Facility improvement plan



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

# **Lines From The Library**

By Pat Leibbrandt

arrived at the library: The Walk by Fire by Elizabeth Lowell; Shame-Richard Paul Evans; The Inn At less by Karen Robards and A Sin-Angel Island by Thomas Kinkade; gle Rose by Barbara Delinsky. The Telling by Beverly Lewis; De-Snelling; Game Over (Sister-In The Company Of Secrets by Ju-Heather Graham; Burning Lamp

The following new books have *Three* by Karen Kingsbury; *Dark* 

The library has the followception by Jonathan Kellerman; ing new books in the children's No Distance Too Far by Lauraine department: Fang by James Patterson; My New Baby by Rachel hood Series) by Fern Michaels; Fuller; Chirpy Chick by Jo Rigg; Fire Trucks To The Rescue by Sodith Miller; The Killing Edge by nia Sander; Help Is On The Way by Sonia Sander; The Berenstain by Amanda Quick; The Shadow Bears Go Out To Eat by Jan Be-Of Your Smile by Mary Higgins renstain; Troll Attack by Allison Clark; Stay A Little Longer by Lassieur; The Perfect Dress by Dorothy Garlock; An Uncertain Melissa Lagonegro; Horse Show Dream by Judith Miller; Wrecked Champ by Jessie Parker; The

by Carol Higgins Clark; Take 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.

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

Count 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 interesting in coding that would provide some support for local people seeking training while protecting the hospital. However, it was also pointed out liance. She said initiative being that there is not currently enough considered included recoupment

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

### 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 Al-

### **Helpful Hints**

### Easier thank you's

When you throw a bridal/baby shower, buy a pack of thank you cards for the guest of honor. During one. When the bride/new mother there is your proof who owns the sends the thank you's, they're all ad-

### Mine

If you purchase a new bike for your child, place their picture inside the handle bar before placing the party, pass out the envelopes and the grips on. If the bike is stolen and have everyone put their address on later recovered, remove the grip and

# 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 execu-

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.

## —— 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.



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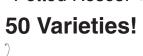
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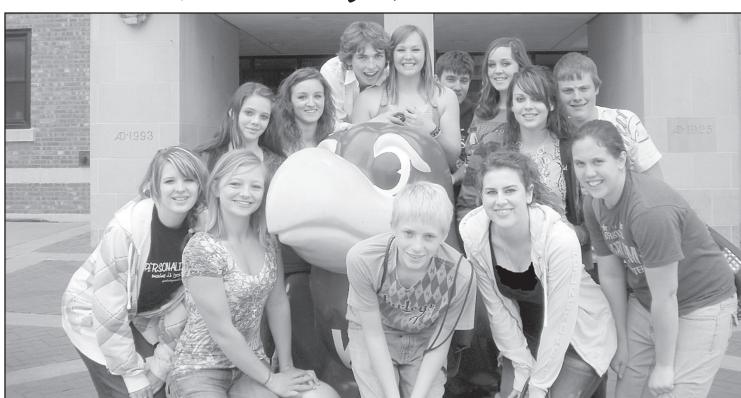
Potted Roses!





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# 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** 

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The Saint Francis Herald

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