



DANCE RANCH RECITAL will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the high school. Each year the students have a special review on Mother's Day. Audrey Meyer (left) and Shelby Wolff (right) are practicing their routine for Sunday. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Facility improvement plan discussed at board meeting

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The facility improvement plan, which had been changed slightly, was discussed when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on April 22.

Kent Carmichael, architect, had made some changes which would help the hospital be more private as well as give the nurses' station more functionality.

Les Lacy, administrator, asked the board how they felt about the plans? Jerry Toler, board president, said he felt the plan would serve the community well in the future. He liked the plan.

Traci Neitzel, board member, also said she liked the plan.

Mr. Lacy said he had talked with J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, about making the street in front of the hospital a little narrower. Mr. Lacy and Mr. Landenberger had discussed a variety of options, but the city council would ultimately need to make a final decision. Mr. Lacy was directed to approach the city council for a decision.

Scott Houtman, who owns the house across the street from the hospital, said he was not interested having parking on the north side of his house.

Scholarships

Scholarships and how they are paid back was discussed. Heather Kane, St. Francis, applied for a nursing scholarship. The board would pay a portion and the rest is paid through the Kansas Nursing Scholarship program if approved.

They then turned to discussing scholarships for those wanting to go into medical coding. At the present time, the hospital sends the medical coding work to three different coders.

Kari Gilliland, board member, felt like a contract could be set up for non employed community members interested in coding that would provide some support for local people seeking training while protecting the hospital. However, it was also pointed out that there is not currently enough

medical coding work at the hospital to employ a coder full time.

Mr. Lacy said he would work on the matter and come back with more information at a later board meeting.

Administrator's report

In the administrator's report, Mr. Lacy said the inpatient volume had been better recently and those seeing visiting doctors had been strong.

He said that the hospital had not used any hospital board funds since March 12 and the hospital still owed money to the funded depreciation account. He hoped to be able to repay a portion of this with the cost report settlement from Medicare.

The hospital, he said, won a Community Connection Award from the Kansas Hospital Association in Northwest Kansas for its Primary Care Clinic. The award was based on leadership, meeting community need, community benefit, creativity, and impact. Twelve other hospitals had applied for the award, he said.

Mr. Lacy reported that Steve Six, attorney general, had appointed him to the board of the Sunflower Foundation. The Sunflower Foundation was created in August 2000 as part of a \$75 million settlement between Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, the state attorney general and state insurance commissioner. The Foundation's mission is to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans.

There are four new employees at the hospital. They include: Brenda Weverka who works at the front desk; Katora Sherlock and Jennifer Austin, certified nurse's aides, and Ray Martinez, housekeeping.

Great Plains Health Alliance report

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, reported on the Alliance and how health reform will affect the Cheyenne County Hospital and other hospitals ran or leased by the Alliance. She said initiative being considered included recoupment

April Statistics

Total Patient days: 118 – This would be an average of 3.8 patients in bed each day.
Lab tests: 2,109
Outpatient specialty clinic visits: 108
Emergency room visits: 35
Outpatient services: 1,790

of payments if patients are readmitted to the hospital within 30 days for the same diagnosis, hospital acquired infections, medical errors described as "never events" and other quality issues that will be identified through an estimated 26 to 30 required quality indicators that have been included in the "Meaningful Use Standards." During the years to come, she said, there will be an increase in the focus on accountability as measured through quality of care and business practices.

There will be increasing attention paid to hospitals not only identifying quality and other risk factors but to proactively examine how their work processes can be altered to improve outcomes.

Hospitals, she said, have historically had those practices in place but now will be evaluated to determine if they are using "best practices" that have been proven to reduce error rates. The Great Plains Health Alliance staff, she said, is working to identify best practices for our hospitals to use as resources in their quality improvement practices.

In other business

In other business:
• Heidi Tice, chief financial officer, reported on her department. It was noted that she and Shawna Blanka, administrative secretary, had moved to a room in the basement. She said they liked it because it was so much bigger.

Executive session

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made during the executive session.

The board approved Ms. Kane for support in the Nursing Scholarship Loan Program.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the board has been set for 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, in the board meeting room in the clinic basement, St. Francis.

Lines From The Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

The following new books have arrived at the library: *The Walk* by Richard Paul Evans; *The Inn At Angel Island* by Thomas Kinkade; *The Telling* by Beverly Lewis; *Deception* by Jonathan Kellerman; *No Distance Too Far* by Lauraine Snelling; *Game Over* (Sisterhood Series) by Fern Michaels; *In The Company Of Secrets* by Judith Miller; *The Killing Edge* by Heather Graham; *Burning Lamp* by Amanda Quick; *The Shadow Of Your Smile* by Mary Higgins Clark; *Stay A Little Longer* by Dorothy Garlock; *An Uncertain Dream* by Judith Miller; *Wrecked*

by Carol Higgins Clark; *Take Three* by Karen Kingsbury; *Dark Fire* by Elizabeth Lowell; *Shameless* by Karen Robards and *A Single Rose* by Barbara Delinsky.

The library has the following new books in the children's department: *Fang* by James Patterson; *My New Baby* by Rachel Fuller; *Chirpy Chick* by Jo Rigg; *Fire Trucks To The Rescue* by Sonia Sander; *Help Is On The Way* by Sonia Sander; *The Berenstain Bears Go Out To Eat* by Jan Berenstain; *Troll Attack* by Allison Lassieur; *The Perfect Dress* by Melissa Lagonegro; *Horse Show Champ* by Jessie Parker; *The*

Crunching Munching Caterpillar by Sheridan Cain.

The following books are all First Look and Find Board Books: *The Backyardigans* by Joanna Spathis; *Hide And Seek: Near And Far* by Caleb Burroughs; *Baby Einstein* by Michael P. Pertig; *Mickey Mouse; Abby Cadabby Fairy Tale Fun* by Deidre Quinn; *What's Gonna Work, Teamwork* by Caleb Burroughs; *Handy Manny* by Julia Lobo; *Bunnies* by Julia Lobo; *Super Sleuths* by Julia Lobo; *SpongeBob SquarePants; Finding Nemo* by Caleb Burroughs; *Friends And Heroes* by Michael Fertig; *Princess Magic; Toy Story; Ni Hao, Kai-Lan* by Melanie Zanoza; *Let's Look And Think And Play.*

Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

I, Alex Cross

By James Patterson

You Can't Run: Detective Alex Cross is pulled out of a family celebration and given the awful news that a beloved relative has been found brutally murdered. Alex vows to hunt down her killer, and soon learns that she was mixed up in one of Washington's wildest scenes. And she was not this killer's only victim.

You Can't Hide: The hunt for the murderer leads Alex and his girlfriend, Detective Brianna Stone, to a place where every fantasy is possible, if you have the credentials to

get in. Alex and Bree are soon facing down some very important, very protected, very dangerous people in levels of society where only one thing is certain...they will do anything to keep their secrets safe.

Alex Cross Is Your Only Hope To Stay Alive: As Alex closes in on the killer, he discovers evidence that points to the unimaginable...a revelation that could rock the entire world. With the unstoppable action, unforeseeable twists, and edge-of-your-seat excitement that only a James Patterson thriller delivers, *I, Alex Cross* is the master of suspense at his sharpest and best.

Helpful Hints

Easier than you's

When you throw a bridal/baby shower, buy a pack of thank you cards for the guest of honor. During the party, pass out the envelopes and have everyone put their address on one. When the bride/new mother sends the thank you's, they're all addressed!

Mine

If you purchase a new bike for your child, place their picture inside the handle bar before placing the grips on. If the bike is stolen and later recovered, remove the grip and there is your proof who owns the bike.

Congratulations at State
We are proud of you!



SFCHS State Journalists in front of the Student Union at the University of Kansas. (Front row) Tilyn Bell, Mikaela Grace, Casey Keller, Amber Smull, Sarah Trembly; (back row) Ally Northrup, Jalyn McCauley, Cody Killingsworth, Aly Marin, Zach Zweygardt, Dale Northrup, Clarice Neitzel, Lucas Carmichael. Not Pictured: Thomas Douthit, Allison Grice, Jon Hilty, Ben Neitzel, Caitlin Northrup, Aubree Schlepp, Kaycee Williams. Photo by Brenda Day

Individual Events

Benjamin Neitzel-1st place Photo Illustration
Tilyn Bell-2nd Feature Writing
Ally Northrup-2nd Editorial Writing
Caitlin Northrup-2nd Sports Photography
Dale Northrup-3rd Editing
Amber Smull-3rd Newspaper Sports

Honorable Mention

Thomas Douthit-Advertising
Mikaela Grace-Editing
Aly Marin-Feature Writing
Jalyn McCauley-Yearbook Sports Writing
Aubree Schlepp-Theme & Graphics, Yearbook Copy Writing
Kaycee Williams-Advertising

Happy Mother's Day

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