



## Staff is back to work in clinic

By Karen Krien

The newly remodeled clinic is open and the staff is back to seeing patients in the facility.

Administrator Les Lacy made the announcement at the Thursday morning Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting. He said the staff had moved back into the remodeled clinic with very few "glitches."

The administrator had information on

what has been paid out for the clinic remodeling. By the time all payments have been made, the total cost of the project will be \$392,844. The amount for the remodeling had originally been set at around \$400,000.

Tile for the clinic basement floor was discussed and it was decided that they would go ahead and order the tile needed for the specified area in the basement as well as the bathrooms upstairs. The cost of the tile from

Schultz's is \$520 for the basement and \$210 for the bathrooms. The board does not plan to have the bathrooms tiled for the time being but when the time comes, the tile will match the other tile upstairs in the clinic. After discussion the purchase was tabled.

Recently, there was very small amount of water leaking in the clinic. The administrator and board discussed the situation and it was decided that until the final grade is com-

pleted, there is a chance of water leaking into the facility and they were encouraged that there was no water in the elevator pit.

The board discussed the cost of the sprinkler system for the hospital lawn. The cost is \$6,097 which includes \$2,500 labor but the matter was tabled until after the bids come in.

Administrator Lacy will be attending the American Telemedicine Association An-

nual Convention in Orlando, Fla., as chairman of High Plains Rural Health Network, noting that the Network is covering the cost.

### Administrator's report

The administrator had a number of items to discuss with the board including that, while the number of patients using the hospital had been "lagging" in mid April, the number of outpatients had leveled out in the

See CLINIC on Page 8

## Social service office closing in St. Francis

By Karen Krien

Cheyenne County residents will soon be losing their Social Rehabilitation Service office and, while the head officials say people will not be losing services, there appeared to be a "difference of opinion" at a meeting held Wednesday, April 16.

Steve Kohnle, area director of the 21 northwest Kansas counties, along with several other Social Rehabilitation Service officials, made the announcement at the meeting to a handful of interested people. He said that there were no layoffs — that employment was offered in a different place but the closing of the county office has left two women unemployed, Patricia Leiker and Kathleen Ewing. Mrs. Leiker said that she could have "bumped" someone in Rooks County but chose not to and Ms. Ewing, who has worked in the Cheyenne County office for 23 years, said she was also offered a job in eastern Kansas but



Kohnle

chose not to move. Besides, like Mrs. Leiker, she would have had to bump another person.

"I hate to see the office close and not just because I am losing my job but because there are a lot of jobs but because there are a lot of jobs

See CLOSING on Page 8

## Robbery reported at farmsupplyshop

By Karen Krien

Yost Farm Supply, east of St. Francis on U.S. 36, was broken into Saturday morning and two computers and cash were taken.

Owner Dave Yost called the sheriff's department early Sunday morning when he made the discovery.

Undersheriff Cliff Flock, who worked the case, reported that the robbers entered the building by breaking a window on the east and used the back door when they left.

The robbers took a diagnostic computer costing between \$9,000

and \$12,000, another computer plus around \$300 in cash. They also damaged some file cabinets when they tried to pry them open.

On April 4, VanAllen Implement, Wheeler, was also broken into and two computers plus cash and some miscellaneous items were taken.

The undersheriff did not think the two robberies were related. Sheriff officers are still investigating both crimes. A cell phone taken from Van Allen's was recovered in Colby but the rest of the items are still missing.



HOW 'BOUT AN EGG — Easter Bunny Janessa Nelsen gave Isaiah Lee a pretty Easter egg during the activities on Saturday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Athletes meet in Sainty

By Betty Jean Winston

With the track season and the school year both moving along at a rapid paced, it is now time for the Indians to host the 36th annual St. Francis Community High School Invitational Track Meet.

The competition is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon with the field events to begin at 3 p.m. This includes both the boys and girls shot put, discus, long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault and javelin.

It is hoped that the weather will cooperate, with warm temperatures and calm winds. Even in Kansas this can happen.

A nice field of participants is expected with invitations being sent to high school athletes from Atwood, Bethune, Brewster, Burlington, Cheylin, Herndon, Hoxie, Idalia, Oakley, Oberlin, Sharon Springs, Triplains, Tribune, Weskan and Wray.

Prelims will be held in the high and intermediate hurdles, the 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash beginning at 3:45 p.m. The top six finishers in these events will move on to the finals later in the afternoon. All running events are scheduled to begin at 4:45 p.m. with the girls 3200-meter run first on the agenda.

"It should be a good meet," Coach Tim Lambert said. "There will be a lot of teams."

First and second place team plaques will be awarded in both the girls and boys division with medals presented through five places in all individual events and relays.

St. Francis tracksters are hoping to show new personal bests in each of their events. So far this year only one school record has been broken and that was at the Hoxie meet when Kelsey Andrist threw a distance of 109 feet, 2 inches in the javelin to set a new St. Francis record.

## Car Committee making final plans for May 10 show

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Cruisers members recently met to make the final plans for the Cruiser Car Show to be held on May 10 around Sawhill Park in St. Francis.

Scott Schultz, chairman of the committee, reported that the show is going to be bigger than last year with vehicles coming from Thornton and Sterling, Colo., as well as Garden City, Goodland and Benkelman.

"Word is getting out and there are already a number of entries that were not here last year," Mr. Schultz said.

This year, there will be two blocks on Main and Jackson streets and those streets going north and south in between. Bikes and skate boards will be ban from the area so those coming to the show will be assured that there will be no damage done to their vehicles and those viewers will

not have to deal with the confusion.

Those entering before May 1 may be the winner of a set of tires donated by Becker Tire and St. Francis Tire and Service. However, entries will be taken up to noon on May 10 with the registration table opening at 9 a.m.

Throughout the day, there will be a Poker Walk, a swap meet, radio-controlled cars (across the street on the grade school playground),

Chicken Bingo, a "blow-up" car and the final awards ceremony.

One of the main events of the day will be the parade of cars. At that time, cars will parade down Main Street and then up to the Good Samaritan Village. The parade route will be published nearer to the day of the event so people can take their lawn chairs to the route to watch the cars as they go by. Those who would like to go to the park and see the cars

but their health will not allow them to walk that far will be happy to know that there will be golf carts available just for their convenience.

The sophomore class will be selling coffee and rolls in the morning. The Chamber will host a barbecue at noon and will have drinks throughout the day, and the Shriner's Wagon will be there to sell drinks, popcorn and cotton candy.

To finish out the day, the

Fireman's Ball will be held at Riverside Recreation. The St. Francis show is a one-day event and many last two-days. Some of those showing vehicles will want to spend the night and take advantage of all the activities.

Next week, there will be more information about some of the cars which will be in the show and what it takes to restore some of the "beauties."

## Sainty Alumni celebration scheduled for June 21

By Karen Krien

The 46th annual St. Francis Community High School Alumni Reunion will be held on June 21 (not June 14).

Shirley Zweygardt, alumni coordinator and secretary, said she has had a number of calls confirming the date and reminds all alumnus that the celebration is always on the third Saturday of June.

This year's slate of events will be much like it was last year with the dinner being moved from the park to the high school. The evening will start with registration from 5 to 6 p.m. All alumni are to meet in the gym by 6 p.m. and each class will have their picture taken.

Following pictures, a baked steak dinner will be served in the cafeteria. There will not be a dance held. Honor classes are urged to make plans for the evening after the meal has been served.

"Due to lack of interest, no new officers were elected at last year's reunion," said Ms. Zweygardt. "So far, I have been unable to put a Planning Committee together so I am doing my best to organize the reunion by myself.

"Hopefully, a few volunteers will step forward to help me set up and take down tables and chairs the day of the reunion."

Classes honored at the 2003 reunion are 1933, 1938, 1943, 1948,

1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1993. Alumni in these classes will be directly contacted with additional plans, if any. Those not hearing from their class chairman should make contact with them or Ms. Zweygardt.

Registrations for the alumni meal need to be made by June 16 by calling Ms. Zweygardt at 785-332-2286 or writing her at: Box 317, St. Francis, KS 67756. Those wanting their tickets mailed to them must enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with their remittance. Otherwise, the tickets will be retained and alumni may pick them up at the registration desk the night of the reunion.



REP. JERRY MORAN greeted Connie Jenkins, R.N. during his tour of the Cheyenne County Hospital on Thursday morning. Rep. Moran is a strong supporter of Critical Access Hospitals which is what the county hospital is.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

# Blue Star banners indicate family member is in service

The Blue Star Service Banners are being displayed by families who have a loved one serving in the armed forces including the National Guard and Reserves of all military departments. The banner shows the family's pride and reminds others that these people serving the country are preserving America's freedom.

The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front line. It quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service.

The blue star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that this is the number serving.

If the individual symbolized is killed or dies while serving, the star representing that individual will have superimposed on it a gold star of smaller size so that the blue forms a border. On flags displaying multiple stars, including gold star, when the flags are suspended as against a wall, the gold star(s) will be to the right of or

above the blue star(s), a place of honor nearest the staff.

### Where to get the banners

The American Legion is rekindling the spirit of pride in the military men and women following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks by providing banners to families in communities across the nation. Free color downloads are available at

www.legion.org of the banners and static cling versions for home and automobile as well as label pins. The American Legion also has a special Blue Star Banner Corporate Flag for government and corporate America to show their support for employees called to active duty in the war against terrorism.

## Book Review

### The Cat Who Went Up the Creek

Book review from

St. Francis Public Library

By Lilian Jackson Braun

Pickax's favorite columnist, James Qwilleran, is enjoying a brief vacation at the Nutcracker Inn, in the nearby town of Black Creek - though his two Siamese, who prefer the spaciousness of their home, beg to differ. At least the many squirrels that have free rein on the grounds of the inn provide some measure of entertainment for Koko and Yum Yum, while Qwill unearths lots of material for his book-in-progress, *Tall and Short Tales*.

But the tranquillity of the place is interrupted by the discovery of a

body floating down the creek - the body of a man who had been a guest at the inn. And a possible motive for his murder is suggested when several gold nuggets are found in his possession. Might he have been illegally prospecting for gold in the Black Forest Conservancy, or perhaps beneath the creek? Seems someone else wanted that gold more than he did...

With her 24th Cat Who... mystery, Lilian Jackson Braun once again demonstrates why Qwill, Koko, and Yum Yum are permanent fixtures in the world of clever and crafty crime-solvers.



**CHECKIN' HIS BUFFALO** — Colton Rethke, center, is a part owner of a herd of buffalo north of town. Others pictured are grandma Patsy Rethke and uncle Mike. On Saturday, seven buffalo had been born and the next day, there were 14. Interesting fact: Colton's dad Bill said that buffalo seldom calf during bad weather.



## CLOSING

Continued from Page 1A

being lost," Ms. Leiker said. "It's a shame but there's not too much we can do."

"We are struggling to keep the offices open," said Mr. Kohnle.

However, he said that the closing of the offices was not saving money — the staff wanted to become more efficient. For the time being, the Cheyenne County office is open on Mondays by a person traveling from Oberlin.

The offices in all but five counties in northwest Kansas will be closed, leaving those open in Goodland, Colby, Great Bend, Hays and Phillipsburg. Cheyenne County residents will eventually need to make contact with one of these offices.

Mr. Kohnle said that the service office will be requiring less face-to-face contact as federal law and agency policies now make it possible to serve many of the consumers from regional service centers. He also stressed that citizens of the county will not need to drive to another Social Rehabilitation Service office.

There will be a toll-free number access and the staff is aware that doing business over the telephone can create some barriers to a small number of people. However, they are beginning the process of developing new approaches in how they assist people in filling out forms and explaining complex concepts over the telephone.

People in need can also use a computer as the service is now developing an on-line application. The electronic benefits Vision Card customers will now be able to activate the card over the phone instead of going to one of the offices.

Mr. Kohnle said that when it is necessary, there will be in-person contact at a place that is agreed upon.

Reva Pownell, county Food Pantry coordinator, pointed out that there are people in need of Social Rehabilitation Services who do not have a phone. Mr. Kohnle said that there will be local access places in the county where they can use the 800 number.

Mrs. Pownell said there are a number of people in the county who are not using the service because they are too proud or do not know how to go about asking for help and, by taking the office out of the county, there will be many of these people who will "fall between the cracks."

Jane Brubaker, commissioner, said that it is fortunate that the communities are small and when someone needs help, there is generally someone there to help them.

Mrs. Powell said that what many of these people need, besides financial help, is someone to talk to. They also do not have a lot of self confidence — they are not "forward" enough.

Carla Lampe, St. Francis, said that there were people who were not comfortable in using the phone.

Tina Elliott, representing the county hospital, thought there were a number of people who were unaware of the Social Rehabilitation Services and there were a number of people who use their facility who need help. She said the hospital and clinic would be glad to be an access point.

### County has only 4 percent

Cheyenne County only represents 4 percent of the people getting help in the state of Kansas and, after asking for a total, the staff came up with 217 cases being served in the county. In the 46 counties in western Kansas, 11 percent of the people are getting help in the state. Wichita, which is not considered "western Kansas," has 20 percent of the cases.

Mrs. Leiker said that the "small communities are getting hammered" — they are not getting the help they need and the people in Topeka don't seem to care.

Mrs. Pownell said that those getting financial help were constantly getting cut, pointing out that Medicaid will no longer pay for eye care and glasses nor will they cover dental care.

"What are these people supposed to do? They don't have any money to pay for glasses or dental care," she said.

She also told about an individual in town who is supposed to survive with only \$13 in food stamps.

Mr. Kohnle said that with the government's cuts in child care, the costs of Health Wave premiums are going up and those who paid \$10 to \$15 will now be paying \$30 to \$45 per child. And, if the parent is unable to pay the premium, they will not have health insurance.

### Ever open again?

The question was asked if the county office would ever open up again once the finances were better. Mr. Kohnle indicated that it would not open again, saying that every year there are more users lost — "We really need to have an increase and that hasn't been the pattern."

It was pointed out that the Cheyenne County office was only open one day a week. Mrs. Lampe said that for many people, being open only one day a week was not real visible — maybe there should have been something that would have brought more awareness to that fact.

Mrs. Pownell said that it took a lot of nerve for some people to even go to the office and when they found it closed most of the time, they just didn't go back.

### Future plans

The Social Rehabilitation Services representatives attending the meeting said they would be developing better information and putting the information including applications with a self-addressed envelope to return the application. There will be pamphlets with fact sheets, fliers and simple instructions on how to complete the application process.

There will be a 1-800 number. When needed, the staff will travel and there will be convenient meeting places.

The service is looking for any agency or place of business willing to host an access site so the citizens of the community will continue to access the needed services. If interested, contact 785-628-1066 and ask to speak with Mr. Kohnle or send an email to gsk@srskansas.org.

## CLINIC

Continued from Page 1

last two weeks. However, the hospital had needed \$55,000 in board funds to make payroll.

For over a year, the hospital administrator and board have been seeking individuals and businesses who would like to participate in the Community Service tax credits program. The tax credits will fund the \$300,000 hospital project while giving tax breaks to those who chose to participate.

The administrator said that there is only \$30,000 in tax credits left to be used and if county residents and business people wish to participate, they need to call the hospital now and commit to the number of tax credits they want. Administrator Lacy said that he was confident that the tax credits would be filled.

Also concerning the hospital project was the fact that the city of St. Francis is covering the cost of a fire-plug, transformer, primary and secondary conductors which are necessary in the hospital remodeling. The city crew will also be making primary and secondary connections.

"We have had excellent cooperation from the city," the administrator said.

### In other business

In other business:

- The board is mailing out letters to each individual in the county asking that they support the hospital, doctors, nurses and staff.

- The administrator and board agreed help Crystal Murray through the Nursing Scholarship Program. Crystal, who is a student in nursing at Colby Community College, will come back to the county to work.

- The board treasurer, Mrs. Neitzel reported she had put hospital building funds into certificates of deposit. The certificates are with time limits which will allow withdrawals without penalties but will still be earning some interest.

### Area director's report

Jackie John, Great Plains Health Alliance area director, went over the financials with the board and reported on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act regulations which are dealing primarily with "privacy" of patients. Mrs.

John noted that people will notice a definite change in how patients' privacy is handled... basically, unless the patient designates certain people to receive information, the hospital will not release any.

### Special hospital board meeting

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet in special session at 2 p.m. on May 1 in the board meeting room in the clinic basement across the street from the hospital in St. Francis. The meeting has been called to open the bids for the hospital project. The meeting was originally scheduled for April 22 but the administrator said that the bid date had been extended in order to get more bids. At 1:30 that same day, former board members Leon Brethower and Kelly Gienger will be recognized.

### Next regular meeting

The next regular meeting of the board has been set for 7 p.m. on May 15 in the board room in the basement of the clinic.

# Representative accepting applications for academies

Congressman Jerry Moran is accepting applications for nominations to the U.S. Service Academies. The academies include the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs; the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.; the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y. Those selected will enter the academies in June 2004.

Selections are based on Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or America College Test (ACT) test scores, class rank, grade point average,

school records, extracurricular activities, leadership potential, motivation, recommendations, and interview evaluations. Applicants must be legal residents of the state of Kansas, at least 17 years of age but not past their 23rd birthday on July 1 of the year of admission, citizens of the United States, unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents. The test scores are required.

If nominated by Congressman Moran, the applicants then must meet the individual admission re-

quirements of each academy. The academies will make the final decision on who will receive an appointment of admission. Due to limited placement, Congressman Moran encourages all interested candidates to apply also to the offices of U.S. Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback.

Interested applicants should send a letter requesting application materials to: Congressman Jerry Moran; Attn: Service Academy Selection, P.O. Box 1128, Hutchinson, KS 67504-1128.

# For Return on Investment

The Direct Marketing Association (DMA), in its Economic Impact Study says:

Newspaper advertising 'expenditures to sales ratio' for direct marketing advertising in 2002 is ranked first in efficiency."

## Return on Investment

In simpler terms, advertising is an investment. You can extrapolate these ratios to provide an average return on media marketing as such:

- Newspaper returns \$14.13
- Telephone Marketing \$8.96
- Direct Mail returns \$12.97
- Radio returns \$7.10
- Magazine returns \$10.20
- "Other" Media returns \$5.95
- Television returns \$5.87



Advertising is an investment in your business. And today to see how we can help you grow call Claire at 785-332-3162

# The Saint Francis Herald

310 W. Washington • St. Francis, KS  
785-332-3162