

# Hospital board meets with the commissioners

By Karen Krien  
karen.k@nwkansan.com

The hospital board met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners at the Oct. 30 meeting. After discussing money received from the county and lack of communication, the hospital board agreed that either one of the board members or the hospital administrator or a staff member would be at the middle of the month commissioners' meetings.

Speaking for the hospital board was Kari Gilliland, board member. She said the board was tired of the "finger pointing" - that the whole issue seems to be getting muddied, she said.

Brett Poling, commissioner, spoke up, saying that he had no animosity toward the board - that it was the letter (to the editor which appeared in the Oct. 10 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald*)...we just needed someone from the hospital coming to the meetings. We had to make cuts in the budget, he said. We are \$500,000 in the negative.

Dale Patton said he thought he was at fault. The budget was published in the newspaper and you knew what our budget would be, he said. We thought it (the budget) was OK. It is everyone's welfare that we are concerned about.

Mrs. Gilliland said that these are points that were brought up at board meetings. Do you want someone there for monthly meetings? she asked. "Yes," Dr. Poling said.

We need communication and education, Mrs. Gilliland said. Great Plains Health Alliance has been operating the hospital for years and comparing the hospital and Good Samaritan Society is not comparing apples to apples.

Mr. Patton disagreed. Dr. Poling said he was unhappy with what had happened when Dr. Miller had said she was quitting because of an employment issue. People wondered why the doctor was being run off.

That was a confidential process, Mrs. Gilliland said.

Let's get back to the issue, Mr. Patton said. There seems to be a conflict in funding with the hospital and the county. Did we underfund? Overfund? Each county has a unique problem.

The hospital board, Mrs. Gilliland said, doesn't hire or fire. All employees are employed through Great Plains. Look at the number of employees. Rawlins County, she said, is responsible for hiring and firing. That is a minor difference - the number of providers is the difference.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said the county's auditor had found where the hospital had made \$180,000, but Great Plains made it look like it was a negative.

The tax money goes into the hospital board, said Heidi Tice, hospital chief financial officer. We (the hospital) cannot make money.

This (hospital's business) is not a normal business, said Judy Rockwood, hospital administrator.

We are sorry you got cut some, said Dr. Poling. We asked why we couldn't put a physical therapist at the nursing home but we were told you couldn't unless we hire another therapist - that you were too busy so now about \$8,300 a month is going out of the county.

As for the physical therapist at the nursing home, Ms. Rockwood said, the administrator has never given the number of patient contacts and encounters.

We have a great hospital, Dr. Poling said. I don't agree with Great Plains. We didn't cut the hospital because we don't want the hospital - we had to.

I understand that you only have "X" amount of money, said Ms. Rockwood. But, because of those cuts, we will need to make cuts at the hos-

pital and clinic. There will be big changes coming down the road.

The commissioners asked what happened to the money that had been budgeted for Dr. Allard who had left in the spring.

That money, Mrs. Tice said, is being used to have another doctor cover the physician assistants. Dr. Miller can only cover two physician assistants. We also have a physician from Colby coming in.

The cut has been made, said Les Lacy, former hospital administrator, now area director for Great Plains Health Alliance. We will work through the issue. We really all want the same thing - good care.

I understand what you did, Mr. Lacy said. I want to make sure that we are keeping you educated. We can be here once a month but would like to show commissioners how our finances work. They agreed to have the hospital's auditor and the county's auditor meet and compare.

On the matter of the funded depreciation, asked Terry Miller, county clerk, if you are getting cut in tax dollars, why not move less into the funded depreciation account? Since June, the funded depreciation savings account has grown by \$130,000. If you

took \$100,000 more from the account, you could avoid the "drastic cuts" that were threatened.

That would have to be a board decision, Mrs. Tice stated.

I appreciate having this opportunity to talk to the board, Mr. Patton said. I hope we can continue. And, if there is a

need to amend the budget, we will look at it.

We are all in this together, he continued. United we stand - divided we fall.

Those representing the hospital at the meeting were: Mrs. Gilliland, Ms. Rockwood, Mrs. Tice, Mr. Lacy, Reid Raile, Mike Bandel, Shawna Blanka.

## Club Clip

### United Methodist Women

The United Methodist women met on Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. There were 18 members present. The meeting was called to order by president Marsha Zimbelman.

During the business session, the following members were recognized for completing the United Methodist Women's Reading program this year: Nola Burrus, Jo Ford, Mav-ern Gienger, Marie Holzwarth, Helen Lampe, Lucille Price, Sherry Schultz, Valjean Schultz, Alma Zimbelman and Donna Zimbelman.

After the installation of officers, Carol Rogers presented the "Thank Offering" program. This endeavor was instituted in 1881, and the United Methodist women have used

this program as an opportunity to express their thanks to God in a tangible way. These funds are used to help meet various needs of children, youth, and women, both at home and abroad.

Following the program, a delicious pumpkin dessert was served by Marlene Lebfrom and Valjean Schultz.

The United Methodist Women will be participating in the Nov. 10, Sunday service, to help make the church body aware of their various activities and mission.

The next scheduled meeting will be Feb. 5, 2014 as there will be no meeting in Dec. or Jan. All ladies are welcome to attend.

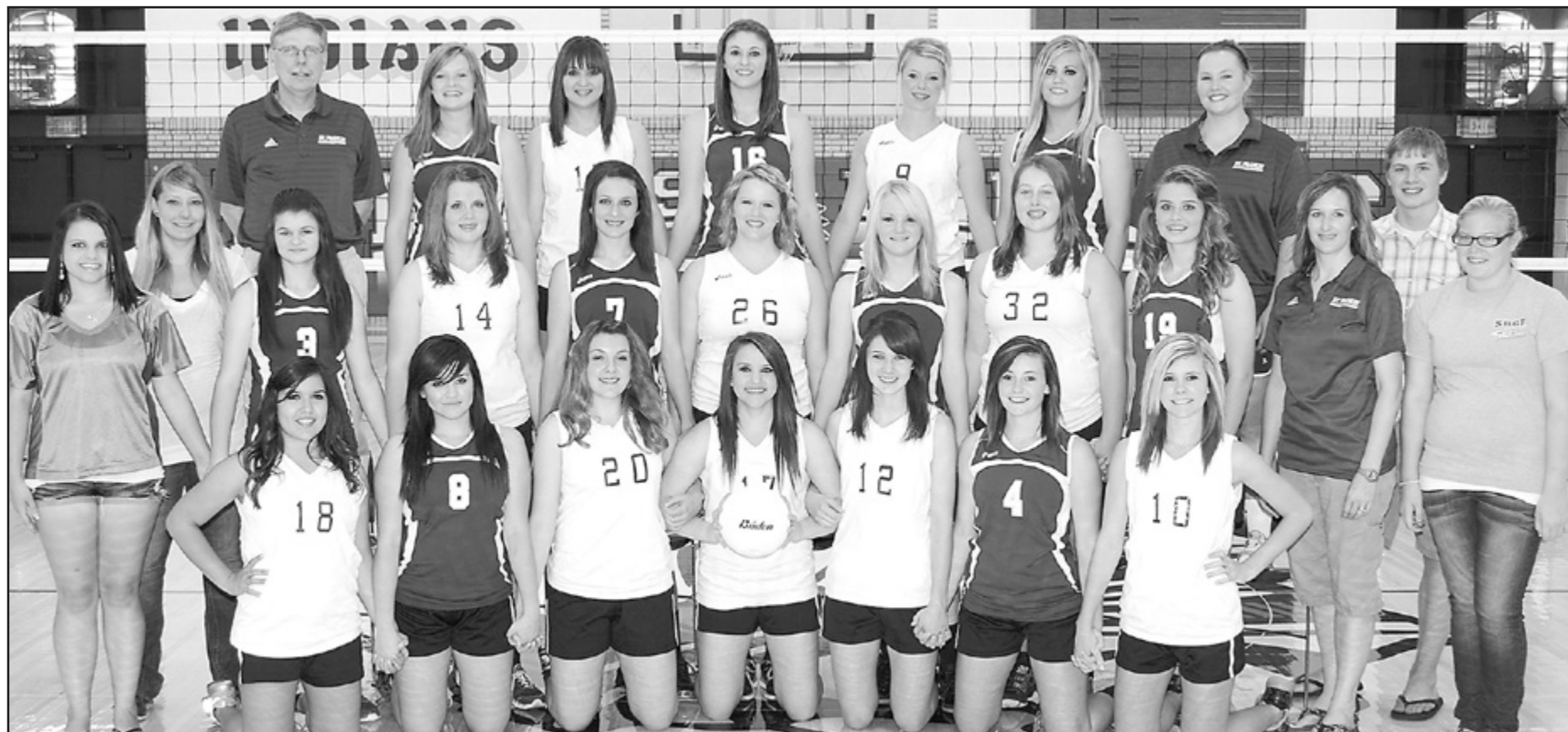
# CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON!



2013 ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM—BACK ROW: (L TO R) MATT WHITE, DEREK QUEEN, LENNY OLIVARES, MASON SCHILTZ, SCOTT WARREN, WYATT LANDENBERGER, GATEN COOPER, LANE HOFFMAN, LOGAN LAMPE; THIRD ROW: KYLE BUFFINGTON, COACH; SETH SWIHART, COACH; CADE BRACELIN, KYLER ZWEGARDT, SHAKOTAH BLANKA, JON HOARD; DEVIN DINKEL, COACH; NICK O'LOUGHLIN, COACH; SECOND ROW: CLAY CASSAW, JUSTIN PACHECO, JUDE FAULKENDER, GARRETT BRUNK, LANE HOBROCK, TRAVIS ROGERS; FRONT ROW: J.R. LANDENBERGER, RYAN GROVER, JOEL HILL, JEREMIAH NEITZEL, TAYLOR ROGERS, QUINTON CRAVENS. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WIGWAM STAFF

## From your proud sponsors:

- American Implement
- Matt And Mila Bandel
- BANKWEST OF KANSAS
- Bartlett Company Grain LP
- Becky's Bierocks
- Bier's Hometown Store
- Bill Wilson Ltd.
- Brice's Auto Repair
- Laverne & Donna Boll
- Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts
- Hoagie & Dara Carmichael
- Ward and Gloria Cassidy
- Click Photography
- Cheyenne Co. Clinic/Hospital
- Cheyenne Feeders LLC
- CHS-Dale Hazuka
- Cornerstone Real Estate LLC
- Theron & Carolyn Culwell
- Dwen & Charilyn DeGood
- Dr. Melvin & Barb Dunn
- Deb's Embroidery - Deb George
- Diamond R Bar & Grill
- Eagle Convenience Store
- Bruce & Sharon Feikert
- Four Hankins Boys
- Frewen Insurance Agency
- Kelly & Penny Gienger
- Girlfriends & Guys Too
- Grace Flying Service
- Heartland HVAC
- Homesteader Motel & Trailer Park
- Glenn and Louanne Isernhagen
- Jenik Oil Co.
- Tom & Lea Keller
- Kite & Day Law Office
- Knodel Funeral Home
- Krien Masonry Service



2013 ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM—BACK ROW: (L TO R) JEFF OLOFSON, ASSIST. COACH; KATIE SCHMID, KYLIE SHERLOCK, ALY SCHLEPP, JUSTICE WILEY, SOPHIE WHITE; ALY MARIN, ASSIST. COACH; MIDDLE ROW: DANIELLE FRINK, MICHAELA FORD, MGR., HANNAH STAFFORD, JENNA CONFER, EMILY ELFERS, BAILEY MERKLIN, JOURNEY LEE, SYDNEY SUNDSTROM, KYLA BANDEL; TALLEY MORROW, COACH; ERIK NELSON, MGR., RACHEL LEE-HOPPER; FRONT ROW: KAYLA REED, ABY FERNANDEZ, MAKAYLA ROGERS, ALEXIS FRINK, ASHLEE ORTH, MCKAYLA TAYLOR, MCKENZIE TAYLOR.

- |                                      |                                 |                             |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Krien Pharmacy                       | Noble Energy                    | Rick & Linda Rogers         | Shay Realty, Inc.              | Unger Chiropractic Clinic       |
| Krien Steel Buildings                | Owens True Value                | Rosewood Resources, Inc.    | Silver Crest Farms             | United Methodist Thrift Store   |
| Leach Insurance LLC                  | Dale & Deb Patton               | Ross Manufacturing          | Tom & Sandy Smull              | Uptown Market & Deli            |
| Daryl & Keely Loyd                   | Park Hill Restaurant & Lounge   | Marlin & Anabelle Rueb      | Dan & Rita Stephens            | Carl Werner                     |
| L&W Andrist Ins. Agency              | Pizza Hut                       | Randy & Rikki Rueb          | Dr. Pat & Bonnie Stuart        | Western State Bank              |
| Casey & Lezlie McCormick             | Dr. Tim & Margaret Poling       | Sainty Liquor               | Susan's Photography            | Wheeler Equity                  |
| Terry & Mary Beth Miller             | Portraits By Susanne            | Sherlock Spraying           | Talley's Portrait Photography  | Yost Farm Supply                |
| Milliken Law                         | Cliff & Judy Raile              | St. Francis Car Wash & Strg | Thadani & Thadani Law          | Yost Ford                       |
| Morrow's Garage/ Cochran Farm Supply | Republican Valley Auto-Nex-Tech | St. Francis Equity          | The Classic Rose               | Western Auction and Real Estate |
| Neitzel Insurance Service            | Republican Valley Vet Clinic    | St. Francis Herald          | T-N-T Carwash, RV Park & Strg. |                                 |
| Roger Neitzel Heating & Cooling      | Kenneth Roberson                | St. Francis Redit Mix       | Tri-State Irrigation           |                                 |
|                                      |                                 | St. Francis Tire & Service  | TR Services Inc.               |                                 |
|                                      |                                 | Schultz's Ltd.              |                                |                                 |