



Let's show our support for the St. Francis Indians

Go Indians!!!
The St. Francis Indian football team won another game, thus getting them one step further to that state championship title. It is a great accomplishment for the team and its coaches and a great honor for the school and community!!

Saturday was a beautiful day for a football game. The sun was shining, the weather was warm — almost hot, and there was only a little breeze. The grandstand at the football field was a little slow filling up but it gradually did.

Parents had the green and yellow flags flying and the spirit was there. However, downtown,

there was not much evidence that there was a play-off game on our home field.

In years past, there have been green and yellow paper flying from the trees out in front and windows have had some indication that the football team was still in the running.

If individuals or businesses want more Indian Booster signs, they are available at *The Herald* office.

Before the team leaves on Friday, hopefully, there will be some Indian spirit shown on the streets. Let the school, students, players and coaches know that St. Francis is backing them all the way!
—Karen Krien

Director clears up rumors

Dear Editor,
The topic of our Emergency Medical Service in Cheyenne County has been one of the focus points in our local paper far too many times. I'm not really sure why or for what reasons the service has been that much of an interest to people. However, if our local Emergency Medical Service is going to be talked about in the coffee shops and around town, please allow me to help clear up some misinformation.

One of the fallacies that needs to be addressed is that when the monthly write offs are posted in the paper for the Emergency Medical Service, people feel that Cheyenne County is losing that money and if we are indeed losing that money then some one is not doing their job.

Please allow me to address several issues here in relation to the above misconception: 1) Medicare, Blue Cross and Blue Shield along with other insurance carriers tell us what they will pay, what the patient will owe and how much that we must write off. Medicare is the big one that we deal with mostly.

Generally, Medicare will pay anywhere from 40 to 80 percent of the charges. Many times our billing clerk has to ask for a review and in some cases push for a hearing in order to generate any revenue from Medicare. The burden of proof is on us to prove that the transport in question was indeed "medically necessary." It a patient is taken to Hays, for example, with a hip fracture and McCook is closer with an Orthopedic surgeon on staff, then they will only pay mileage as far as McCook and not Hays. We are expected to write off the difference.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscription: Lana Duvall, St. Francis; Vicki Callicrate, Scott City; Roland Query, Bird City; Jason Yost, Wichita.

Walter Douthit, St. Francis; Les Lacy, St. Francis; Don Wieck, St. Francis; Kirk Grizzell, Macksville; Milton Lampe, St. Francis; Norman Kramer, Bethune, Colo.

Jeff and Heidi Wright, Rifle, Colo.; Gary Pittman, St. Francis; Janet Young Elliott, Highlands Ranch, Colo.; Dwane Raile, Greeley, Colo.; SS Enterprises, Imperial, Neb. Roge Applegate, St. Francis; Doug Sloper, Cape Coral, Fla.; Cheyenne County Soil Conservation, St. Francis; Jeanne Falk, Colby.

Letter to the Editor

Please keep in mind that the money we are expected to write off is money that we never had and never will have; 2) the important fact to look at is the revenue that Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service is generating.

Our revenue has gone up steadily over the last 15 years. In the early 1990's our revenue was around \$13,000 and in 2003 we took in \$120,759. Several reasons account for this increase which include higher charges along with more efficient billing and collecting procedures.

I am well aware that there are those people in the community who feel we should be able to get every penny from Medicare but unfortunately that is not how Medicare works and that is not reality; 3) when the commissioners approve the write offs, in reality they are signing that they have looked at the write off and are aware of them. The facts are pretty plain in that these write offs are already mandated by Medicare and the bigger insurance carriers and that we have very little if any control over the matter.

We are very fortunate to have the quality of volunteers that we have for Emergency Medical Service in Cheyenne County. These EMTs drop whatever they are doing to respond for emergency calls when and where ever needed. This service does not cost the Cheyenne County taxpayers one red cent! We are able to operate within our budget and in most recent years generate a carry over at the end of the year which helps to lower your tax base. Our revenue is generated from Medicare, Insurance carriers and private pay.

A second area of concern that needs to be addressed is that of the safety of the Bird City ambulance. The major concern that has been expressed to me is that the Bird City ambulance has experienced two tire blow outs within the last six months. All of our trucks at one time had Cooper 10-ply tires on them.

Incidentally, Rocky Mountain Vehicle recommends this tire as one of the best tires out there for an ambulance. Cooper no longer makes an all steel tire and ours have been replaced with a Good Year all steel tires.

My understanding from Mark Cooper and Larry Kness, Rocky Mountain Vehicles, is that these two are the best available for ambulances. The fact that blow outs have occurred may be attributed to the following factors: 1) picking up a nail or trash on the highway thus causing the tread to separate after the tire is heated up, 2) tires being under inflated and thus causing the tire to gain more friction and thus have the tread separate, 3) the fact that 11A sits a substantial amount of time between runs, it leaves a flat spot on the tire which can result again in separation of the tread after the tire heats up.

I am not a mechanic or a tire expert, but I feel perfectly confident in the safety and stability of our units. Any time there has been a concern expressed about any of our ambulances, Yost Ford or St. Francis Tire is contacted immediately depending on the nature of the problem. In my opinion, they have been very professional, timely and have always done a good job of finding out what the problem is and correcting it.

We are in the process of getting dual tires put on the Bird City ambulance. This procedure will take some time for the company to secure an appropriate axle to make the conversion. In the mean time, we are investigating the feasibility of getting a new ambulance within four to six months. I hope that this letter will help to clear up some of the concerns that several people have expressed. If any one has any other questions or concerns about Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service, please feel free to contact me.

Larry B. Gabel
Cheyenne Co. EMS Director

GOD SAYS
Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13



NEWS ITEM: TOURS OF DUTY IN IRAQ ARE BEING EXTENDED ...

Doctor praises nursing home

To the editor:

I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for the hard work and dedication I find in the staff at Good Samaritan Village. I have had the opportunity to be affiliated with multiple nursing homes across the state during my medical training. I personally believe that Good Samaritan Village offers the very best in nursing home care in the country. I know that this does not just happen by chance and I see it as a direct result of all the staff and their commitment to the residents there.

Since my arrival here in St. Francis, I have been continually impressed by the programs that are offered for the residents. This has included allowing them to raise chickens, having a prom, and having the many outside field trip activities that staff takes the residents on. I see it in the remodeling of the home to try to provide a more warm and welcoming environment. I see it in the continual efforts of the dietary staff in the recent move to a salad bar and more choice for the residents.

I have always been impressed by the repaire between the staff and the residents. I feel the staff has a genuine concern and caring for the residents and that comes across in all of their interactions. This concern cuts across all departments from house-keeping to nursing aid to nursing to the business office staff and the supervisory staff.

I think the grounds and the interior of the home are maintained in

Letters to the Editor

excellent condition. It always seems to be bright, cheerful and clean and that certainly provides for a warm environment.

The nursing care is of the highest quality and quality improvement is apparent at every level. I think Mr. Rainbolt has done an outstanding job of putting together a very good team of caring professionals in every department.

It has been an extreme pleasure

for me to work with everyone at Good Samaritan Village. I just could not ask for a nicer or better facility to be associated with. I am to congratulate the staff on their high quality of work. Certainly it is a place they can be very proud of and I want to thank them for their dedication. Their good work is showing.

Mary Beth Miller, M.D.
St. Francis

Goodies benefit many

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to recognize the efforts made on behalf of the Operation SOS project "Holidays for Heroes" on Oct. 23, national Make a Difference Day.

The people of Cheyenne County were instrumental in helping us meet our goal of sending 500 boxes overseas to our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. From monetary donations, to collecting items to be sent, the wonderful people in your area showed their support of our troops.

Hulda Dorsch, Bird city, spear-headed the project in your area. Through her tireless efforts for this project, we collected enough items and received enough donations to make it possible to continue sending packages for the next several months.

As the boxes begin to arrive over-

seas, you can be sure they will be appreciated by the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines serving our country. As they share the "goodies" contained in their boxes, we will have touched the lives of more than the original 500 recipients.

Please keep our military in your hearts and prayers. Operation SOS continues to take names of military personnel serving overseas to add to our mailing list.

Melanie Elliott
Operation SOS
Kensington



Worship Warms the Heart

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Pastor Tony Christians
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jim Martin
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

Wesleyan Church
Hwy 36 • 734-2727
Pastor Scott Baker
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
332-2928 Pars. 332-2308
Pastor David Rossbach
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wednesday prayer service, 6:00 p.m.
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150 • 216 W. Washington
Pastor: Richard Garcia
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis Equity

First National Bank
Member FDIC

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