

County hospital board moves ahead with remodeling

By Karen Krien

The remodeling of the clinic in St. Francis was discussed when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on July 18.

Living Independently In Northwest Kansas (LINK) representative, Rick Knight had informed the administrator that there were some minor changes in the clinic remodeling that needed to be made to meet American Disability Act codes. He said he was recommending these changes before the work was done to avoid making adjustments after the remodeling was completed.

Some of the changes included: the kind of door knobs, handrails and elevator controls installed.

It was noted that the bid opening date for contractors doing the work on the clinic had been postponed to 2 p.m. on July 30. This move was to make sure that all contractor's questions were fully answered and the board could get the best prices available from all bidding parties.

Some of the board members questioned some of the specifications in the plans, especially about the bricks. One contractor was concerned that those bricks could not be matched unless specially ordered and then, that would make the recommended price higher. There was also a question about the contractor providing a heated and air-conditioned trailer.

Hospital elevator

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, had received a certified letter concerning the hospital's elevator. It recommended that the elevator have a high-pressure test for \$375. The cost of the test was not a problem to the board but several board members were worried that, if the test were performed, it could blow some of the working parts of the elevator.

Members discussed putting off the test until the lab and X-ray could be moved upstairs because it would be almost impossible to take some patients down the stairs to these depart-

Hospital audit passes

By Karen Krien

Durrell Kelly from Grant Thornton, an audit company, presented the hospital's audit when he met with the Cheyenne County Hospital Board on July 18. The audit showed no major problems and board members were encouraged to ask questions.

One of the questions concerned the audit company and if the company is an employee of Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, or if it was independent.

Mr. Kelly explained that Grant

Thornton was a nationally known audit company and the audit at the Cheyenne County Hospital was considered as an independent audit. It was noted that this issue has always been a concern of the commissioners.

Mr. Kelly assured the board that the company did not do all of Great Plains' hospital audits. He also pointed out that there is no incentive for the administrator or Great Plains to create a "bottom line" — no vested interest but definitely understood their concern as they were dealing with taxpayer's money.

ments. However, on the other side, there was the worry that the elevator would "blow" with patients and/or staff on board and there could be injuries.

Administrator Lacy said that he does not know of any danger to people riding the elevator — that this is just a precautionary test.

It was decided to send the letter to Roger John, director of Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital. If there were to be a liability coverage, the Alliance would be responsible. He will report back at the next meeting.

Tax credits awarded

The board was informed that the county had been awarded \$210,000 in tax credits to help raise \$300,000 for the Cheyenne County Hospital. The money will be used to put in a new ambulance entrance and heating and air-conditioning system.

The tax credits provide a mechanism to steer a large portion of their state income taxes back to Cheyenne County.

The first deadline in 2002 is Dec. 31

with the second deadline being Dec. 31, 2003.

In other business

In other business: The board okayed school funding for Trista Krieh, nursing student. She will then come back to the county hospital to work.

The board authorized that the administrator, Susan Roelfs and Candi Hetrick write grants for the hospital and clinic.

The hospital received its cost report settlement check for 2001. This check is just over \$200,000 and represents the amount the hospital was underpaid by the Medicare program in that year.

There had been more patients cared for at the hospital in the month of June and the outpatient volume had been a little slower. However, the hospital had been able to meet its cash needs since the last board meeting.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 15 in the basement of the clinic across the street from the hospital in St. Francis.



LAWN RIDGE 4-H CLUB members built a trailer, with the help of 4-H leader Brain Ford, to sell tickets as a fund raiser for the club. Those pictured are Justin Sherlock, Scott Ford Cody Sherlock, Megan and Kattie Ford. Not pictured are Chance and Brooks Hobrock.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Ropers and barrel racers compete

By Karen Krien

A local team roping and barrel racing will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday night of the fair in front of the fairgrounds.

Cliff Pilkington, chairman of the event, reported that 30 to 50 roping teams have already indicated that they will be competing. The contests are open to everyone in the county and following the show, there will be additional roping.

The stock is being provided by the Northwest Kansas Team Roping Association.

The entry is cash only and will cost the team \$20 for three head, however, teams can enter as many times as they want. Buckles will be given for the first prize and cash prizes will be awarded for second and third.

Barrel racing

The National Barrel Horse Association District KS07 is sponsoring a barrel race that same night and entries will open at 5:30 p.m. Membership in the association is not required to enter this race.

There will be the Pee Wee race for kids 8 and under, Youth Barrels for 18 and under, and the open class for all ages. The barrel race will be run in accordance with the Association's rules including the requirement of wearing a long-sleeve shirt and hat.

For more information or to enter early, contact KS07 district director, Shawna Blanka at 785-332-2875 or Deb Christy, KS07 district representative at 785-332-3053.

Rodeo and barrel racing action set

By Karen Krien

A full-fledged rodeo will be held at 7:30 on Friday night along with junior barrel racing. While the rodeo has many professions entered, there is room for the local riders but those planning to enter must call their entries in on July 25 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Cliff Pilkington, committee chairman, reported that this is absolutely necessary and the number is 580-349-5772.

The rodeo is put on by the Kansas Pro Rodeo Association and the Nebraska State Rodeo Association.

"We are expecting the same good

bucking stock from Yuma Rodeo Stock out of Torrington, Wyo., said Mr. Pilkington, noting that the owner had promised his best horses and bucking bulls to come to St. Francis.

"They will have had a break and should be buckin' pretty good by the time they get here."

Contests will include: bareback riding, calf roping, saddle bronc, ladies breakaway, steer wrestling, team roping, ladies barrels and bull riding.

"Last year we were a little short on rough stock riders but this year, there is more money to be won and hopefully, they will have suffered less injuries," Mr. Pilkington said. "There are also no other conflicts with other rodeos."

Barrel racing

In conjunction with the rodeo, a junior barrel race will be held during the rodeo. A maximum of 10 local entries can be taken and they will need to call Shawna Blanka at 785-332-2875 before Aug. 1

City cleanup still underway

Attorney Mike Day informed the St. Francis City Council that the petition instructing Erva Gene De Aragon to remove the white trailer house which sets back from College and Second streets was filed in district court.

Attorney Day has also sent notice to the owner of the property on 215 N. Adams concerning the trees in the city's power lines. The notice was sent by restricted mail and once 30 days elapse from the time the notice

is received, the city will then be able to go in and remove the trees. The cost will be incurred unto the property owner's taxes.

The council then discussed other property cleanups. They felt that the property cleanups had worked best when they localized an area. Councilman Roger Jensen suggested working on cleaning up the highway property. Superintendent J.R. Landenberger asked that he speak personally to those property owners needing to clean their property up first and then report back to the next council meeting. It should be noted that property east of Lorraine Street is out of the city limits.

Superintendent Landenberger said that the city has been cleaning alleys with a few complaints from residents. He explained that the alleys needed to be clear in order for the trash truck to get through and that they were only clearing the city's right-of-way which is 18 to 20 feet.

The council approved for Attorney Day to submit to the city's insurance a claim concerning a resident tripping over a concrete slab in the alley between the Bier's Hometown Store and the 100th block of West Washington Street. Superintendent Landenberger will check into removing the slab.

Council discuss new city hall remodeling project

At the St. Francis City Council meeting on July 16, Councilman Roger Jensen noted that the remodeling of the new city hall is proceeding as scheduled.

A bill from Penn Building for partial payment was submitted and approved.

Chief of Police Jason Ryan said he had discussed the holding cell lighting fixture and duct work in the new building with other law officials. The council felt that, no longer than a person would be held there and the fact that there would be an officer present at all times, a wire mesh covering the light would be sufficient coverage. The duct work was also discussed.

Councilwoman Kay Shay excus-

ing herself from the meeting and the council approved to have Rodney Shay, certified appraiser, appraise the facility on 113 West Washington. His fee is \$400.

Councilman Jensen asked if the appraised value would be open for public knowledge. He felt that one option to selling the facility would be to put it out on bids and that if the appraised value was not open to the public there would be a chance of getting more money for the building.

Attorney Mike Day noted that he would check into the matter.

The council approved for Mayor Scott Schultz, when ordering the tile for the new city hall building, to also order the tile for the kitchen in the building.



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