

## Hospital leads in planning grant

By Karen Krien

Cheyenne County Hospital will be the lead agency in a planning grant application aimed at the development of a community-wide electronic medical record.

The hospital board, at their Thursday meeting, was told that the hospital together with a group of community partners will be working together toward a broad-based solution for secure community-wide electronic medical records system. This system will improve

accurate transfer of information in a safe, secure manner with goals of improving patient safety, quality, and patient satisfaction. Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the agency which leases the hospital, said Cheyenne County was selected because of the efforts of Administrator Lacy and his work with Kan-Ed, a developing statewide network connecting Kansas schools, libraries, and hospitals.

"It is the fruits of his dedication and labor,"

she added.

The hospital will be working on the grant application in partnership with Kansas State University, Kan-Ed, Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas Department of Health and Environment Office of Local and Rural Health, and the Kansas Hospital Association.

### CT scan equipment

The hospital board discussed, at length, the need for a CT scan at the hospital. In the first

two months of the year, there have been 60 CT scans and the total patients needing CT scans last year was 187. If the need continues at this pace, there will be almost twice as many CT scans this year.

Rueben Schultz, board chairman, and Swede Calnon, board member, were both concerned that the public was not going to be hit up again for money.

Administrator Lacy said that he was looking at an "operations lease" which permits the

hospital to use operational funds for a capital investment. He discussed that the volume of CT scans has reached the point that makes it economically viable to do this with a margin of comfort.

Last year, it had cost \$18,533 to transport patients for CT scans. It would save the county commissioners money as they subsidize emergency medical technicians to make the transfers and it would probably save business. See LEAD on Page 7A

## Kids attend 4-H Day

Cheyenne County 4-H Day was held Saturday at the high school in St. Francis. There were 41 4-H'ers participating and 19 individuals plus two 4-H clubs plan to go on to Regional 4-H Day on April 2.

"There was a good turnout for 4-H Days and all of the 4-H'ers did an excellent job," said Tye Faulkender, Extension director.

Results of the County 4-H Day are:

### Life Skills Judging

Junior Division - 350 points possible: 271 - Mikaela Grace; 251 - Sydney Busse; 234 - Craig Busse; 226 - Stephanie Busse; 224 - Jarod Schafer; 221 - Heidi Yonkey; 214 - Scott Ford; 211 - C.J. Douthit; 200 - Caleb Keltz; 185 - Allyson Northrup; 176 - Robbie Parker; 169 - Valerie Wurm; 165 - Brianna Cooks; 160 - Thomas Douthit; 160 - Tia Sager; 156 - Lexee Reichert; 153 - Joshua Keltz; 143 - Jandy Dunn; 140 - Allison Grice

Senior Division - 600 points possible: 546 - Alecia Zimelman; 535 - Katelyn Jones; 495 - Amber Havel; 491 - Mckenzie Grace; 481 - Amy Hilt; 478 - Erica Douthit; 466 - Kattie Ford; 448 - Grant Keller; 395 - Megan Ford

### Readings

Junior division: Stephanie Busse - regional blue; Jacquelyn Ketzner - regional blue  
Intermediate division: Craig Busse - regional blue; Heidi Yonkey - blue; Scott Ford - blue  
Senior division: Megan Ford - regional blue; Katelyn Jones -



RESTING BEFORE THE DEMONSTRATION — Laura Brunk let her rabbit rest before the demonstration. Jandy Dunn checks it out. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

regional blue; Kattie Ford - blue

### Dance

Junior Division: Caitlin Northrup and Allyson Northrup - regional blue; Laura Brunk and Allison Grice - regional blue

### Skits

Plum Creek - regional blue; Pleas-

ant Hill - regional blue; Go-Getters - blue

### Model Meeting

Pleasant Hill - regional blue; Plum Creek - blue; Lawn Ridge - blue

### Project Talks

Junior Division: Joshua Keltz - regional blue; Laura Brunk - re-

gional blue; Bailey Long - blue  
Intermediate Division: Caleb Keltz - regional blue; Grady Brunk - regional blue

### Demonstrations and illustrated talks

Junior Division: Valerie See 4-H on Page 7A

## City council saves \$18,934 on insurance

By Sandy Barnhart

After spending several weeks debating insurance coverage, the St. Francis City Council opted to stay with Blue Cross Blue Shield but signed with the self-funded policy. The total cost to the city for the year will be \$200,292.09 saving the city \$18,934.23.

A single plan will cost \$278.60 a month; employees with children - \$537.47; employees with spouse - \$598.70; employees with dependents - \$857.60.

### Renters

Dale Leydig was present to debate the city's fairness in minimum

charges of sewer - \$13.20, trash - \$9.50 and water - \$10. Mr. Leydig explained that when his renter had moved out of his house, both he and the renter had been charged the minimum amount for these services for the same month. After some discussion the council asked that city clerk Mary Lampe look into the matter.

### Donation

Councilman Roger Jensen reported that the 11 picnic tables had been placed at the Roadside Park. The generous gift to the city commemorates the Duncan family including: Ed and Lettie Duncan, Vivian See SAVES on Page 7A

## Storm spotters encouraged to attend training

The Cheyenne County basic storm spotter training class has been set for 7 p.m. on Monday at the St. Francis Community High School. Classes are free and open to all age groups.

Participants will discuss severe weather on the high plains, severe weather safety at home, school and work, as well as provide an in-depth look at severe storm spotting and reporting procedures.

Anyone interested in becoming a storm spotter or simply learning more about severe weather on the

High Plains is invited to attend. Each session will last 2 hours, 15 minutes.

Other classes will be held:

- Sherman County, 7 p.m., March 17, Goodland Armory (location tentative).
- Thomas County, 7 p.m., March 24, Colby Community Building.
- Rawlins County, 7 p.m., April 5, Prairie Development Center, Atwood.
- Dundy County, 7 p.m. mountain standard time on April 22 at the Benkelman High School (location tentative).

## Auction, prime rib and fun expected at annual banquet

The 18th annual Cheyenne County Wildlife banquet will start at 7 p.m. at the Bird City Legion hall on March 26. The auction will begin at 8 p.m. Besides a dinner of prime rib with all the trimmings, there will be drawings and door prizes awarded.

Cheyenne County Wildlife is ex-

tremely active in the county and the money used from the banquet and auction proceeds help with cost-share tree plantings and stocking trout in one of the local ponds. The organization also gives four scholarships to graduating students.

This year, to encourage membership, those joining with their paid

membership will enjoy the free prime rib meal along with the banquet activities.

To purchase a ticket to the banquet and auction, stop at Bumper-To-Bumper or Tri-State Lumber in St. Francis; McDougal-Sager Grain in Bird City; or contact any Cheyenne County Wildlife Board member.

## Call the city power plant for Spring Cleanup pick up

By Karen Krien

Those wanting items picked up and taken to the landfill during the St. Francis Spring Cleanup have until March 31 to call the power plant and let the city crew know.

St. Francis residents are fortunate to have a city council and crew who are anxious to help them by providing free Spring Cleanup where they will pick up big and small items and other things in between.

"Citizens having items to be picked up may call the power plant at 785-332-3031," J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis City Superintendent, said. "Anyone calling after the March 31 deadline will have to wait until the Fall Cleanup."

Unless the call is made, the city crew is not authorized to pick up items even if they are beside the trash container. Items to be hauled

away will need to be ready for the city crew no later than 8 a.m. on April 2. The items must be outside the home as the crew cannot enter homes to pick them up.

During the Spring Cleanup, the city will pick up yard waste for those who have no way to transport it to the collection site. Residents are asked to put yard waste in bags, boxes or containers which may be emptied or put on ground sheets. Again, be sure to call.

The city's pick up will also include tree branches but they must be kept separate from yard waste or they will not be picked up.

"The city is no longer able to pick up chemicals, paint or any petroleum products so please do not set them out," Superintendent Landenberger said.

The county will hold a Household

Hazardous Waste collection in the future and people are urged to take these items to the collection which is held at the landfill east of Wheeler.

### City has yard collection site

Many people have already started cleaning their yards and have piles of yard waste that they are wanting to get rid of. New this year, is the city's yard waste collection site south of the Recycling center by the roadside park.

In year's past, residents needed to take their yard waste to the landfill site east of Wheeler but new regulations will not allow the landfill site officials to take any more grass clipping, garden and small tree and bush items. (They can accept larger tree limbs if brought to the landfill site during opening hours and put in a special area.)



FIRE CHIEF George Harper, left, looked for clues in what started the fire at the John Finley farm on Friday. Firemen Derrick Tice and Rob Schiltz watered down burning embers. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Firemen called to three fires

By Karen Krien

Since March 13, firemen have been called to put out three fires.

The fire on Sunday started as a controlled burn in the pasture belonging to Rod and Vera Zwegardt located just north of the St. Francis city limits. Unfortunately, the wind caught the flames and it jumped the railroad tracks and headed steadily toward the home and outbuildings belonging to Harvey Walz. The fire traveled around a pond,

burning almost everything in its path but left the red windmill standing. It headed for the outbuildings and firemen fought to keep the flames from consuming them. In the meantime, the fire was moving closer to the house and the wind seemed to be picking up a little more. The flames licked the fence next to the house but firemen arrived in time to douse it.

Firemen spent most of the afternoon fighting the fire. Both the ru-

ral and city fire trucks were called into action before the fire was extinguished.

The fire on Friday was just a mile north of the Sunday fire, behind the houses of John Finley and Sharon Finley. The fire burned a small windbreak area but did not spread to the homes. Fire chief George Harper said the cause of the fire was not known at the time of printing. Little damage was reported.

See FIRE on Page 7A

# SAVES

## Continued from Page 1A

(Duncan) Amack, Edyth (Duncan) Baker, Edward "Shorty" Duncan, Clifford Duncan, Dale Duncan, Glenn Duncan, Ruth (Duncan) Glaser, Verda (Duncan) Smull, Doris (Duncan) Dallan and Lora Lee (Duncan) Swetnam. Names of the Duncan family will be posted on the six shelters.

### Senior Center

Art Krueger, representing the St. Francis Senior Center, updated the council on the financial status of the Center. Last year the council had budgeted \$5,000 for the Center. They agreed to distribute \$2,500 to the Center now and asked that Mr. Krueger come back around July for the remainder, which would also help remind the council to budget funds for the Center in 2005.

Mr. Krueger said that at the end of 2003, the Center's income was \$17,149 with expenses coming to \$14,054.60. He explained that even though the Center had come out ahead, it was due to several organizations holding fund-raising projects for the Center, which he felt was not something they could count on every year. Although Mr. Krueger added that the Homemakers Club has given money on a down payment for paint with the St. Francis Postal employees volunteering to paint the Center this summer.

Also last year, the Center was fortunate to have a Green Thumb employee which saved around \$2,000. Unfortunately the Center will not have that opportunity this year.

Last year, the Center served 11,938 meals with 9,408 being served in the facility and 2,450 meals delivered to homes. The income for the meals came to \$23,600 which was then sent to Hays to the Area On Agency Council who then buys the food for the meals and pays the head cook.

Mr. Krueger said that the Center will need a new roof this year and even though they have received a grant for \$5,000, they will still need to come up with approximately \$600. Future items which will need replacing will be the wiring and a freezer.

### Kan Step grant

At a previous meeting, the possibility of applying for a Kan Step grant to expand the firehouse had been discussed. The grant will require the city to have a volunteer list of 50 to 100 signatures for the

project and would also require a income survey which the city previously completed through the sewer grant.

Unfortunately after checking the time line for the survey, it was found that the past survey ran out the end of 2003 and the city will need to complete a new one. Therefore it is uncertain whether the council will pursue the Kan Step grant.

### Superintendent report

- The council approved to have Kip Rethke fix the roof at the power plant for an estimated cost of \$2,000.
- The council approved the purchase of a Kawasaki All-Terrain Vehicle Mule for spraying weeds and transporting items. The Mule has 650 hours at a cost of \$3,000. Originally the city had budgeted \$9,000 toward mowers. Superintendent J.R. Landenberger reported that the city's mowers are in good shape and should last approximately five years. The All-Terrain Vehicle would be used for spraying weeds and transporting items.
- The council approved for Arnold Pool Supply of Ogallala, Neb., to paint the pool for around \$3,400.
- The council approved the purchase of 50 tons of asphalt for \$80 a ton.

### Other business

• The council approved the use of Sawhill Park Aug. 21 and 22 for the Relay for Life.

### Building permits

Building permits were approved for the following residents and businesses: Robert McDanel, put up privacy fence; Ron Wilson, replace sidewalk and put up addition; Park Hill Restaurant, put up fence; Don Keeker, put up garage; Matt Moberly, put in deck and fence.

# LEADS

## Continued from Page 1A

owners who continue to pay the technicians when they make a run.

"The CT scan equipment should support itself financially," Administrator Lacy said.

Mr. Calnon wanted to know if there was someone on the staff who could operate the CT scan and where would it be housed?

Administrator Lacy said that Annalynn Gardner was trained to operate the CT scan and others in the lab and X-ray department could be trained. As for where to put the piece of equipment, the administrator said he would suggest putting it in a semi-trailer such as the mobile CT, which comes to St. Francis periodically, is now housed. It would be placed to the east of the hospital building and a walk built from the building.

### In other business

The board approved a pay application for \$278,814 to Rhoads Construction which will be turned in to the commissioners who will make the final approval. It was noted that the work progress and pay schedules are as planned.

The administrator said there will be an open house planned as soon as the hospital remodeling is completed. Since the staff was able to move into the new part of the hospital, there have been many favorable comments from the patients as well as those coming to visit patients.

Even though the hospital's mill levy is down this year, the county will support the hospital at the same level as last year. This is possible due to a carry over in taxes which will make up the difference, making money

coming from the county about the same as last year.

"We are in better shape than we had thought," Administrator Lacy said.

Amy Griffey, with Northwest Planning and Development, said to be able to comply with Community Development Block Grant requirements, the clinic, even though it has

recently been remodeled and completed, would need an asbestos inspection. The grant is being used to develop the county health office in the basement of the clinic.

Administrator Lacy said that he is currently working with a physician candidate but offered no further information at this time.

# 4-H

## Continued from Page 1A

Wurm - regional blue; Allison Grice - regional blue

Intermediate Division: Kimberly Voeller - blue

Senior Division: Katelyn Jones - regional blue; Amy Hilt - regional blue; Alecia Zimbelman - blue

### Instrumentals

Intermediate Division: Kimberly Voeller - regional blue; Mikaela Grace - blue; Kaycee Williams - blue; Jodie Hilt - blue

Senior Division: Katelyn Jones - regional blue

### Piano

Intermediate Division: Heidi Yonkey - regional blue; Kimberly Voeller - blue; Tia Sager - blue

### Favorite Food Show

Junior Division: First - Jacquelyn Ketzner; Jandy Dunn - blue; Caitlin Northrup - blue; Kyla Bandel - blue; Allison Grice - blue; Jacquelyn Ketzner - blue; Allyson Northrup - blue; Valerie Wurm - blue; Brianna Cooks - blue; Stephanie Busse - Blue; Shakotah Blanka - blue

Intermediate Division: First - Dale Northrup; Dale Northrup - blue; Craig Busse - blue; Sydney Busse - blue; Kimberly Voeller - red; Tia

Sager - blue

Senior Division: First - Amy Hilt; Amy Hilt - blue

### Vocals

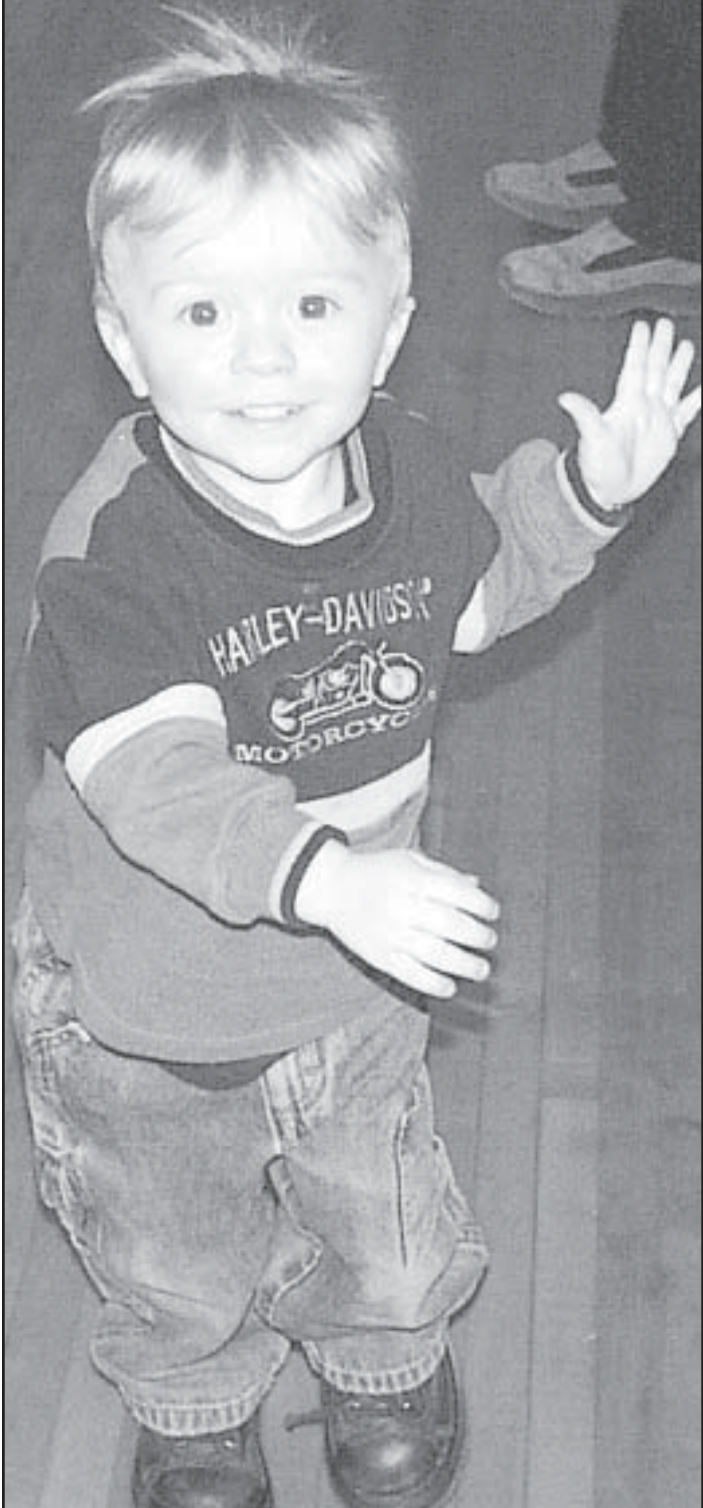
Junior Division: Brianna Cooks - regional blue; Caitlin Northrup - blue

Intermediate Division: Mikaela Grace - regional blue; Kimberly Voeller - regional blue; Kaycee Williams - blue

Senior Division: Katelyn Jones - regional blue; Julie Voeller - regional blue; Miranda Teeters - blue

### Regional 4-H Day

Regional 4-H Day starts at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 2, at Brewster High School. Those planning to attend are: Joshua Keltz, Laura Brunk, Caleb Keltz and Grady Brunk, project talks; Valerie Wurm, Allison Grice, Katelyn Jones and Alecia Zimbelman, project talks; Brianna Cooks, Kimberly Voeller and Katelyn Jones, vocal solos; Kimberlin Voeller and Katelyn Jones, instrumental solos; Heidi Yonkey, piano solo; Caitlin and Allyson Northrup, dance; Septhanie Busse, Craig Busse and Megan Ford, readings; Plum Creek 4-H Club, skit; Pleasant Hill 4-H Club, model meeting.



TYSON POLING was the center of attention at the Sainty Wrestling Banquet. Tyson is the son of Brett and Cynthia Poling, St. Francis. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

# FIRE

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A grass fire was put out on March 13 near the Sherman/Cheyenne county border on K-27. Again, the wind was blowing but the area was damp and firemen were able to extinguish it quickly before any damage could be done. Chief Harper

thought the fire might have been started by someone throwing out a lit cigarette.

Chief Harper said he sees no need for a burn ban to be put into effect at this time but the area is dry so people need to use caution before starting a fire.

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