



KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS of Lori Rieger, right, learned about recycling Monday morning. Morgan Hathaway, center, is waiting to ask a question. Far left is Roger Jensen, St. Francis City Councilman and representative to the Northwest Recycling Center in Colby.

Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper

County commissioners appoint new director

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners met Monday for a short meeting before traveling to Goodland to discuss emergency medical services with the Sherman County Commissioners. Dale Patton, commissioner, said the commissioners planned to discuss emergency services with Sherman County, and to also tell them that Cheyenne County had appointed a new director of Emergency Medical Services, so, at this time, they did not plan to use the services of Sherman County.

"I want to tell the commissioners how much we appreciated their efforts in helping us get our service going in the right direction. We want to be good neighbors - helping each other out whenever needed," said Mr.

Patton. He noted that the county's 911 dispatch was recently covered by Sherman County for about 24 hours when a computer went down. "We really appreciated their help and we want to be able to work with them when they need help."

Terry Miller, county clerk, said a letter had been received from Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service coordinator. She announced that she was resigning, but gave full support to the county's emergency medical technicians and new director.

After accepting the resignation from Bowers, they turned to Reid Raile, who, at an earlier meeting, had been appointed as the emergency medical technicians' spokesman. At the Monday meeting, the commissioners then appointed Mr. Raile as the interim

Emergency Medical Services director through the month of April.

Mr. Raile is the information technology director at the Cheyenne County Hospital. He has turned in his resignation but, for the next month, he will work Mondays and Tuesdays at the hospital and Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the emergency medical service office. He will be the full-time emergency medical services director as of May 1.

"Within the last two months," Mr. Patton said, "we have had some turmoil in our emergency medical service. I am proud of our emergency medical technicians. They do an admiral job."

They talked briefly about billing, with no decision being made.



Jenna Confer - first on both her vocal and clarinet solo.



Bailey Merklin - first on her vocal solo.



Sydney Sundstrom - first on her trumpet solo.

Music students perform well at regional contest

Three soloists earned four I ratings at the 1-2-3-4A Regional Music Festival and have qualified to go to the State Music Festival. The regional festival was held in Oberlin on Saturday.

Earning I ratings were Bailey Merklin, vocal solo; Sydney Sundstrom, trumpet solo; and Jenna Confer, vocal solo and clarinet solo. Also performing well, and receiving II ratings, were

Hannah Wolff, snare drum solo; Wade Jones, violin solo; Kattie Jenik, flute solo; Katie Schmid, vocal solo; and Taryn Zweygardt, vocal solo.

The IA State Music Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, in Wichita. The four-week interval between regional and state gives the students time to implement the suggestions for improvement that were made by the judges on

Saturday.

"I was very pleased with the quality of all of our performances," said Debbie Fiala, St. Francis Community High School music instructor. "All of the student soloists, except Bailey, are freshmen and sophomores, so it will be exciting to see their talent develop even more in the next couple years."

Board accepts resignation

By Amanda Miller
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The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Thursday, March 27. It was announced that Judy Rockwood, chief executive officer of the hospital and director of nursing, was resigning.

Mrs. Rockwood began her report by encouraging everyone to fill out the rural health task-force survey. The hospital is hoping for a good response, as this will also count for the community needs assessment that the hospital must complete every three years. She also said a tornado drill had been held on March 4 that went well.

The cement pad was poured on the west end of the hospital

where the MRI truck parks. The city still has not agreed to help pay for part of the expense, but the hospital had to proceed because they do not want a broken water main, she said. This parking area will be out of service for three weeks. The city has allowed the trucks to park in the street during this time.

Mrs. Rockwood then handed out her letter of resignation. She said that she has enjoyed her time here and loves this community, but she will be getting married. She will be starting a new position as chief nursing officer at Rice County District Hospital in Lyons. Her last day with Cheyenne County Hospital will be April 23.

Les Lacy, vice president for Great Plains Health Alliance,

then explained what the process will be when the chief executive officer resigns. Great Plains will begin a search for Mrs. Rockwood's replacement.

The Rawlins County Health Center in Atwood, that Great Plains manages, just hired a new administrator. Therefore there is currently a pool of applicants. If necessary, an interim administrator can be put in place until a new one is hired. The top candidates will be brought to the board. However, the final decision on who will replace Mrs. Rockwood is Great Plains Health Alliance's.

Mrs. Rockwood told the board that Brenda Hays has accepted the director of nursing on an interim basis.

March went out like a lion!

March was a mixture of spring-like temperatures and January cold, snow and wind.

However, the end of March was cold and windy. People anxious to dig their garden and do yard work have put their rake away for another week.

Monday, forecasted wind speeds were 25 to 40 miles an hour with some gusts up to 60 miles an hour.

At about 4:30 p.m., the Kansas Department of Transportation closed K-27 between Goodland and Wheeler due to visibility

issues caused by blowing dirt. They reopened about two hours later, but the wind continued to blow until about sunset.

Tuesday morning, residents woke to a cool 26 degrees and it was cloudy. The sun did come out and temperatures were in the 50s.

The area needs rain. The National Weather Service in Goodland is forecasting a 50-percent chance of snow on Thursday and possible rain Saturday night and Sunday.

Date	High	Low	Prec
Mar. 25	57	23	
Mar. 26	75	29	
Mar. 27	53	30	.08
Mar. 28	58	22	
Mar. 29	71	24	
Mar. 30	72	37	
Mar. 31	54	22	



DRAMA CLASS students presented their annual production, 'Superfreaks' Sunday and Monday. Pictured are Sydney Sundstrom, Ian Schmid and Ali Schlepp.

Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper