

# HOSPITAL

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Administrator Lacy will get some estimates of costs for running a new ramp. The board discussed that, until the emergency entrance is finished, there could be considerable use of the entire front entrance. They agreed that the ramp should have a temporary fix now and a permanent repair later.

Traci Neitzel and Joy Anderegg, board members, agreed to serve as a committee for picking out the color for the ambulance entrance. They will meet in the near future and the board will be informed of the decision at the next meeting.

The administrator reported that several pieces of equipment are not working right. He said the whirlpool tub across from the nurse's station is one. While it is safe and can be used, it will cost \$1,500 in parts (for the board that controls the tub fill and empty cycle) plus the cost of labor to fix. The administrator said that although new tubs run around \$10,000, he felt it might be better to consider replacement as the current tub is 10 years old, has had several issues recently, and is currently out of production. Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, said one of the other hospitals affiliated with Great Plains was looking into purchasing two tubs and, if three were purchased, the hospital might get it cheaper. Administrator Lacy said the coagulation machine in the lab needed to be replaced. He said that he did not have a price at the meeting. He said he expected it to be around \$17,000 and would be purchased out of Funded Depreciation.

The anesthesia machine had its "mother-board" go out during a preventive maintenance inspection. The machine has been replaced for now with a serviceable used anesthesia machine at a cost of \$1,000. The administrator is looking for permanent solution for replacing the machine. The old machine cost \$30,000 new over 10 years ago.

The Electronic Medical Record system continues to be implemented into the hospital. The Clinic's Electronic Medical Record is expected to be fully active by the first of March. Administrator Lacy said he expected the system to be activated in the lab within the next three to six months. (See related article.)

The planning to purchase a new generator continues. Administrator Lacy said Tim Lenz, PEC engineers, will begin the design for the generation changes. He has

recommended that the hospital purchase a 150 kilowatt generator instead of a 200 kilowatt generator. He also recommended that the generator be placed outdoors near where the present generator is located.

### Hospital has been busy

Administrator Lacy reported that the hospital has been very busy since the first of the year. There were 85 discharge days in January which was four more than in 2005. There were 481 people using the physical therapy services. The highest usage of these services in 2005 was in 384 in April.

Director John pointed out in her financial report that the hospital had actually made a profit of \$34,862 in January. There had also been a profit of \$861 in the Bird City Clinic.

She talked about working to understand the president's proposal for significant cuts to the Medicare and Medicaid programs while the requiring complicated changes. She said the questionable changes cost a lot to implement and there is not much of a savings to the Medicare program in return and yet the hospital is forced to bear the burden.

### In other business

In other business:

- The board elections found Jerry Toler taking the seat of chairman. Joy Anderegg was also nominated but declined. Traci Neitzel was re-elected treasurer and Ms. Anderegg was re-elected as secretary.

- Administrator Lacy said the hospital/clinic would be holding a health fair on March 27 through 29. More information will be available.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 3 p.m. on March 23 in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis.



DANCE RANCH STUDENTS performed at the Atwood vs St. Francis wrestling match. Pictured (l to r) are Clarice Neitzel, Lexie Hilt, Hayley Brown, Jakalyn Barnhart, Kaitlin Figgins and Trista Orth. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

## REMODELING

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more stable. Mrs. Smestead asked for an approximate price on the utilities cost of the building and the terms in which the city would consider.

City Clerk Mary Lampe will check back four to five years ago for the cost

of utilities, as that was when the building was used more consistently. The council, upon further discussion of the terms, approved to offer Mrs. Smestead a lease to purchase consisting of \$250 a month to be lease on a six-month basis. At the end of the first six months if the Smestead's decide to purchase the building, the six months of rent they have paid will be deducted off the purchase price of \$23,000. If after a year of renting only 75 percent of the rent will be deducted off the purchase price. The city will also maintain the insurance and taxes on the building with the Smestead's maintaining insurance on the contents and liability.

### Superintendent

- Superintendent J.R. Landenberger informed the council that he has submitted the amount of \$6,440 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for expenses incurred by the city during the snow storm last November. He noted that FEMA should cover 85 percent of the amount submitted.

- The city employees and police department will be re-certifying for

cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aide the first of April.

- The council asked that before purchasing a John Deere Z-Trak mower from Goodland Greenline, Superintendent Landenberger check on prices of used mowers.

### Other business

In other business:

- Sheryl Miller was hired as the new

pool manager for the season. Ms. Miller was the only applicant.

- Trailer park license approved was for William Peter.

### Executive session

Superintendent Landenberger requested 5 minutes in executive session to discuss personnel. Darrell Pettitjohn and Paul Larson were hired as city employees.

## SAINTY

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Yearbook Sports Writing - Schuyler Coates, third.

Editing - Ashley Dowgwillo, second.

Yearbook Copy Writing - Angela VanAllen, honorable mention.

Newspaper Sports writing - Holly Keller, third; Ally Reichert, honorable mention.

Editorial Cartoon - Gabe Smull, second.

Cutline Writing - Addie Swihart, second; Cassie Dankenbring, honorable mention.

Editorial Writing - Ashley Dowgwillo, honorable mention.

Feature Writing - McKenzie

Grace, third.

Advertising - Mindy Cooper, third; Jenice Hartman, honorable mention.

Headline Writing - Matt Brown, third; Talisa Voorhies, honorable mention.

Layout/Double Page Spread - Jade DeGood honorable mention. Infographics - Danielle Flemming, third.

Theme Development/Graphics - Grace Hnizdil and Schuyler Coates, third; Kate Marin and Heather Hnizdil, honorable mention.

Feature Photography - Aston Rueb, third; Lauren Ross, honorable mention.

## Orchestra performs

Western Plains Arts Association will host the Pride of the Prairie Orchestra in a performance at 3 p.m. central time (2 p.m. mountain time) on Sunday at the Goodland High School auditorium. For ticket information visit [www.wpaas.us](http://www.wpaas.us).

Founded in 1979, Pride of the Prairie is truly a "community" orchestra in all aspects. Its members and conductors are from the surrounding area and represent a wide variety of ages and backgrounds. This performance will be co-conducted by Andrew Salvador, director of bands at Burlington, Colo., and Juliann

Groom, director of bands at Atwood. Groom selected dance pieces from a variety of musical eras and genre; Salvador has chosen light and eclectic fare. This will be a program to please all musical appetites.

The orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact board president Bruce Frahm at (785) 462-7388 or [bfram@st-tel.net](mailto:bfram@st-tel.net).

This show is presented in part by Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and National Endowment of the Arts, a federal agency.



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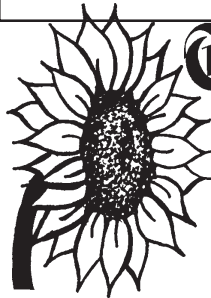
From the Kansas-Missouri border to the end of the line at Estes Park, Colo.

Casey McCormick, ad manager, will be contacting area businesses in this grand opportunity to promote St. Francis, Bird City & U.S. 36.



**Graduation Section**

To be inserted in your May paper, this insert will feature those 2006 graduates from Bird City, Idalia and St. Francis Schools. A terrific keepsake for that graduate.



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