

Hospital dietary manager reports on her department

At the Sept. 25 Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting, Christa Brown, dietary manager at the hospital, gave a report on the department.



Brown

Mrs. Brown started at the hospital in September 2004. Her staff includes Lau-

ra Lamb who is full-time; Donna Northrup, part-time and does the evening meals; and Galina Tsernikel, who is also part-time and works the weekends.

She said that at the end of August they had served 2,097 patient meals, 2,317 employee meals, 78 guest meals and 58 doctor meals. The meal is \$3 and they have added other items this year like the breakfast burritos, healthy cereals, granola bars and

yogurt and there is still the salad bar.

She said the department contributes to the mission of the hospital by serving the patients and making sure they get the correct diet. They also try to find their likes and dislikes during their stay.

The biggest challenge is the lack of space in the kitchen and dining area, she said. The work flow is congested with the addition of the salad bar which has to be moved back and forth. The cart trays have to be moved around and the microwaves for employees are in the kitchen area.

A new refrigerator was purchased for the kitchen when the old one broke down. It is bigger so that took up more room.

The office area is located in the back of the kitchen which, she said, is not real convenient. Now there is a problem with the printer due to the moisture in the air.

They have added new extensive swing bed assessments and the registered dietician, Brandi Ihrig, looks over these along with the meal plans. These new assessments have helped the dietary staff know their patients and serve their needs better. Otherwise they would just get a card from the nursing department that said what kind of diet the patient was on.

With the addition of the obstetrics, the kitchen staff will give the new parents a special meal before they go home.

The staff is adding a little fun to menus. Each week, an employee's name is drawn to select a menu for a meal the next week (within reason).

Workload increases over the past year

Trisha Harkness is the network administrator at the Cheyenne County Hospital. At the Sept. 25 meeting of the hospital board, she told about what she does in her department.



Harkness

Mrs. Harkness has worked at the hospital for over 2 years, starting in March 2006. With the movement toward electronic records, her workload volume has increased over the past year. She said the county hospital is on the leading edge for hospitals this size and is constantly moving forward.

She has assisted in the learning and making reports for the electronic record system in the clinic. The staff is utilizing the system more and is now all paperless.

The laboratory in the hospital went online earlier and is now making some changes. The nursing department will be going electronic in October. She will assist in the training and implementation of the nursing staff.

She reported that her challenge is keeping up with the day-to-day needs while also keeping on top of bigger projects.

Looking into the future, she said she sees the possibility of maybe needing to hire a part-time person who could help her out with the day-to-day needs while she works on the larger projects.

Current projects include ex-

panding the wireless capabilities in the basement and once this is completed, the building will be completely wireless. She is working on getting access at the Good Samaritan Village so the providers can use their computers while seeing patients at that facility.

She is working on electronic pharmacy which would give pharmacist, Dr. Kody Krien, at Krien Pharmacy, access to review orders on the computer instead of coming to the hospital. This would improve efficiency as he would be looking at them in real time and not after the fact.

Jane Young, board member, asked if she had assistance through Great Plains Health Alliance (GPHA). Mrs. Harkness said that she has access to the Alliance's information technology staff as well as the information technology staff of Midwest Data Systems. The staff had requested a network diagram of the hospital's system so they know where things are located in the event Mrs. Harkness is gone and they need to reset something or do something from their end.

She is on the Great Plains Health Alliance Information Technology Steering Committee that helps set the direction of information technology development for Great Plains' hospitals.

Great Plains is looking at putting in port scanners which will push Windows updates out to all the computers instead of each employee making sure they do the updates. They are also looking into Web Sense which is a tracking software for web surfing. One other item of importance for HIPAA security is an exchange server that encrypts email and will enhance communications and scheduling of business activities.

Jerry Toler, board member, asked Mrs. Harkness if she felt the hospital was HIPAA compliant as it should be. Yes, she said, noting that the hospital/clinic are following all rules for compliancy.

Football team wins

By Betty Jean Winston
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The final score of the junior high football game with Goodland was St. Francis 8, Goodland 6. This raised the team's record to 3-3.

Taylor O'Leary ran 84-yard for the touchdown in the fourth quarter and Zach Gienger scored the two conversion points to give St. Francis the victory.

"This was a nail biter," Coach Jeff Beims said. "Goodland has a very well coached team, but we did a fair job of defending their 'spread' style offense for three quarters. They had us down late, but we were able to score with about a minute and a half left to take the lead."



A GOOD PLACE FOR COOKIES! Valerie Wurm and Tristan Archer, of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club, deliver cookies to the newspaper. Just their way of thanking people for support throughout the year. Casey McCormick gladly accepts the gift.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Local entertainer performs in show

"Tumbleweed" Phil Crawford, St. Francis, returned home Sunday evening after spending four days at Old West Days Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering in Valentine, Neb. He showcased a couple of new songs and received many favorable comments for them.

"Ridin' 4 The Brand," written by Mr. Crawford receiving the most comments and he has released the words for print.

Ridin' 4 The Brand

There's a storm cloud on the horizon,
It's a movin' through the pass,
And the cattle they are scattered,

Across the meadow on the grass.

It was gonna be the toughest job,

In the life of this old cowhand,
But he had faced some mighty tough jobs,
While Ridin' 4 The Brand.

It was lookin' like a bad one,
It was a movin' in real fast.
He had never seen one quite this bad,

Not ever in the past.
The cattle they were drifting,,
He sure could use a hand.
He had never seen it snow this hard,



Crawford

While Ridin' 4 The Brand.

He came up from South Texas,
The drive was to be his last.
Along the Old West Texas Trail,

They said his lot was cast.
He did his best to hold the herd,
But he was just a lone cowhand.

They always knew he did his best,
While Ridin' 4 The Brand.

The blizzard finally blew it's last,

There on the Wyoming Plain.
His comrades they came riding out,

Their search it was in vain.
So they chiseled out a big marker,

From a rock there on the land,
Our comrade died somewhere round here,
While Riding' 4 The Brand

Program offered to ease holiday stress

"Hope for the Holidays" is a program sponsored by Hospice Services, Inc. to help make the holidays a little less stressful. The program is open to the public, free of charge. It will take place from 7 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at the St. Francis Methodist Church.

When someone is grieving a loved one they are not sure what the holidays will hold in store for them. The extra expectations that are part of the holiday whirl often leave one with intensified emo-

tions of grief and feeling overwhelmed.

For more information, call Hospice Services, Inc. main office in Phillipsburg at 1-800-315-5122 or 1-785-462-6710.

The mission of Hospice Services, Inc. is to provide care for the dying and bereavement support to communities. More information about the bereavement services offered may be obtained by calling the number listed above.

—Student News—

Sterling College

Ben Swihart, a senior history major from St. Francis, has been named a Homecoming candidate at Sterling College.

Ben has served as a student coach for the football team, has been a member of praise band, intramurals, student senate, student chaplain program and co-lead a mission trip to Nicaragua. Ben is the son of Bruce and Shirley Swihart.

The Homecoming ceremonies will take place on Saturday, Oct. 18 during the football game against Southwestern College of Winfield. Kick-off for the game will be at 1:30 p.m.

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