

Hospital receives 'clean' audit

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board found that the hospital had a "clean" audit when they met on Thursday, July 23.

Dave Dellasega, chief financial officer for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, reported that the audit for the county hospital was a good audit. The standard letter that comes back from the auditors with the board, reported a "clean" audit.

He reminded the board that as a Critical Access hospital, having that status, gives up the ability to make a profit on Medicare patients because the hospital gets reimbursed their cost for service.

He reported that the number of full time employees in 2007 was 65.4 and was 65.2 in 2008 with the average labor rate at \$20.73 and \$23.06 respectively. This is driven by rate changes, not hours worked.

Cheyenne County Hospital is high in the number of full-time employees to the per adjusted occupied bed rate over the year. In 2007 it was 6.4 full-time equivalent and did go down some to 5.8 in 2008. The salaries went

up 11.2 percent in 2008 and this would have been due to the hiring of providers.

The basic question, he said, becomes, "Does your cash flow from operations cover your expenses?" So generating cash from operations and being able to put money away is a good thing, he said, which the hospital board does a good job of funding their depreciation.

Great Plains did an extensive charge study to reduce costs to patients and improve the hospital's reimbursement. As a result, many charges will be decreased starting Aug. 1.

Administrator report

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, reported that he had brought operating expenses versus capital costs to the board at the last board meeting for a capital purchase, a Vitek, an automated microbiology instrument used in the lab which will help take out transcription errors and eliminate reagent quality control. The cost is \$32,006. The other bid was from MicroScan for \$26,925. The board agreed to purchase the Vitek from the Board's general account.

Reid Raile, St. Francis, was hired as the network administrator.

Robert Stiles was at the hospital regarding the Primary Care Clinic grant and was pleased with the progress.

Dr. Rainwater, cardiologist from Denver, is already going to Colby and is also planning on coming to St. Francis.

Insurance benefits

Employee health insurance benefits were discussed at length. The general consensus was that further action needed to be taken to share the burden of this year's premium growth for health insurance.

While a number of options and issues were discussed, two ideas emerged as potential action for immediate implementation. First, the hospital would increase its support for the employee health insurance benefit to split the rate of increase. For example, add \$100 over what was stipulated by Great Plains. The second issue might yield two free office visits for hospital employees and/or their families.

The input from the board and medical staff will be evaluated and the board will be advised of actions taken to address concerns expressed during the meeting.

Statistics

In the physician volume, the numbers showed Dr. Miller as strong and the others are holding their own. Tyler Raile's, physician assistant, numbers are lower as he was out due to his surgery. The clinic volume at both clinics was strong.

The lab continues to have strong numbers as does the radiology services. The newborn numbers show 11 babies born and seven more planned through December for a total of 18 born at the hospital. The first quarter for babies in 2010 is filling up and Dr. Allard said it is people from here and some from the surrounding area.

The lifeline program is staying strong at 48 in the community.

County health

The county health numbers are steady. Mila Bandel, county health nurse, continues to monitor the county employee's health status for their county wellness program. The Diabetes support group continues to meet monthly. Amanda Jensen, assistant, is keeping busy with the Healthy Start Home visits.

The health department is fo-

cus on public relations this summer gearing up for the fall activities. They are working on a new brochure and new packets of programs that are offered in county health. The health department will be starting the case management activities, contacting patients for primary wellness exams and assisting with education, compliance, and helping them navigate the system for necessary procedures.

Great Plains Health Alliance

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, reported that health reform is a big topic. She said that critical access hospitals such as the Cheyenne County Hospital, will continue to be paid for its cost of service. However, the disproportionate share reimbursement may be reduced.

Dr. Miller asked whether there is a chance of stopping the critical access hospital status. Mrs. John said this was not likely, that one of the big pushers for critical access hospitals is a Democratic senator that represents a large rural population.

Mrs. John said that the organization's data center has selected a new product, "Netwerkes." It will provide a web-based claims processor along with many other new tools that will be helpful. The Great Plains hospitals are currently being migrated to this new system.

In other business

In other business:
• Dave Barber, with the rural development for the United States Department of Agriculture out of the Hays office, presented a Community Facilities program where the board can apply for a direct loan or a guaranteed loan.

• Department heads, Erika Zimbelman, clinic manager; and Amelia Zuege, out-patient services and surgery manager, gave reports on their departments.

• The board voted to pay an invoice of \$2,800 to GMCN, architect, for work done so far on the proposed building addition.

Next meeting

There were conflicts with the regular August date so the next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 3 in the basement meeting room in the St. Francis Clinic.

Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved minutes of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board's July 23 meeting.

Retirement party planned Friday

By Karen Krien

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Harvey Holzwarth, St. Francis, will retire as a crop insurance salesman from Frewen Insurance. An open house will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday at Frewen Insurance.

Mr. Holzwarth started with Frewen 29 years ago. He came with a lot of experience starting with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in 1959. Seven years later, he began selling crop insurance for Federal Crop Insurance.

In 1980, farmers were going to Colby to buy their crop insurance. When he started, he said he had most of the farmers who had been buying from Federal Crop Insurance.

He said he enjoyed visiting with farmers everywhere and helping them with the best coverage. Being a farmer himself, he was able to relate to farmers and their needs.

He said there had been several changes in crop insurance through the years. In 1960, he said, the Feds were giving a 80-cent premium per acre and were guaranteeing 6 bushels at \$1.50 per bushel.

Today, farmers have a choice of



Holzwarth

24 different plans with premiums ranging anywhere from \$5 to \$40 premium. Guarantees are tied into the market prices.

Harvey has helped a lot of farmers through the last 7 years of drought, said Kelly Frewen.

Insurance, he said, has evolved from a small part to a very important part of the farm program.

He continued with crop insurance because, he said, he liked to talk to people and he liked being able to work with numbers. Insurance gave him both opportunities.

Harvey and his wife, Marilyn, spend the winters in Arizona and comes back home to St. Francis to spend the summers.

Association tells about main events

By Vera Sloan

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Western Plains Arts Association is gearing up for its 40th season, featuring appearances by opera singer Sam Ramey, a Colby native; country singer-songwriter Suzy Bogguss; and a big show from Branson, Mo., "#1 Hits of the '60s."

Western Plains got its beginning back in 1969, when Dr. Richard Mosier, then president of Colby Community College, Jan Harkins and Jo Gatz set up the Colby Cultural Council.

After the bylaws were written to focus all of northwest Kansas, the name was changed to Western Plains Arts Council, and in 1978, to lessen confusion with community arts councils, the last word was changed to association.

Board members say they give a lot of credit for their success to the consistent support of the college through its staff and physi-

cal facilities.

Publicity Chair Aime Kendrick said past season ticket holders should have received a membership letter in the mail this week.

Anyone who doesn't get a mailing may contact Pat Ziegelmeier at Colby Community College, 460-5518; Mrs. Kendrick at 648 La Hacienda Drive, 460-3837; or any other board member.

Season tickets are available now. Donors receive tickets at different levels: Contact Althea Lebow for additional information.

Mrs. Kendrick said the group is especially pleased that Mr. Ramey, an international star, has agreed to perform in the spring. His performance alone would be worth more than the season ticket price, she noted, adding that prices have not changed in the last eight years.

Changes announced

Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) across Kansas now have access to a greater number of healthy food choices. In total, the new program foods are lower in fat, higher in fiber and help families meet the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The new food choices mean that participants will get a boost to better health. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment oversees the program through local health departments. The new foods reflect the latest science on healthy diets, and help to address the public health challenge of obesity.

The foods newly covered under the low-income Women, Infants and Children program include whole grain cereals, whole wheat breads, rolls, buns and tortillas, canned

beans, brown rice, jarred baby foods and fresh, frozen and canned fruits and vegetables.

Women and children over age 2 will receive low or non-fat milk only. The new foods are part of a nationwide implementation that will be complete by Oct. 1. In addition, families will now receive milk, juice and eggs in quantities that follow current dietary recommendations.

The Women, Infants and Children program will also continue to promote successful, long-term breastfeeding of infants. The program offers an additional incentive to breast feeding mothers by providing them with the highest amount and greatest variety of foods... Breast feeding support is offered through the local health department.

For more information regarding the program, contact the Cheyenne County Health Department at 332-2381.

Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

Finger Licken' Fifteen

By Janet Evanovich

Unbuckle your belt and pull up a chair. It's the spiciest, sauciest, most rib-sticking plum yet.

Recipe for disaster: Celebrity chef Stanley Chipotle comes to Trenton to participate in a barbecue cook-off and loses his head... literally.

Throw in some spice: Bail bonds office worker Lula is witness to the crime, and the only one she'll talk to is Trenton cop Joe Morelli.

Pump up the heat: Chipotle's sponsor is offering a million-dollar reward to anyone who can provide information leading to the capture of the killers.

Stir the pot: Lula recruits bounty hunter Stephanie Plum to help her find the killers and collect the moolah.

Add a secret ingredient: Stephanie Plum's Grandma Mazur. Enough said.

Bring to a boil: Stephanie Plum is working overtime tracking felons for the bonds office at night and snooping for security expert Carlos Manoso, aka Ranger, during the day. Can Stephanie hunt down two killers, a traitor, and five skips, keep her grandmother out of the sauce, and solve Ranger's problems and not jump his bones?

Warning: Habanero hot. So good you'll want seconds.

Stuart's Jewelry
Our Bridal Registry
Couple registered:
Heidi Rohweder & Tim Gohl
Wedding — Sept. 12
Shower — Aug. 15
First Christian Church Fellowship Hall
2 - 4 p.m.
Free Wrap & Delivery 785-332-2333 111 E. Washington • St. Francis
Gift Certificates Available

You're invited to a Bridal Shower
For Jenna Crockett,
Bride-elect of Aaron Lindsten,
Saturday, Aug. 22
2 - 4 p.m.
At the First Christian Church, St. Francis
Registered at Dillard's, Target, Pampered Chef and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Coming Soon Colorado Peaches
Hilltop General Store Is Now Taking Orders for Palisade, Colorado Peaches.
Call or Stop by the Hilltop by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18th to place your order.
#1 Quality peaches in a 24 lb. box for \$26.00
Call 785-332-2277 to reserve your peaches now.
Also coming, Colorado pears and nectarines, Rocky Ford cantaloupe, watermelon and Sakata Farms Sweet Corn.
Hwy. 36 & Benton Street ~ St. Francis
Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 7 days a week

Oh My Goodness, Can It Really Be?
Sherri (Bracelin) Stang
Is Turning 40...
Happy Birthday
on August 17th

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James E. Reeves, DPM
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For appointments call:
Rawlins County Health Center
785-626-3211
Wed., Aug. 19
Cheyenne County Hospital - P.M.
210 W. 1st • 332-2104
Thurs., Aug. 20
Atwood (a.m.) • 626-3211
Colby (p.m.)
CSMC, 175 S. Range
462-3332
CMC, 100 E. College Dr.
462-7511
Fri., Aug. 21
Atwood - All Day

Welcome Danielle McAtee, O.D.

Dr. McAtee joins with Vision Source of Goodland
Dr. Mark Wahlmeier and staff are happy to announce the arrival of Dr. Danielle McAtee, family practice optometrist.
Dr. Danielle (Krieh) McAtee is a St. Francis native and happy to be back home in Western Kansas.
Call 785-899-3654 to schedule your next eye health & vision exam
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1885 Broadway • Topeka, KS

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Knights of Columbus would like to send a thank you to everyone who supported the Knights of Columbus

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Wheeler Equity
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Hilltop General Store
Uptown Meat Market