

Legislature meets to pass resolutions

The Kansas Silver-Haired Legislature met during the week of Sept. 29 to pass some resolutions and to recommend laws for the state legislature to consider in the upcoming sessions. Rick Reeser, St. Francis, the county's representative said that the legislature passed the following resolutions and bills:



Reeser

ments to medical scholarships laws to provide assistance for geriatric fellowships. Silver-Haired Legislature is a Kansas mandated body that meets annually to recommend laws and resolutions that can improve the lives of seniors. It is an unfunded mandate, so donations to the Silver-Haired Legislators are appreciated.

For more information on any of these bills and resolutions, have questions or ideas for future laws or resolution, or want to make a donation, contact Mr. Reeser at 785-332-3997.

- Resolution 2501 urged the legislature to help combat predatory payday lending practices and predatory practices by consumer loan agencies and income tax refund advance lending practices that adversely affect elderly and other residents of Kansas.

- Resolution 2501 supported increased funding for Home and Community Based Service programs and nutrition programs.

- Resolution 2503 requested that cities and counties with traffic signals adjust the timing of traffic lights at crosswalks so seniors and those with disabilities have adequate time to cross.

- Bill 2504 provided mandatory reinstatement of certain insurance policies.

- Bill 2505 will put an excise tax on wind generated electricity with proceeds to go to the Senior Services Trust Fund for senior service funding.

- Resolution 2506 will support the Kansas Silver Plan which is modeled after the Amber Alert Plan. The Silver Plan will alert and broadcast a search and rescue effort when elderly people, unable to care for themselves, wander off.

- Resolution 2507 urged amend-



Naomi Kristina

Birthday celebrated

Heidi and Ricardo would like to announce the recent milestone in their daughter's life.

Naomi Kristina celebrated her first birthday on Sept. 13, with a *Dora the Explorer* fiesta.

Helping her break the pinata included her Grandma Kim; great-grandparents, Kenneth and DeEtta Knorr; Pat and Karla Mills, Seth and Elijah; great-grandma, Alice Straub; Mike, Marje and Bridgette Antholz, all of St. Francis; Godfather and Godmother, Ramon and Arais Pacheco and family of Wray, Colo., as well as many friends from St. Francis. Special guest included great-great-grandfather, Edwin Meyer of the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village.



Hospital buys a monitoring system

By Karen Krien
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A cardiac monitoring system was purchased when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Sept. 25.

Tenille Lee, director of nursing, had a presentation on the cardiac monitors. She said the current equipment is obsolete and the only replacement/repair parts the staff can get are refurbished.

The nursing staff has reported interference with the wireless system that is now found in some areas. Mrs. Lee said the new equipment would operate off a designated frequency so the staff would no longer have the interference.

She had information on four different companies: - Nihon Kohden, \$80,988; Welch Allyn, \$108,652.71; Datascope, \$121,539.20; and Faku-da Denshi, \$74,647.08.

She recommended the Nihon Kohden for several reasons:

- The software is user friendly.
- It has the 72-hour storage.
- It has a 5-year warranty.
- It has a smaller footprint.

The system, she said, has the range of features the nursing staff wanted on the monitoring system. Also, Goodland, Oakley and Tribune's hospitals are using this brand

and type of equipment and are very satisfied with it.

The board agreed to purchase the Nihon Kohden monitoring system.

In the future, Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said there may be a need to look at upgrading the CT machine. The CT was purchased in September 2004, and was on a 5-year lease which is up next year.

Our current model, he said, uses single slice technology. He showed the board images from the hospital's machine and a 16-slice machine, indicating that the next machine would need to be a step forward in technology.

Board reports

Traci Neitzel, board member, said she talked to a new father who reported how well he and his family had been treated at the hospital and that the staff was professional as well as caring. They were very pleased!

Kari Gilliland, board member, reported from her own experience in the labor/delivery room. She said the staff and facility was great and it was a good experience.

She mentioned that, by the time everyone and the equipment arrived, the room seemed small. Even though it was cramped it was very

organized, she said. She can see the need for a separate location for a labor and delivery room.

Jerry Toler, board member, also reported from his recent visit to the hospital that it was an emergency situation and the staff did a great job.

Financials

Administrator Lacy reported that the accounts receivable is up due to the higher volume.

The funded depreciation has been repaid \$300,000. However, the hospital still owes the account \$142,000. He said he hopes to be able to repay this slowly following the interim cost report.

The Medicaid and charity care contractals have gone up a little too, he said. The St. Francis Clinic net patient service revenue was up as were expenses.

Administrator's report

The administrator's report included:

- The MRI truck will start coming to the county on a weekly basis starting in October. The truck will be parking on the west end of the hospital.

- Mr. Lacy has been appointed by the governor to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on Trauma.



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