

Improvements discussed

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

A great deal of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting was spent talking about the facility's improvement plan deficiency list. In the end, the board members were asked to select five of the items on the list they thought were the least important.

Not being at the hospital everyday makes it hard to know what is needed or not needed, said Traci Neitzel. She suggested that the board do a "walk through" the hospital on a busy day.

There were 29 suggestions on the list. Suggestions ranged from needing more office and storage space and a remodeled kitchen to needing a bigger elevator, a separate area for the CAT scan and X-ray, to two large conference rooms.

Just because we have compiled the list, said Les Lacy, hospital administrator, doesn't mean that we plan to do everything on the list.

The administrator and staff had been diligently working on ideas to give more room to the kitchen area. Administrator Lacy said there is a garage building on the property. With the help of Bill Wilger, maintenance man, the building could be turned into Mr. Wilger's office and a workroom. Right now, the building is being used to store bio-hazardous materials prior to transport, the snow blower and lawnmower. If they were to build a 12- by 12-foot metal building, these items could be stored in that facility. An estimated cost for the building was \$7,500.

If Mr. Wilger's office were moved, it would leave the office room and the old lab for additional space. This area could be used for record storage, thus giving more room to the kitchen/dining area.

Mr. Lacy asked permission to use \$15,000 in funded depreciation to do the remodeling and building.

"We need to be doing anything we can to free up space in

the hospital," said Jerry Toler, board president.

Permission was given to use the money.

Of the items on the list, the kitchen was one of the more important places to update, along with expanding the outpatient recovery area and the labor and delivery area. Items which the board put toward the bottom of list included: more public bathrooms, employee parking, expanding the room across the hall from the nurses' station, which is used for disoriented or very ill patients; a bigger hospice room, plug ins and lights by mirrors in patients' rooms, better ramp, two large conference rooms, another family waiting room, move the ultra sound equipment upstairs and install a bigger elevator which would accommodate a hospital bed.

Administrator Lacy said the staff will also be asked to eliminate five items from the list. Items will be categorized and the board will discuss the list again at a later meeting.

In other business

In other business:
• After considerable discussion, the board voted, four to one, to give employees the same Christmas bonus, \$50 in scrip. One board member noted the amount had been raised \$15 last year and maybe next year, the economy will be better. There are around 70 employees.

• There will be a Christmas Ball at Riverside on Dec. 13.

• Joy Anderegg, board member, talked about providing sharps containers for needles and syringes. After discussion, Administrator Lacy said, as a community service, the hospital will begin accepting and disposing sharps containers for patients and county residents.

• Mila Bandel was introduced as the new county health nurse. She told about the plans for the future in the county health department.

Next meetings

The next regular meeting date will fall on Thanksgiving Day. The board agreed to meet on Monday, Nov. 24. The same situation happens in December with Christmas falling on a Thursday so the board will meet on Monday, Dec. 22. Both meetings will begin at 3 p.m. in the St. Francis Clinic basement meeting room.



ALLISON GRICE, left, each year, has a project at the Craft Show where she donates all the money raised to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This year, with the help of Loretta Ford's purchase, she raised \$115.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Club Clip

Plum Creek 4-H Club

The monthly meeting of the Plum Creek 4-H Club was held on Oct. 6. It was held in the Equity meeting room. Vice President CJ Douthit called the meeting to order. Roll call was answered by what was your favorite Halloween costume? Seventeen members and one leader were present.

Sue Zimbelman reported on the council meeting. She presented that the club should break the age divisions into 7 to 9 year olds, 10-13 year olds and 14-18 year olds.

The club also discussed about giving prizes not trophies at the fair.

The club had election of officers with Courtney Douthit, president; Kim Voeller, vice president; Kaycee Williams, secretary; Mikaela Grace, treasurer; Thomas Douthit, reporter; Logan Lampe and Shakotah Blanka, historians; Brianna Cooks and Dallas Reed, parliamentarians; Kaycee Williams, CJ Douthit and Makaela Grace, council representatives.

The junior officers were Kyla Bandel, president; Mariah Beikman, vice president; Emily Elfers, secretary; and Matthisen Witzel, reporter.

Then members divided into four groups and went on a scavenger hunt around town led by Crissy Cooks and Sue Zimbelman. Members adjourned and had ice cream floats provided by Sue Zimbelman.

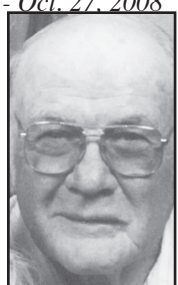
Thomas Douthit, reporter

Obituary

Kenneth DeRoy Voeller

July 22, 1921 - Oct. 27, 2008

Kenneth DeRoy Voeller, 87, died Oct. 27, 2008, at the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village.



Voeller

Kenneth was born on July 22, 1921, on the family farm in Cheyenne County, Kan. He was baptized into the First Christian Church as a youth and remained an ever-steady part of the church serving as a deacon many years.

He was the third of four children, born to Huber Jacob and Hazel Mae (Amack) Voeller. He completed 10 years of schooling, and then he felt his time and help was more needed on the family farm. He helped his father doing farming with horses for many years until the luxury of a tractor came into their lives.

Kenneth married Harriet Ellen Follett, a neighbor and school mate, on Aug. 18, 1942, in Goodland. After being married only 25 days, Kenneth started serving in the Army on Sept. 11, 1942, at the age of 21. He served his country for over three years, stationed in Australia, New Guinea, the Admiralty Islands, the Leyte Island, the Luzon Island, the Philippine Islands and Japan. Kenneth was honorably discharged on Nov. 3, 1945, in Denver, Colo. He earned the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Service medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with a Bronze Service Star and the World War II Victory Medal.

Following his military service, he returned to St. Francis where he and Ellen started their farm and family. He also helped his father farm. Kenneth and Ellen had three children, Nancy Lorene, Donnie Ray and Gene Edward.

When his brothers and sisters and their spouses moved to Fort Morgan, Colo., Kenneth and Ellen also moved there. During this time, Kenny drove a Freight Line truck. They had only lived there for about a year when they decided to move back to St. Francis.

Upon their return they lived in town and Kenneth worked as a mechanic in car stations, and he started his 31-year employment with the city of St. Francis.

Although they lived in town, they continued with their love of the land by growing huge gardens and keeping chickens. The produce from both of these was often shared with family, friends and neighbors.

In 1983, he retired and then could spend full time at the love of gardening, mechanics, fishing and time with family and friends.

Survivors include sisters, Gertrude Holzwarth and husband, Emil of Fort Morgan, Colo., and Ethel Blair of Montrose, Colo.; sisters-in-law, Viola Voeller of Portland, Ore., and Dorothy Hamper of Yukon, Okla.; son, Gene and wife, Patty of St. Francis; daughter-in-law, Patty Williams of Wheeler; grandchildren, Sara Rogers and husband, Jim of Colby, Kenny Rogers and wife, Anita of Offerle, Danny Blair and wife, Kris of St. Francis, Barbara Maseberg and husband, Jack of Lincoln, Neb., Shana Wood and husband, Nate of Harriet, Ark., Julie Voeller of Hays and Kimberly Voeller of St. Francis; great-grandchildren, Michelle Rogers, Devon Rogers, Andrea Blair, Aaron Blair, Jaycee Lozano, Jona Lozano and Jedidiah Wood; one great-great grandchild, Kayden Davis.

Preceding him in death were his

parents, Huber and Hazel (Amack) Voeller; wife, Ellen (Follett) Voeller; brother, Phillip Voeller, brothers-in-law: Charles Blair, Cecil Follett and Miles Hamper; daughter, Nancy Blair; son, Don Voeller; grandchildren, Audrey Voeller, Marsha Lozano and Gary Rogers.

Funeral services were held Nov. 1, at the First Christian Church with Pastor Jeff Landers officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were great-grandchildren; Michelle Rogers, Devin Rogers, Jaycee Lozano, Jona Lozano, Aaron Blair, Jedidiah Wood and Kayden David.

Casketbearers were grandchildren, Sara Rogers, Kenny Rogers, Dan Blair, Andrea Blair, Barbara Maseberg, Shana Wood, Julie Voeller and Kimberly Voeller.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery, St. Francis with military graveside services by Fort Riley Honor Guard.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Club Clip

Hospital Guild

On Nov. 3, the Cheyenne County Hospital Guild met at the Senior Center with 19 members present.

Dr. Allard gave an interesting program on the importance of vitamin D in the daily diet. Kathleen Marzluf, a fourth-year student from the University of Kansas Medical School, accompanied Dr. Allard.

The president conducted a short business meeting. Reports were given by the secretary and treasurer. The meeting was adjourned.

The hostesses were Betty Loudon and Eileen Nolan. Debbie Fiala's high school singers will present the program in December. The hostesses will be Annette Erskin and Donna Northrup.

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