volunteer wheat can harbor the wheat curl mite, said Olson, which spreads at least three viruses, wheat streak mosaic, triticum mosaic and high plains mosaic.

To reduce the chances of their

wheat crop getting these diseases as new plants emerge, he said, wheat growers need to control the volunteer wheat now.

Farmers should be spraying volunteer wheat in the next few weeks, said Olson, to make sure that the volunteer plants are dead, with no green wheat left in the fields, before the new wheat emerges.

He said spraying the volunteer plants will break the life cycle of the microscopic bugs. That doesn't just mean spraying the fields where the wheat is going to be planted, said Olson, but the fields around them too.

"Be a good neighbor," said Olson, "and treat your volunteer wheat."

Otherwise, he said, wheat curl mite will move around in the wind, landing on new wheat

See PLANT on Page 7



REALLY LONG — This piece of equipment used in a natural gas plant was on its way to a new home in Meeker, high in the mountains of Colorado. It started the journey in Houston, Texas, and was stopped in St. Francis long enough for the driver to take a break and arouse the curiosity of the St. Francis people.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick