

# Board talks about buying houses, blood analyzer

By Nathan Fiala  
nfiala@nwkansas.com

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Tuesday, Nov. 29, with visitors, Scott and Sarah Houtman who were concerned with a potential real estate purchase.

Two houses close to the clinic have been offered for sale to the hospital. Despite recent mill levy increases, hospital administrator Les Lacy stated it would be irresponsible to not at least run the numbers on purchasing one or both of these houses, and compare that cost with other current costs, such as lodging for medical students. Besides lodging, the houses could be used for a variety of things, such as office or storage space.

Treasurer Jane Young asked what the houses would actually be used for, as she understood housing was the main goal. Mr. Lacy said housing was the immediate need, but that other options should not be ruled out. Putting office space in the houses would clear more room for clinical space in the hospital, which could be used to expand into offering other services, like having dexascans and nuclear medicine on site, instead of having a truck come in once a month.

Mr. Lacy emphasized that real estate is an investment that usually appreciates with time and could have a higher rate of return than a CD, if the houses would be liquidated for cash later. Board chairman Jerry Toler agreed that two houses offered for sale in close proximity is an opportunity the hospital couldn't afford to do nothing about.

Board member Mike Bandel asked Mr. Lacy if there was a pro forma made up for this and he answered no. Mr. Lacy stated he

could get one put together pretty quickly, and that a special meeting may be needed to vote on the issue.

The board then heard reports from Jackie Ritchey, Health Information Management supervisor, Amelia Zeuge, out patient department supervisor, and Stacy Kaup, clinic manager. Ms. Ritchey talked about upcoming changes to documentation and coding standards that they are preparing for. Mrs. Zeuge talked about scheduling procedures such as dexascans and other procedures that require trucks to come from other locations. She also wanted to emphasize to the public that her job is scheduling and if a patient has called to schedule a procedure and they have not heard back from her within a day or two, to call the office again to make sure the procedure is scheduled as planned. Mrs. Kaup spoke about her duties, usually with direct patient care.

Judy Rockwood has been hired as the new director of nursing, and will start at the beginning of the year.

The board moved onto their action items and discussed the annual budget, the blood chemistry analyzer and an Ultrasound device.

A new blood chemistry analyzer is needed to replace the older equipment and a lease through Western State Bank was approved by the board. Also, Mr. Lacy located a new Ultrasound machine at a greatly reduced price and the board moved to purchase this as well.

The budget was also looked over and was approved to be recommended to the Great Plains Health Alliance.



THE NATIVITY scene is one of the many Christmas decorations at the Rethke house.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

## House decor celebrates Christmas

Starting the first of October, Patsy Rethke starts decorating for Christmas. Decorating includes Santa's workshop, a lighted Nativity scene set up in a stable, reindeer, bunk house and lights. Not just a few, not just a couple of hundred but 40,000 lights. There is music which adds to the Christmas spirit.

The Christmas display is lit up on Thanksgiving.

I love Christmas and decorating for it, Mrs. Rethke said.

This year, Mrs. Rethke added the Grinch. She bought the mask but made the huge life-sized Grinch. He has his own little house and sits outside with a large doll.

The inside of the house is no different from the outside. There are lights, trees and Teddy bears - in fact, there are 32 bears around the Christmas tree. She started her collection in 1986 and, now her granddaughter, Crystal, brings her a Christmas bear (sometimes there are two). They are collector bears with the year embroidered on them.

The Rethke's Christmas wonderland is located about 7 miles north on K-27 and 1 mile west on Rd. S. The lights can be seen from the road and people are welcome to stop, get out and walk around the yard.

I think children will really enjoy seeing all the lights. There is a box where people can register and there is candy for the children.



SETTING UP a home-made Grinch as part of her Christmas display, Patsy Rethke looks forward to the holidays by setting up her decorations in October. She invites people to visit her house 7 miles north of town on K-27 and 1 mile west on Road S to see the display for themselves.

*You Don't Have to Wrap It!*

*You Don't Have to Send It!*

# Give a Gift That Keeps Giving All Year Long!!!



## The Saint Francis Herald *Bird City Times*

PO Box 1050, St. Francis KS 67756 • 785-332-3162; E-mail: sf.herald@nwkansas.com

*Stop by the Office and We'll Be Glad to Help You Get Started With Your Christmas Shopping!*

---

Please Send A Gift Subscription To The Following Address  
 Please Start A New Subscription  
 Please Add the Following Subscription

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

My Check For \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Is Enclosed

# or Call 785-332-3162

**The Saint Francis Herald**

Cheyenne, Rawlins, Thomas, Sherman, Dundy, Yuma, and Kit Carson counties • \$38  
 Elsewhere in Kansas • \$42      Elsewhere in the US • \$48  
 College in Kansas • \$33      Out-of-state College • \$36

**Bird City Times**

Cheyenne, Rawlins, Thomas, Sherman, Dundy, Yuma, and Kit Carson counties • \$33  
 Elsewhere in Kansas • \$38      Elsewhere in the US • \$40  
 College in Kansas • \$30      Out-of-state College • \$33