

Hospital reports to commissioners

By Karen Krien
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A group representing the Cheyenne County Hospital were present at the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, April 15.

Judy Rockwood, hospital administrator and director of nursing, was the spokesperson. She reported that outpatient volume for March at 4,298 was up as well as lab and X-rays. Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, asked why the outpatient volume was up? The reply was "flu." Both Ms. Rockwood and Heidi Tice, hospital employee, agreed that March is flu season and the volume generally goes up during this time.

Ms. Rockwood reported that Tish Loker started April 1 as the clinic manager. A full-time registered nurse, Shanda Cassaw, had been hired to replace a registered nurse who will be working in surgeries.

The sleep study service is about ready for patients. The service will be performed at the hospital.

She had information on Great Plains Health Alliance, requirements on being a Critical Access Hospital and what is a Rural Health Clinic (The county hospital is a Critical Access

Hospital and the clinic is a Rural Health Clinic).

Ms. Rockwood has resigned from her duties. She thanked the commissioners for their support. Dale Patton, commissioner chairman, thanked Ms. Rockwood for coming in each month and for caring.

Others coming in with Ms. Rockwood and Mrs. Tice were Shawna Blanka, Reid Raile and Roxie Neitzel.

911 communications

Terry Rieger, 911 Communication director, gave a brief report on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the 911 department. The state of Kansas, he said, is going to be addressing the problems and will cover the costs. The addressing problems in Cheyenne County, he said, are the same kind of problems all over the state. The Geographic Information Systems will remap everything and the county should be completed by July.

Our equipment, Mr. Rieger said, is antiquated but so are a lot of the other offices throughout the state. The state has decided to buy the same systems for all 911 offices across the state. We were wise, when, several months ago, we decided to wait to purchase the systems. Several counties had

already bought systems which may not work with the state's preference.

Cheyenne County will be the first county to have the new system. He said the state wants the system in by October. There may be some expense, he said, but he wasn't sure what it would be.

He called for executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made after coming out of the session.

Landfill

Habib Ghali, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, talked about how to secure land for a future landfill, small arid landfills, and general solutions to lengthening landfill life. The county, he said, got lucky when hiring Byron Moberly as the landfill supervisor. He has done an excellent job!

Mr. Moberly and Dave Flemming, public works director, were also present. Mr. Moberly noted that he has started charging extra to those bringing items to the landfill that were not supposed to go into the landfill pit. Some of those items included large plastic covers.

Audit bids

Two audit bids had been submitted for review. Mapes and Miller's bid was \$19,950 and Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, \$20,890. It was noted that Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball are the auditors for the city and school. However, Mapes and Miller representatives had come to the commissioners' last meeting and was familiar with the software used by the county.

Budget time is getting close. Mr. Patton said, We need to get someone selected.

Mapes and Miller was awarded the contract.

In other business

- Bruce Webb, county appraiser, and Amanda Milne, deputy appraiser, asked for 10 minutes of executive session to discuss personnel. No decisions made.

- Jeanne Dunn, register of deeds, reported she had more training and will then be certified.

- The commissioners reviewed invoices for Ms. Milne's lodging mileage and costs paid to Yost for ambulance inspections.

- Mr. Patton questioned that since Leanna Wendell has pled guilty, will the county continue to be responsible for paying for her jail keep? The county attorney was not there so Mr. Patton said he would ask at a later meeting.

- Wage agreements for Deb Lindsten as county clerk and Scott Houtman, deputy clerk, were signed.

- Sheriff Cody Beeson asked for 10 minutes of executive session so that he could discuss public safety. Chairman Patton announced no decisions would be made.

- Helen Dobbs, Cheyenne County Development Corporation director, reminded the commissioners that westernkjobs.com is available to advertise any job openings.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Wednesday, April 30, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



JAYCE LANDERS helps his little sister fill her Easter basket at the elementary school on Saturday.
Herald staff photo by Mande Miller

Kansas wheat yield contest kicks off

Now that the 2014 Kansas wheat crop is breaking dormancy, achieving top yields is on the minds of wheat farmers. With Mother Nature's help, your best management practices could be just the ticket to earn you a quick \$1,000 in cash, if you enter the Kansas Wheat Yield Contest.

Now in its fifth year, the contest includes three regions: Region 1 (Western Kansas), Region 2 (Central Kansas) and Region 3 (Eastern Kansas). Producers achieving the top yield in each region receive a \$1,000 cash prize and plaque from Kansas Wheat and corporate co-sponsor, BASF.

Yield Contest sponsors also offer additional cash awards. Winners who use an AgriPro, WestBred, Plains Gold, LimaGrain or Kansas Wheat Alliance variety

will receive an additional \$500 cash prize from those companies, respectively.

For the fourth year in a row, contest entrants will be eligible to participate in the Quality Initiative of the Wheat Yield Contest. Each contest participant will be asked to submit a 5-pound sample of wheat from the contest field. The sample will be evaluated for quality components such as test weight, protein content, variety and kernel quality. Top scoring samples will undergo further testing at ADM Milling's Quality Laboratory in Kansas City. The sample with the top quality score will receive \$250 in cash.

Western Region winner Chuck Downey cinched both the region award and the Quality Initiative in the 2013 contest. Using the

Syngenta variety SY Wolf and with less than five inches of rain during the wheat growing season, Downey yielded 70.05 bushels per acre to win the contest.

The May 1 deadline is approaching quickly, so be sure to enter the contest soon.

Folks who enter the contest will be asked to share management information about their farm, including details about tillage and agronomic practices, crop protection products usage and more. A third party verifier will be employed at harvest to ensure the integrity of the contest.

Wheat farmers who are 18 years or older from throughout Kansas are eligible to participate by enrolling a plot at least five acres in size. The fee is \$50 per entry. Producers may enter more

than once, but each entry must be submitted on a separate entry form. Kansas Wheat directors, employees and spouses are prohibited from entering the contest. Contestants must use certified seed. The contest is open only to dryland fields planted to certified Hard Winter wheat.

Contest winners will receive their awards at the 2014 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.

For those who are interested in accepting the challenge, more details about the 2014 Kansas Wheat Yield Contest can be found online at www.kswheat.com, by requesting an information packet via e-mail at kswheat@kswheat.com, or by writing to Kansas Wheat, 1990 Kimball Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502.

Light the way to a cure

Keep the fire of hope burning by purchasing a luminaria candle in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, or in special recognition of someone who has beaten this dreaded disease.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF CHEYENNE COUNTY
SATURDAY – JUNE 7
NOON TO MIDNIGHT
AT SAWHILL PARK IN ST. FRANCIS

Complete this form and send it along with your donation to:
The Saint Francis Herald, P.O. Box 1050, Saint Francis, Ks. 67756

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Daytime Phone: _____

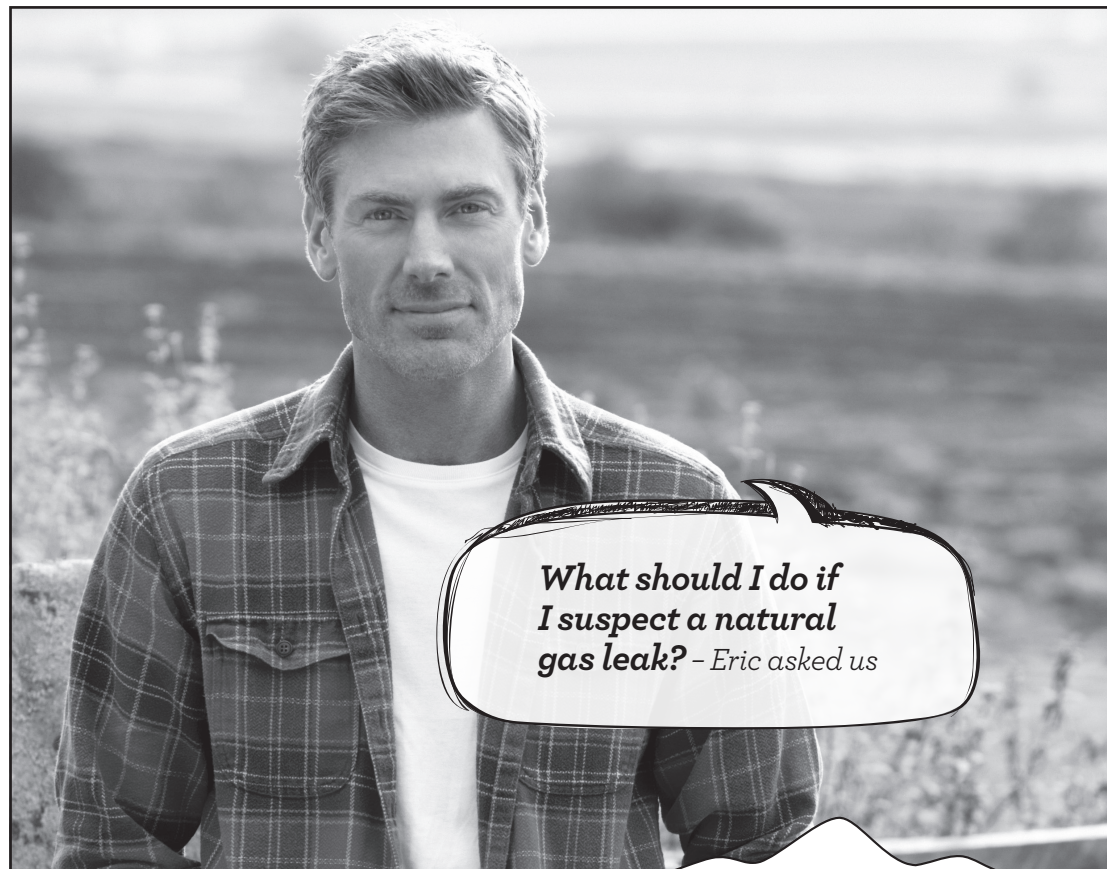
Please join us for the luminaria ceremony at 9 p.m. or dark
\$10.00 per luminaria please!

In honor of In memory of

 In honor of In memory of

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TOTAL ENCLOSED _____
Makes Checks Payable To: The American Cancer Society



What should I do if I suspect a natural gas leak? - Eric asked us

That's an important question, Eric.
Natural gas has an excellent safety record, but faulty appliances, misuse and incidents can cause a leak. You can't see a leak, but a tell-tale odor of rotten eggs should alert you.

- If you think you smell natural gas:**
- Get everyone out of the building immediately — leave the door open as you exit.
 - Once outside, call 911 or the emergency number below.
 - As you leave, don't touch light switches, electrical appliances, phones or doors and windows. A spark of static electricity could ignite a leak.
 - Wait well away from the building for emergency personnel.

If you think you smell natural gas, leave immediately and call 911 or our 24-hour emergency number: 800-694-8989.

