

Outstanding attendance for meeting

There were 79 people attending the Kansas Rural Health Works education program held Thursday at Riverside Recreation. Following a meal, Dr. John Leatherman, director of the Kansas Rural Health Option Project, explained the program, noting the importance of the health care sector to the economy in the county.

Dr. Leatherman, before the meeting, expected only 30 to 40 people at the most so was surprised at the outstanding attendance.

We should never be surprised by the interest of Cheyenne County residents in the welfare of their county, said Tom Keller, one of the coordinators of the event. The attendance at the noon meeting is yet another example of their support of their county.

The meeting was the first of five meetings with the next meeting to be held at noon on Thursday, May 12, at the Legion hall in Bird City. The health service directory for Cheyenne County will be discussed. Additional meetings are planned for May 26, June 23, and July 13.

Study shows health care impact

"A good local health care system may itself be part of the prescription for maintaining a healthy rural economy."

That was the bottom line from a study of the economic contribution of Cheyenne County's health care system produced by researchers at K-State Research and Extension.

The study is part of a state-wide initiative called the Kansas Rural Health Works program sponsored by the Kansas Rural Health Options Project. As part of the program, a county-level analysis of the economic impacts and potential of the local health care sector on the economies of each of the state's 97 most rural counties has been generated.

According to the report, the health care sector accounted for an estimated 9.6 percent of Cheyenne County's total employment, or about 177 jobs, in 2011. Further, the study's calculated economic multipliers for nine health care sectors and estimated that health care directly and indirectly accounted for 217 jobs throughout the county economy. They go on to estimate that these same sectors accounted for more than \$9,800,000 in total county income and about \$2,488,000 in county retail sales annually.

"I think we tend to take our local health services for granted, just a little," said Mr. Keller. "We don't realize how important health care is to the county's economic well being."

That is exactly the point the reports are trying to get across, said Dr. Leatherman, who is also the agricultural economist at K-State's office of local government and lead author of the report. He pointed out that access to affordable quality local health care services is essential to attracting and retaining local businesses and retirees.

Further, health care has been among the fastest growing economic sectors for the past 30 years. Given demographic trends,



DR. JOHN LEATHERMAN explains the Health Option Project at the meeting held in St. Francis.

he said, prospects for continued growth are good, and rural communities will want to be in a position to capture some of that growth.

"Research has shown time and again that local health care and education are two enormously important factors for economic development," Leatherman said, "and both can be positively or negatively influenced by local action or inaction." He said the local health care system has sometimes been the "tie-breaker" in industry location decisions and that retirees view quality local health care as a "must have" local service.

"The Rural Health Works program is intended to highlight the need for local organization and initiative to maintain rural health care systems," said Sara Roberts, director of the Rural Health Section for the Bureau of Local and Rural Health at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

She likened the need for broad community involvement focused on local health care to trying to maintain the local school district or Main Street businesses. "Inattention and inactivity can place a rural community at risk. Maintaining local access to quality health care services in rural places requires organization, planning and community support," she said.

Copies of the full report have been distributed and are available free of charge at the Kansas Rural Health Works Web site at: www.krhww.net. Additional information about the program is available by contacting the Office of Local Government at K-State Research and Extension, 785-532-2643 or e-mailing jleather@k-state.edu.

Mothers honored with outdoor concert

Sunday, everyone is urged to take their mother, mother-in-law and wife to the outdoor concert and barbecue at the band shell in Sawhill Park. The activities start at 5 p.m. with a meal, then a concert following.

The "Mother's Day Concert in the Park" event is hosted by St. Francis Community Church. The awesome outdoor concert, said Pastor David Butler, is centered around lifting up the name of Jesus.

"Eternity Focus" will be the featured guest for the concert. The musicians have traveled the country,

won national awards for their music, but above all, they simply live what they sing. Mom's will truly be blessed! said Pastor Butler.

The meal includes a grilled dinner consisting of burgers, brats and all the trimmings for everyone attending. All the ministers of the area churches will be serving the food.

There will be a free-will offering taken to supplement the cost of the concert and food.

In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be in the high school auditorium.



DRAINING A NEW LEAK on Bird Avenue is Russell Jackson, new maintenance employee and Brad Schneider. The city has had two leaks since the weather is warming up. City Council has hired a company to measure water usage and determine the areas where the pumps are losing water. Mr. Miller is also looking into funding for replacing water systems.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Car show planned for May 14

On Saturday, May 14, the streets around Sawhill Park, downtown St. Francis, and some of the adjoining streets will be lined with classic vehicles. This is the 11th year for the Saturday In The Park Car and Bike Show.

Not only will there be lots of vintage vehicles but there will be many vendors. Nancy Schultz, one of the coordinators, reported there will be people selling jewelry, Scensy candles, T-shirts and baked goods. Other food vendors include barbecue, corn on a stick, the Wahrmans, Hobo Wagon and Mountain Man.

Breakfast will be served by the senior citizens at the center from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is their pancake day and one of their money-making endeavors to help

support the center.

New this year will be a drawing for three bikes that have been renovated. Kids can sign up – no charge – and the first name drawn will get their pick of the three.

In 2000, a few local people who had a love for the classic vehicles decided to see if there was any interest in organizing a club.

"We picked a Saturday for a get together and 33 vehicles came to the show," said Scott Schultz, one of the organizers.

All of the vehicles were local except for two that owners brought from other towns.

In 2001, the first Saturday In The Park Car Show was held. With a zero balance in the bank account, three club members stepped forward and paid for the

dash plaques and trophies for the show.

There were 69 entries that year.

This year, Mr. Schultz said the weather has been cold so he suspects that has slowed down the entries. However, closer to May 14, they expect a bunch to be coming in. Also, if the day is predicted to be fair and warm, the motorcyclists from the Colorado Front Range are planning to come.

"That will be about a 100 motorcycles coming into town," he said.

The show is held rain or shine. Through the years, there have been nine years of good weather. One year, it was cold and drizzled rain all day and the other year, it just plain rained all day. However, 67

vehicles still came to the show.

The show has become a community event. Vendors come to the park and other locations in town to sell their goods. Entries come from as far away as Cedar Bluffs, Neb., and Rocky Ford, Colo. There has also been a participant from Collierville, Tenn.

"We always receive positive comments from the people who come to St. Francis," Mr. Schultz said. "They talk about how clean the town is and how beautiful the park is. They also enjoy the friendly people who live here."

Everyone is urged to mark their calendar for May 17 and plan to spend the day at the park.

Man buys Camaro on eBay auction

"Honey, I May Be in Big Trouble"

On a sunny July 2008 afternoon in southwest Kansas, this now famous remark could be heard coming from the computer room in our home, "Honey, I think you better come in here. I may be in big trouble."

I was just bidding on the Camaro for fun! said Bruce Bolen, Bird City, and member of the Cruiser's Car Club.

After spending many hours on eBay looking for a 1969 Z/28 Camaro, he was playing with the bidding when it finally stopped with three hours left to go, and he was the high bidder.

"It was more than I wanted to spend and the car I was about to own was located in Buffalo, N.Y.," he said.

There were no more bids for the remainder of the auction and he and his wife, Emily, were now the new owners, sight unseen.

"I must say I was more excited than she was!" he said

The other now famous quote in their family is "The car is show ready and I will not have to spend very much money on it." This turned out to be problem number two!

After taking a quick flight from Colorado Springs to Buffalo and back in 24 hours, Bruce made arrangements to have the car shipped to Amarillo, Texas, about three hours from their home at the time in Johnson. Of course when he arrived to pick up the car it had been damaged in shipping, which seemed to fit in with the "rest of the story."

Our 1969 Chevrolet Camaro Z/28 tribute is the fourth muscle car he had restored, and the only one that they currently own. It was in very nice shape and could have been taken to car shows in the condition that I purchased it.

Of course, he said, I am obsessed with my cars, and this one was no different.

After getting the car home, he immediately started the restoration process by removing the entire front and rear suspension, installing all new polyurethane components and having all pieces powder coated. After completing the suspension, he removed the dash and reworked the gauges and lighting. Of course this made the carpet look drab, so he removed the complete interior and installed new sound-deadening material and new carpet.



BRUCE BOLEN'S 1969 Camaro Z/28 that he purchased on eBay and restored.

I could have quit with this, he said, but when opening the hood, the performance-built 350 engine was painted black. Everyone knows it should be the correct Chevrolet orange, so one engine repaint and under-hood detail later; it was on the road again.

The 15 minutes of fame came when the Bolens were invited to attend a special Chevrolet unveiling of the new 2010 Camaro at Riley Chevrolet in Ulysses. This was a special invitation to Camaro owners to display their cars for this "back-in-time" tradition of keeping a new car under wraps until that special day when it was first seen by the general public. It was a special day of sharing

memories, Chevrolet, hot dogs, and apple pie.

"We have attended many car shows over the past three summers and plan on attending many more," Mr. Bolen said.

The first show in Northwest Kansas where he won a trophy was "Saturday in the Park" in St. Francis. This was the spring before they moved to Bird City, and meeting all the great people had an influence on them moving to the area.

"I love driving the Camaro and just enjoy reliving the memories of the past when times were slower, simpler, and gas was a whole lot cheaper!"