

Administrator talks with department of health, aging

By Karen Krien

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At the Wednesday, Nov. 30, Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting, the hospital administrator reported on talking with the Kansas Department of Health and Aging about the Good Samaritan Village and a brief chat with Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

When the Oct. 19 fire shut down the Good Samaritan Village, it affected the hospital's income. Since he was in Topeka on other business, Les Lacy, administrator, stopped in to talk with Greg Reeser with the Department of Health and Aging regarding some of the hurdles the home will face as it gets back into operation. He said that the Good Samaritan Society had already had similar conversations with him. The state, he said, is very interested in helping the

nursing home get back on its feet.

Mr. Lacy is on the long-term task force which will be looking at plans to improve the facility, offering more services. At the present time, there will be little information known until the insurance companies meet again on Dec. 6.

Mr. Lacy talked to Mrs. Sebelius about how the Federally Qualified Health Center and Critically Access Hospitals may not work well together in frontier areas. He pointed out that there is a potential new model that could work. She said Mr. Lacy could send her the information and she would send it on to Mary Wakefield, with the Center for Medicare Service.

Department head reports

Candi Douthit, RN, is the obstetric and education manager. She said there had been 24 babies delivered at the hospital so far this year and more were expected be-

fore the first of the year. Last year, there were 23 babies born at the hospital.

We are drawing from Rawlins County and the Brewster, Edson and Goodland areas, she said.

The hospital has five trained obstetric nurses and one more is almost to that point.

Grants had been written for new equipment including an oxygen blender. A stronger breast feeding program is needed. A grant has been written to hire Lori Raile to work in the program.

As far as education, she said the staff can get training on the ITV series. The trainings can be recorded and watched later. Much of the certification can be done in Cheyenne County but some is done in Hays. Eagle Med also gives training for free.

She talked about how the obstetric nurses go off site for train-

ing where there are many babies born each day.

Mila Bandel, RN, county health nurse, said there are four objectives which include: 1) identifying the health needs of families and the community, then develop and implement programs to meet the needs; 2) provide health education to prevent disease; 3) act as a coordinator of health services for clients; and 4) participate in community health planning.

The department operates on grant funding as well as \$10,600 from the county; and \$35,761 from the hospital. Grants total \$34,164. Grant funds are used to purchase all IT equipment, vaccine, bioterism and MCH equipment, office supplies and pays a portion of the salaries. Right now, there is one full-time employee (Mrs. Bandel) and a part-time administrative assistant (Brenda Weverka).

She talked about immunizations, noting that 86 percent of the school-age kids have their immunizations. In the last year, the number of immunizations given through the county health office was 740.

On Oct. 1, a flu clinic for influenza vaccine was held. The department gave 72 shots that day and incorporated the clinic into a point of dispensing for the emergency preparedness department.

Christmas bonuses

The hospital staff Christmas party is scheduled for Dec. 11. The board discussed if Christmas

bonuses should be given and how much. Last year, employees were given \$75 and the board discussed giving this amount. However, Kari Gilliland, board member, pointed out that the money paid on employees' insurance had been cut, making a hardship on some. She suggested that, instead of \$75, they be given \$100 and the board agreed. The \$100 will be given in Chamber Bucks.

Next meeting

The next hospital board meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 30, in the clinic meeting room.

Across the County

Pine wilt confirmed in western Kansas

Discouraging news for pine tree owners has emerged under the microscopes at Kansas State University and the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Over the last few weeks, their labs have confirmed cases of pine wilt disease in 11 western Kansas counties.

The always-fatal disease first showed up in 1979 in both Missouri and eastern Kansas. Until now, however, western Kansas has harbored no signs of a true pine wilt invasion, said Jon Appel, State of Kansas plant pathologist.

"From the first, of course, one problem was the possibility that people in a wilt-free area might choose not to use local trees and wood. As part of that, infested nursery stock can be a risk. The apparent trigger at one of our new western sites was infested firewood, brought in from eastern Kansas," said Megan Kennelly, plant pathologist with K-State Research and Extension and its plant disease diagnostic lab.

Pine wilt symptoms generally appear in late summer to late fall. First, needles turn an "off," gray-green color. Then they brown, but don't fall off. In many cases, the disease progresses so quickly that infested trees are dead within weeks. With late fall infections, however, trees may lose some sections



By Marty Fear

County Extension Agent

or branches in fall, but wait to collapse the following spring.

The western Kansas counties with newly confirmed cases of the disease are Barber, Finney, Hodgeman, Meade, Osborne, Pawnee, Phillips, Rooks, Rush, Seward and Smith. The state's "front-line" communities now include Beloit, Great Bend, Hays, Medicine Lodge and Pratt. "We hope these findings are isolated occurrences and that appropriate sanitation will prevent any further spread," Kennelly said.

"The only way to keep the disease from spreading is to remove each victim as soon as possible. Then, chip or burn its wood immediately," she explained. "If you don't, next spring a new generation of pine sawyer beetles will emerge from the dead wood. They'll take wing and start looking for food."

Each dead pine can host several hundred nesting pine sawyer larvae, Appel warned. In turn, each adult beetle that emerges in spring can carry tens of thousands of the nematodes that actually cause pine wilt.

"We're not sure why the disease invaded so many western Kansas counties this year," Appel said. "Human factors may be involved, but western Kansas also was hot and dry last summer and into the fall. That kind of weather can increase pines' risk, because pine sawyer beetles are attracted to stressed trees."

Both plant pathologists hope Kansans will take serious note of the disease's on-going spread. "Our best control is still to destroy infested trees before the pine sawyer beetle's life cycle can progress any further," Kennelly said. "But, we also need that to be a community, area and ultimately a statewide effort," Appel added. Go to the website www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/plant2/MF2425.pdf. Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or mail to: cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments.

Till next week - Marty

Obituaries

Ellen Dorothy Raile

Oct. 8, 1921 - Dec. 21, 2010

Ellen Dorothy Raile died on Dec. 21, 2010. Ellen was born Oct. 8, 1921, in rural Cheyenne County, Kan., to Edward and Rose Brunswig. She lived and worked on the family farm. She attended and was confirmed at the Hope Valley Lutheran Church.

Ellen completed eight years of formal education. The Flood of 1935 washed out the bridge to St. Francis so Ellen was unable to attend her graduation ceremony. Ellen expressed many times that she wanted to complete high school but her family could not afford it.

As one of the older children she contributed greatly to the care of her younger siblings; this was the beginning of her lifelong vocation of nurturing children.

On June 8, 1941, she was united in marriage to William (Bill) L. Raile at the Salem Lutheran Church. They lived on and worked the family farm until moving to town in 1979.

Bill and Ellen were faithful members of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the United Methodist Church.

Throughout the years, Ellen taught children's Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. After moving to town, Ellen became active in the United Methodist Women's group. She chaired the Kitchen Committee for years and participated in an active Bible study group. She was very dedicated to the Lord and daily devotions were a part of her life. Her family was very important to her as she prayed continually for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bill and Ellen were blessed with four children, 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Ellen devoted her entire life to loving and caring for all of them.

She was preceded in death by her beloved son, Dale.

Ellen is survived by her husband, Bill; daughter, Loretta Toulouse and husband, Jim of Baldwin City; two sons, Clifford Raile and wife Judy of St. Francis and Marvin Raile and wife, Jacquie of Phoenix, N.Y., and daughter-in-law, Ramona Raile of St. Francis.

Preceding her in death were her parents; two sisters, Virginia Hilt and Elsie Burr and one brother, Elmer Brunswig.

Survivors are sisters, Bernice Zwegardt, Lois Lippert and hus-

band, Bill, Louise Wilson and husband, Larry; brother, Edward and wife, Emma; grandchildren, Jodi (Touslee) Kostelac and husband, Phil, Sarah (Touslee) Moore, Lisa (Raile) Smalley and husband, Chris, Reid Raile and wife, Lori, Tyler Raile and wife, Kristle, John Raile and wife, Sondra, Darla Raile, Ben Raile, Jessica Raile Greer and husband, Nathan, seven great-grandchildren, TJ, Lucas, and Jesse Hopper, Kali and Philip Kostelac, Colton and Luke Raile, and Ariana Smalley, as well as many nieces and nephews and other loved ones.

Ellen planted and harvested a bountiful garden every year; she enjoyed reaping the benefits of her labor and turned the harvest into many delicious dishes, and a multitude of canned goods that she shared with many of her family.

Ellen's needle work was beautiful; she created many doilies and afghans over the years and worked love into every stitch!

Ellen excelled with everything she did. Baking was one of her specialties. Her sticky buns were legendary and her oatmeal rolls were always on the request list. Many of her baked and canned products were packed into suitcases for trips "back home" after visits from family.

Ellen was a very thoughtful, caring, loving and unselfish wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend. She will be greatly missed, but lovingly remembered for her many acts of kindness and her devotion to God and family.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Dec. 24, at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis with Reverend Morita Truman, officiating. Reid and Lori Raile and Lisa Smalley presented a musical arrangement.

Casket bearers were grandchildren: Sarah Moore, Jodi and Phil Kostelac, Reid and Lori Raile, Tyler and Kristle Raile, Lisa and Chris Smalley, John and Sondra Raile, Darla Raile, Jessica and Nathan Greer and Ben Raile.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the United Methodist Church or the Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis.

Maurice Eugene Stramel

May 5, 1933 - Dec. 6, 2010

On May 5, 1933, in the tiny town of Nonchalanta, Kan., between Jetmore and Ness City, Maurice Eugene Stramel was born at home to his parents, Carl C. and Agnes F. (Hertel) Stramel.

At the age of nine days, Maurice was baptized into the Catholic faith at St. Ignatius Church, Nonchalanta.

His sisters include Jane Nevius and Cheryl Dinwiddie, Hutchinson, and Wanda Clarke, deceased. His brothers include twins, Larry Stramel, deceased, and Garry Stramel, Santa Fe, N.M.

Maurice graduated in 1951 at the age of 18 from Buhler High School. He enjoyed playing football and track.

He joined the Navy in 1951 where he attended Great Lakes, Ill., Naval Training Center. He had many stories to tell of his Navy days. Maurice was very proud that he served his country in the Korean War.

He worked for Western Electric in Wichita, later known as AT&T. Maurice met Monica Walz while he was working at the telephone office in St. Francis. They married on Dec. 31, 1984. Together they enjoyed traveling and Maurice had visited 49 states. He didn't get to see Alaska.

He retired after 27 years of service with AT&T, in February 1986, in Boston, Mass.

He retired from Reliance Communication Technologies, Grand Prairie, Texas, in 1996 as installation supervisor.

Maurice was blessed to have eight children: four sons, Michael, Tim, Pat and son, Roger, who died in October 2010; and four daughters, Theresa Thompson, Sharon Monroe, Becki Stramel and Candi Rogers.

He was affectionately named "Bulldog" or "Bully" by his sisters-in-law, Brenda and Sylvia. They knew his bark was much worse than his bite. Maurice was as tenderhearted as a teddy bear. He never knew a stranger and reminded family members that "a friend is a gift you give to yourself."

Equipment Operator Specialist

Are you looking for a rewarding career that offers full-time, year round work? The Kansas Department of Transportation is looking for dependable, team players to join the St. Francis sub-area crew. Current advertisement is for an Equipment Operator Specialist which requires two years experience in highway and bridge construction and/or maintenance and one year of lead worker experience. Position is located in St. Francis, KS and requires 30 minute response in emergency situations. Position requires a valid driver's license. On-the-job training is provided to obtain a CDL within sixty days. An annual \$150 Personal Protection Equipment allowance is available. Insurance benefits including health, prescription, dental and vision are provided at a minimal cost. Other benefits include vacation and sick leave. The selected candidate is required to take and pass a pre-employment drug test and a pre-employment physical test. Starting pay is \$14.30/hour. **KDOT works to foster diversity and looks forward to applications from all qualified applicants.** Applications and Personal Data forms may be completed on-line at job.ks.gov. Submit on-line forms to **Transportation, Headquarters**. Paper forms are available at any KDOT office and may be sent to Kansas Department of Transportation, Bureau of Personnel Services; Eisenhower State Office Building - 1st Floor East; 700 SW Harrison St; Topeka, KS 66603-3754. Indicate **Requisition #167750** on the application form by the closing date of **January 3, 2011**. This ad is paid for by the **Kansas Dept. of Transportation**.



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