

## Firework sales have begun



**FIREWORK SALES** are now being sold in the area. There are two outside of town: the one above west on U.S. 36 between Roads 1 and 2, and the Bus north of St. Francis. There are three in town: Hiltz, 710 Francis Street, Donna's, 212 W. Washington, and Brunks, Benton Street across from Hilltop General Store.

*Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*

## Moments With Mila

### Outdoor poisons and chemicals

Most homes in America have products that could be poisonous, especially for pets and children. These include things that are used outside to take care of the lawn, garden, pools and spas.

- Read the labels of products you buy and keep in your home. If you see the words, "caution," "Warning," "Danger," "Poison" or "Keep Out of Reach of Children," be very careful.

- Store poisons in a place where children cannot see or touch them. Use child safety locks. Here are some examples of products to keep locked up: pesticides, automotive fluids and charcoal lighter, paint thinner, antifreeze and turpentine. Ideally, hazardous products should be stored in a locking cabinet.

- Keep products in the container they came in. Do not put them in a different bottle or jar.

- Do not mix products together because their contents could react together with dangerous results.

- When using harsh products, follow directions. For example, use gloves, eye goggles and masks if the label says so.

#### Use gasoline safely

- Gasoline is very dangerous inside a home or garage. Gasoline vapors can explode with just a tiny spark.

- If you can, keep the container in an outdoor shed away from your home. Close all the openings.

- Never bring or use gasoline indoors. Use it as motor fuel only.

#### The National Poison Control Hotline and How to Use It

Everyone should know the phone number to reach their Poison Center. The Poison Help number is 1-800-222-1222. This is a free call.

- The Poison Center has experts who will help if you have any questions about poisons. All you have to do is call.

- Write down the number: 1-800-222-1222.

- Put it near the telephone or on

By  
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County Health Nurse



the refrigerator

- Save it to your cell phone
- Put it where you can see it quickly

- The Poison Center is always open. The people who answer the phone know all about poison. They are medical professionals.

- They can find help for people in almost any language. If you don't speak English well, tell them your language.

- If you think someone has taken a poison and is sick, it may be an emergency. Call 9-1-1 if someone:

- Won't wake up
- Is having trouble breathing or is not breathing
- Is having a seizure
- Call 1-800-222-1222 if:
- There may be a poison problem, but the person seems okay
- You have questions about poisons.

# Proposal announced for partnership initiative

Eric B. Banks, Kansas State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, announced that a proposal submitted by the Kansas Livestock Association Environmental Services, Inc. has been selected to participate in the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative.

The initiative is a voluntary program established to foster conservation partnerships that focus technical and financial resources on conservation priorities in watersheds and areas of special significance. Under the initiative, funds are awarded to state and local governments and agencies, Indian tribes, producer organizations, and non-governmental organizations that have a history of working with agricultural producers.

Kansas Livestock Association

Environmental Services, Inc. submitted a proposal to the Natural Resources Conservation Service that will focus on assisting Confined Animal Feeding Operations in implementing Variable Rate Irrigation on fields used for land application of wastewater generated by the feeding operations. The primary conservation objective is to protect surface water that might be impacted by wastewater applications made to agricultural land by Confined Animal Feeding Operations.

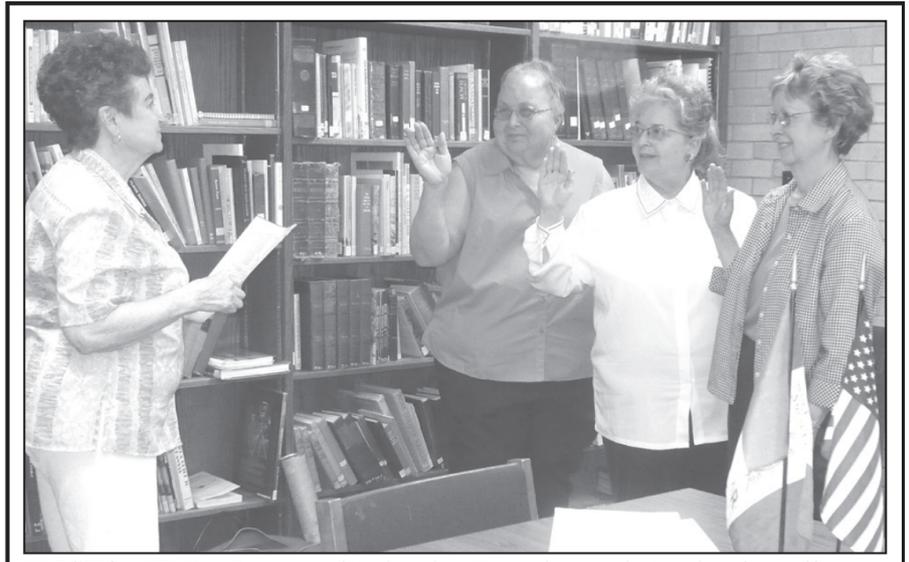
Fields with conduits to surface water, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency would be a requirement for participation in the program.

Producers interested in applying for the Variable Rate Irrigation and related conservation practices need to sign up by July 17, at their

local Natural Resources Conservation Service field office. Financial assistance is available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to producers with approved applications.

The conservation service will be responsible for approving an application for an eligible participant and administering financial assistance funds to complete the program requirements. The Livestock Association Environmental Services, Inc. will partner with conservation service in carrying out this Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative proposal.

For more information about the initiative proposal and other Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, go to the Web site at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs).



**ELECTION HELD** — Daughters of the American Revolution, held installation of new officers on June 13. Pictured (l to r) are Norva Kriegh, registrar; Barbara Barnhart, vice president; Marsha Magley regent; and Anabelle Rueb, treasurer.

*Photo courtesy of Marsha Magley*

# Doctors show concern over employee health care costs

At the Thursday meeting of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board, Dr. Mary Beth Miller and Dr. Rebecca Allard shared concern with the employee health insurance because of the recent 22-percent increase in cost.

The employee's portion of the cost jumped from \$560 to \$711, an increase of \$151 even after the hospital increased its' portion of the benefit to \$400 per month.

Dr. Allard said the plan was a 50/50 versus an 80/20 plan for co-pay and that the prescription coverage was difficult to use.

Dr. Miller said she is concerned that for some employees, daycare and insurance use most of their checks. Several employees have been able to find family coverage half as expensive as what the hospital has available.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, reported that the Blue Cross Blue Shield contract was a 5-year con-

tract and this coming year is the last year. He reminded the board that there had been premium holidays in November in three previous years, one year there were two months of premium holiday. He reviewed documentation that utilization of the insurance had increased by \$500,000 in 2008 and by almost \$1,000,000 in 2009.

The board shared a concern regarding the increase. They asked the administrator pursue other ways to benefit the staff and ease this load, then bring some options to the next board meeting.

*Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved hospital board minutes.*

## Club Clip

### Red Hat Mamas

The Red Hat Mamas in their summer wardrobe finery had a lazy noontime luncheon at Two Lee's Steakhouse in McDonald on June 16. Lovely decorations and funny readings by the queen, Phyllis Wingfield, awakened the group.

A very aggressive game of dominoes was enjoyed by part of the group at the McDonald Senior Center while others attended a concert at the Senior Center in

Bird City. Red hatters attending were Ana Antholz, Sandy Antholz, Bonnie Burr, Linda Carroll, Bethel Goltl, Vernetta Haack, Bev Higgins, Betty Lewis, Lois Morelock, Connie Rooney, Joan Tongish, Margaret Voorhies, LaVina Waters, Phyllis Wingfield and one guest.

The July meeting will be the annual visit to the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show in Bird City.

# Board reviews financials, stats

At the Thursday Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting, statistics and financials were reviewed.

In the physician volume, Dr. Mary Beth Miller was down due to being out on vacation. Dr. Allard picked up the slack. Clinic numbers were down some from last month but still strong.

The percent of acute Medicare days in the hospital is down but that shows a wider variety of patients using the hospital which includes the obstetric patients.

There have been a total of 11 babies born with about 10 due through November.

Physical therapy numbers were up for the month. The specialty clinic numbers were good this month but they are expected to drop with Dr. Warren leaving but hopefully the numbers will pick up.

The Lifeline units are steady at 46.

#### County health

The county health numbers show activity and Les Lacy, hospital administrator, reported that department is shifting its' focus to a community wellness goal and

will be doing some case management with the Primary Care Clinic grant.

#### Financials

The accounts receivable for the hospital is high. The hospital is replacing its' funded depreciation at a rate of \$30,000 per month. The hospital owes itself \$347,000 at this point and should have this paid off in a year. A portion of the cost report settlement may be used to put toward the funded depreciation.

Strong hospital volume raised patient service revenue along with expenses. The St. Francis and Bird City clinic's revenue were above budget for the month. The St. Francis clinic showed a small profit and this is due to the help of paying provider salaries with the Primary Care Clinic grant funds.

The commissioners had indicated a preference to have a little increase each year instead of waiting several years and then asking for more in a lump sum. Mr. Lacy indicated that this type of increase would be the plan from now on as needed.

*Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved hospital board minutes.*



**YOUNG MISS CONTESTANTS** — (above) Amber Smull and (right) Emily Mullins in their evening gowns.

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

