Thursday, December 29, 2005

Meetings planned for key irrigators

Producers, landowners and lenders alike have expressed concern about the high energy costs related to irrigated-crop production in northwest Kansas. Several meetings have been set including one in Cheyenne County from 2 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 9 at the 4-H building at the fairgrounds in St. Francis.

Economists Mark Wood and Todd Ziegler, with the Farm management Association, will review historical and projected 2006 costs of production for typical irrigated crop enterprises in northwest Kansas. Irrigated crop enterprise cost of production examples will be discussed with various water availability and tillage scenarios. Lease arrangements that represent equitable sharing of risk and profits will be discussed in light of the anticipated irrigated crop enterprise

profitability or 2006. Other meetings scheduled around the area are: • Sheridan County 4-H build-

ing, Hoxie, 9 a.m. to noon, Jan.

• Thomas County 4-H building, Colby, 1 to 4 p.m., Jan. 4. CAB building, Sharon

Springs, 1 to 4 p.m. mountain time. Jan. 5. • Sherman County 4-H Build-

ing, Goodland, 9 a.m. to noon, mountain time.

Those planning to attend the meeting should contact their county Extension office. In Cheyenne County, the number is 785-332-3171.

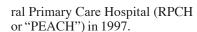
Lease advantages are explained

By Karen Krien

The vice president for regional operations of Great Plains Health Alliance (GPHA) presented some of the benefits of the hospital being leased to the Alliance when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met Friday afternoon.

Jackie John, regional vice president of the Alliance, had a booklet prepared which showed some of the benefits the board reaps from the \$51,759 paid to the Alliance. Because the Alliance is affiliated with 27 other hospitals in Kansas and Nebraska, hospitals are able to do group purchasing of supplies and pharmaceuticals. Cheyenne County saves \$52,261 in this area alone.

Great Plains Health Alliance also prepares the cost report (which would cost around \$10,000 alone), and is able to give the hospitals the benefits of group purchasing services such as financial audits, insurance products, natural gas rates and oxygen contracts, just to name some. There are shared pricing for legal opinions, development of personnel policies, contracts and agreement, corporate compliance, HIPAA privacy and security policies and departmental roundtables, ment for the hospital. which allows the directors of nursing and education, and other departtices and share solutions to common problems. The support services for administration and staff provided by Great Plains Health Alliance is estimated to save the expense of about two full-time employees, which, at a rate of \$12 per hour plus benefits, comes to \$64,896. This is also included in the rate charged by Great Plains Health Alliance. Last year, 77 percent of the contract price of \$49,768 was returned to the Cheyenne County Hospital through the Medicare Cost Report which identifies Medicare allowable costs. "Home Office" costs also get credited to the hospital, which improves the reimbursement on the cost report. Mrs. John pointed out that, if the hospital doors were to close, the community would have \$2 million less in salaries. In 1994 and 1995, hospital employees saved \$8,572 and the Hospital saved \$30,430 due to a Blue Cross refund creating a premium holiday due to the contract that had been negotiated by GPHA. Both Rueben Schultz, chairman, and Swede Calnon, board member, questioned if the raise of 4 percent in the contract could be lowered to 2 percent. Mrs. John said their costs had gone up considerably and she knew the answer was "no." She also said that there are other leased hospitals with Great Plains Health Alliance which pay more than Cheyenne County but Cheyenne County Hospital has been with the Alliance almost since the beginning. Great Plains Health Alliance started in 1950 through the Lutheran Church. The Cheyenne County Hospital was leased by the Alliance in 1952. Between 1993 and 1996, when the hospital was having trouble keeping the doors open and meeting payroll, Great Plains Health Alliance did not collect their fee nor charge interest on the overdue balance for the lease but continued to provide all the services. These fees were caught up when the hospital finally received cost based reimbursement as a Ru-



Tom Keller, St. Francis, has been a member of the Great Plains Health Alliance Board for 28 years, serving as chairman for a number of these years.

"Without Great Plains at that time, the hospital might not have survived," said Les Lacy, hospital administrator, who had just become administrator during that period.

At the end of the discussion, the board said they were satisfied with the information Mrs. John had presented and thanked her for the time she had taken to put it together.

Physicians/staff

Dr. Mary Beth Miller visited the board meeting briefly and thanked the members for her new contract and for hiring another doctor to help in the future. She also told them that the hospital and the clinic is one of the top-notch facilities in the area and she was sure that all the improvements helped draw the new doctor. She certainly appreciated being able to work in the facility. In addition, she remarked that she felt that Great Plains and the administration had been cutting edge in seeking out improved reimburse-

The new doctor hired is Dr. Rebecca Allard. She signed a conment heads to identify best prac- tract on Dec. 8 and will be coming to Chevenne County full-time in August 2007. In the meantime, she will be working at the hospital in a locum tenens capacity over the New Year's holiday and once a month until August 2007. Administrator Lacy announced that Warren Harkness, an X-ray technician had been hired and will be starting in January.

Death notice

Funeral services for Ann Ewing, St. Francis, will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday at the First Christian Church, St. Francis

Kansans for Life

The Cheyenne County Kansans for Life will meet at Peace Lutheran Church (202 E College) in St. Francis, Jan. 2 beginning at 7:30 p.m.. All are invited to join in prayer, fellowship, learning, and working together to provide "Life for all."

Youth basketball

practice begins

Youth basketball practice will begin again Monday, Jan. 9. Fourth, fifth and sixth grades start at 6:15 and second and third grades at 7:15. Practices will take place in the high school gym and will be held every Monday during the high school basketball season.

Young Indians complete in games

Junior varsity

By Lezlie McCormick The St. Francis Ladies junior varsity team played basketball on Tuesday night in Colby and were defeated 31 to 39.

"We showed more signs of improvement tonight," said coach Larry Flemming. "We just weren't

C-team

By Lezlie McCormick

The St. Francis Ladies C-team played two quarters of basketball on Tuesday night in Colby and came away with a 30-9 victory.

"We are always talking about playing up to our potential and having perfect execution," said coach team was 67 percent on free throws.

Cheyenne County AARP Chapter 1739 met at noon Monday, Dec. 12, for their annual Christmas potluck dinner. The organization furnished the turkey and ham and everyone brought the other dishes for a bountiful meal. It was held at the Cheyenne Manor meeting room with 14 members and four guests in attendance.

Recorded Christmas music was played and much visiting after dinner made up the entertainment. ErvaGene DeAragon and Wilma Lampe served as hostesses.

There was no regular business meeting.

Bulletin Board

party

be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the

St. Francis Senior Center. Every-

one is to bring fingerfood or

Christmas sweets. Coffee and

iced tea will be provided. There

will be a game of Bunco going on

and there will be music. Everyone

is urged to come, enjoy and bring

Holiday hours

The offices of The Saint Francis

Neitzel Insurance

Service

Neitzel Insurance Service is

St. Francis Public Library

The St. Francis Public Library

able to hold our lead against a very

Leading scorer was Holly Keller

with 11, leading rebounding was

Keller with 10 and Sidnee Crabtree

had 5. Elizabeth Gienger came up

good Colby team!"

with three steals.

holding an open house on Friday,

Dec. 30. Check ad in Christmas

supplement for details.

Herald and Bird City Times will

be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, in

observance of New Year's Day.

in the new year.

Senior citizens' New Year's A happy New Year's party will

Little Kids Wrestling

Little Kids Wrestling practice is ter provides 24-hour-7 day-abeing held on Monday nights. Those wrestlers third grade and under practice from 6:15 to 7 p.m. and those fourth grade and up from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact Clay Keller (332-3108) or Shawna Blanka (332-

Courthouse and Landfill hours

will be closed Friday afternoon, Dec. 30 and Monday, Jan. 2.

Commissioners

The Chevenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 30, in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

St. Francis Library

Alcoholic Anonymous

Monday 1/2

No School

Tuesday 1/3 Breakfast: Muffins, juice, cereal

Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Broccoli, and Pink Applesauce.

Wednesday 1/4

toast, juice, cereal assortment, milk

Lunch: French dip sandwich, au jus, cheddar fries, dill pickle spears, and mandarin orange jello.



Northwest Kansas

Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shel-

week services to victims of do-

mestic violence and sexual as-

sault. Weekly support groups are

available for women and children

within the northwest Kansas area.

For information or if you are in

need of assistance, please call the

toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

Check your

name label

Have you checked the name la-

subscription runs out completely

it will take two weeks after you

resubscribe before it will once

again be delivered to your mail

box. In order to not have a break

in your service, renew by the ex-

Kansans

for Life

The Cheyenne County Kansans

piration date.

Breakfast:Frosted Long Johns, juice, cereal assortment and milk.

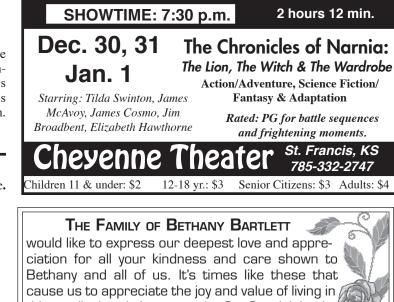
Lunch: Beef Enchiladas, lettuce, tomato, cheese, salsa, corn, pears and cinnamon-sugar churros.

Friday 1/6

Breakfast: Biscuits with sausage gravy, juice, cereal assortment, milk.

Lunch: Chicken stir-fry, oriental vegetables, seasoned rice, sliced pineapple and fortune cookie. · Salad bar is offered at noon daily

in the junior/senior high school



Larry Flemming. "This second quarter was a classic example." Lead scorers for Sainty was Sidnee Crabtree and Andrea Holzwarth with 8 each. Leading the

rebounds were Crabtree with 3, and Elizabeth Gienger had 4 assists. The

Club Clip

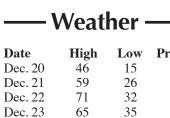
AARP

Dec. 24

Dec. 25

Dec. 26

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 12, at the Senior center with Bud Houtman and Gladys Cullum as hostesses and Ross Manufacturing giving the program.



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66

69

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29

27

will be closed Dec.24 and Dec. 26. ist Educational Building, upstairs. It will also be closed on Dec. 31 Contact 332-3590. and Jan. 2.

2875).

Cheyenne County Courthouse

bel on your paper? This label also shows the expiration date of your **Cheyenne County** subscription. Note that if your

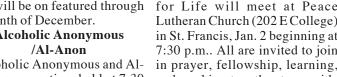
Art Gallery

Arts and crafts by Allison Grice are on display in the Art Gallery at the St. Francis Public Library. They will be on featured through

Alcoholic Anonymous and Al-Anon open meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Method-

the month of December.

/Al-Anon



and working together to provide "Life for all."



assortment, milk Lunch: Chicken Chunks,

Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs,

In other business

In other business: • Administrator Lacy said the new generator for the hospital will require significant changes and automatic switching that could boost the cost to \$120,000. The hospital's funded depreciation account could be used to cover this. The need for an adequate generator for the hospital was brought to a new level of importance after the recent storm which left the city without electricity

• The 2006 budget was presented to the board by Dennis Fredrickson of Great Plains Health Alliance. The board recommended the budget to the Alliance for approval.

• The board agreed to give employees a Christmas bonus of \$25 each in Chamber Bucks.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board will be at 3 p.m. on Jan. 26 in the basement meeting room of the clinic in St. Francis.



Prec. this small, close-knit community. Our Special thanks to the following: Dr. Miller and all the hospital staff for your professional and loving care. Patrick and the clinic staff for your love. Home Health nurses Vicky and Judy for your very special gift to Bethany. EMTs who came with such promptness and kindness Troy, Ben and good neighbors Delbert, Sharon and Tim for being there when we needed you. Hospice Crew: we were so blessed to have your service available to us when we needed it. John and Natalie for helping us through this difficult time. The Wonderful Family at the First Christian Church and Pastor Tony for your constant love and support. **CHEYENNE COUNTY** 210 W. 1st • St. Francis, KS HOSPITAL 785-332-2104 Come Join Us for FLORIS RAILE'S **RETIREMENT CELEBRATION** Thursday, December 29 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the **Cheyenne County Hospital** Front Lobby

> We appreciate all Floris' hard work & dedication