

Hospital's revenue is up 104 percent

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board was told at the Thursday meeting that, from 1998 to 2005, the hospital's revenue had increased 104 percent.

"Greater revenue means greater volume of services," said Les Lacy, hospital administrator.

He went on to add that the tax support transferred from the board to the hospital

has dropped 32 percent in that time.

In the 1998 calendar year, the hospital board received a total of \$654,125. This includes ad valorem taxes and the 1 percent sales tax which the voters had approved. As the years have passed, the commissioners, trying to meet expenses, have cut the amount given to the hospital back. In the 2005 calendar year, the hospital received \$491,848 including both ad valorem tax and

the 1 percent sales tax. Mr. Lacy points out that the differences in the hospital and county figures are based on different year ends and is reconciled by both county and hospital auditors annually.

In June, the commissioners will request the hospital's budget so they can start working on the 2007 budget for the county. Mr. Lacy asked the board if there were any concerns about asking for the same amount

from the county as last year.

Swede Calnon, board member, felt like the hospital needed to slow down on projects.

"Get things done and paid for before starting another project," he said. "I think the taxpayers would like to see less dollars going to the hospital."

With another year of drought, he thought the commissioners were going to have

trouble making the budget work without raising taxes. However, he said he didn't think it would hurt to ask the commissioners for the same amount and, if they turned the board down, the board and hospital would just have to tighten their belts.

Mr. Lacy said the building obligation would be paid off by summer of 2007. The taxpayers voted for a general obligation. See **REVENUE** on Page 9A

Ambulance service meets all requirements

By Karen Krien

On May 25, the Board of Emergency Medical Services inspected the Cheyenne County Ambulance Service and the final report was that the service had met all the requirements.

In a letter sent to Larry Gabel, county emergency medical service director, from Randy Cardonell, emergency medical service inspector for the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, he wrote he had found the county's ambulance service to be very well organized and all the required paperwork in order. The Medical and Operational Protocols were in place and appeared to be very functional for the technicians.

He talked about the Quality Assur-

ance Quality Improvement Program was working very well by involving all participants in the process. He said the new Quality Assurance review process appeared to be working well.

The ambulances were found to be clean, organized and well stocked.

"The dedication of your staff and crew shows through the quality of your service," he said. "I applaud you for the excellent job you are doing and would offer the board's help and support for any problems or concerns you encounter in the future."

Mr. Cardonell thanked Mr. Gabel and bookkeeper Janelle Bowers for their help in the inspection.

The areas which were reviewed during the inspection included: op-

erational and medical protocol, ambulances and equipment inspection, equipment list, garaging, call schedule, attendants certification cards, daily log of ambulance responses, and the service's Quality Improvement Program.

The Cheyenne County Ambulance service has four ambulances, two in St. Francis and two in Bird City. There are 18 active emergency medical technicians. There are six technicians who just completed training, passed their tests and are answering calls.

"The report is a compliment to the EMTs as a whole and to Janelle for the excellent job she has done in keeping books, records and everything up to date," Mr. Gabel said.

Service honors veterans

By Casey McCormick

A Memorial Day service was held at the St. Francis Cemetery on Monday. Reverend Morita Truman, United Methodist Church, was the featured speaker.

A blustery wind blew out of the north but pleasant temperatures brought many to the ceremony.

Members of the St. Francis Boy Scouts Troop raised the flag before lowering it the half mast in honor of fallen service men and women.

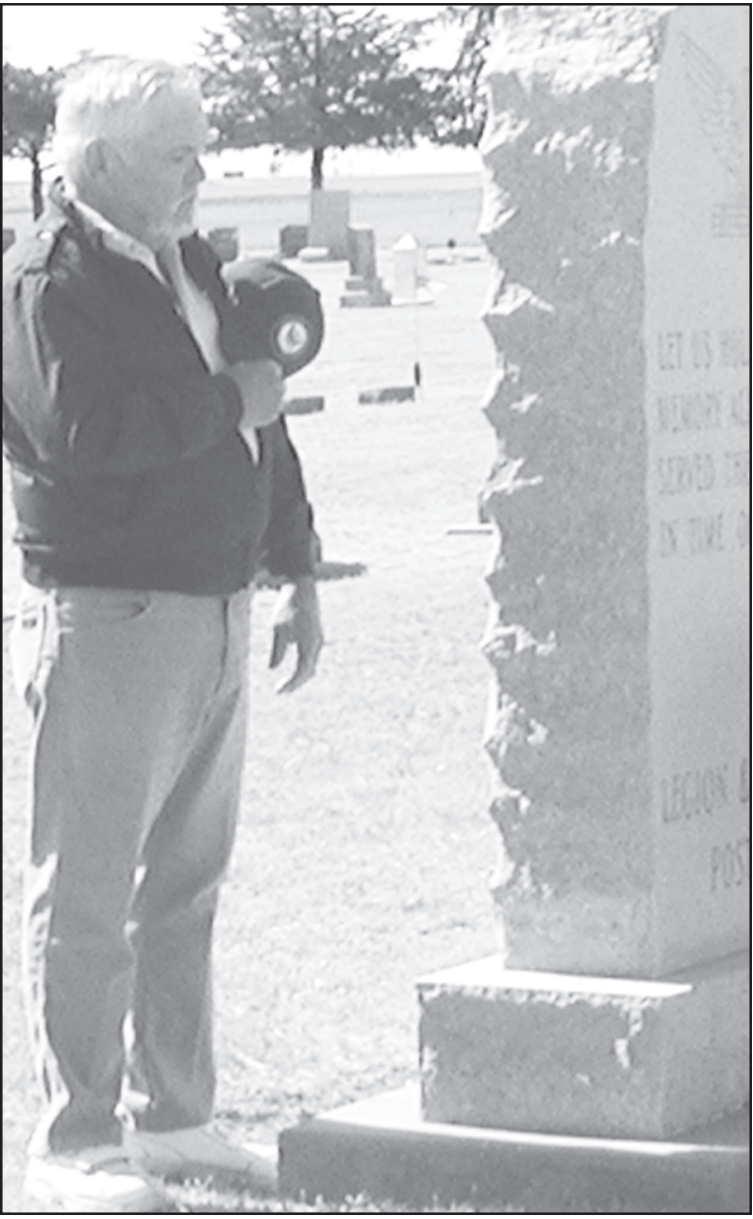
Reverend Truman spoke of the importance of remembering the soldiers.

"It is good for us to set apart a time, a day to share memories, to remember, to honor those who have gone before us in this life," Reverend Truman said. "It is Decoration Day; an appropriate term since those we honor have decorated our lives with love, and color, and memories."

She also asked the audience to recognize others in our lives.

"We are all veterans of service in this country; a designation of which we should be proud," Reverend Truman said.

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VETERAN RON HILL bows his head as the Memorial Day prayer is said.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick



WHAT A DOG!! Keegan Taylor enjoyed his hot dog at the ABC Preschool carnival.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Helpers meet tonight

Young and old will join hands at 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, at the Shrine Shelter at the park for "Join Hands Day."

This is the seventh year St. Francis youth though all ages and adults will be working together to complete projects.

Tower is up and working

By Karen Krien

The automated weather observation system (AWOS) is up and working for the most part. Right now, it is in a test mode and a few of the weather details are not working as they are supposed to but the delay is temporary.

The 30-foot tower and computerized equipment is located at the south end of the runway at the Cheyenne County Airport. Prairie Land Electric crew recently installed the poles but, because of the Federal Aviation Administration regulations, the poles could be placed only in certain areas out of the airways. After the Federal Aviation Administration had approved the placement of the poles, the rest of the lines were buried up to the tower. As of Tuesday, the system was working in a temporary mode and will soon be up to giving all information including real time weather information such as barometric pressure, wind direction and velocity, cloud cover height and visibility and precipitation occurrence.

Pilots can call in by telephone or reach the system through their aircraft radios when they are within radio range. Actually, anybody can call 785-332-2691 and get the information. The VFH frequency is 118.925.

The Airport Authority has been working for months on this project with the Kansas Department of Transportation Airport Improvement Project. The weather observation system was purchased with a 90-10 matching grant with the county paying only 10 percent. Just the system alone cost \$76,000 plus there were other costs including See **TOWER** on Page 9A



THE 30-FOOT TOWER and equipment has been erected at the south end of the airport runway.

Teacher retires after 29 years

By Karen Krien

Colleen Gardner came to teach in the St. Francis schools in 1963. Now, after 29 years of teaching English from grades seven through 12th, she is retiring.

Mrs. Gardner graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1963. She was planning on teaching in Minden, Neb., and was to meet with the superintendent there to sign her contact. About that same time, the Job Placement Bureau at the college called and asked if she would consent to an interview with Carl Sperry from St. Francis.

"I declined as I was intent on teaching in Minden," she said.

However, they pleaded as he had driven so far.

"So I visited with Mr. Sperry for an hour. In that time, he convinced me that St. Francis was the garden spot of the world and that I would love it here."

The day she came to tour the school was a typical Kansas day — the wind was blowing tumbleweeds across Main Street.

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INSTRUCTOR COLLEEN GARDNER goes over a script with Amanda Nipps before one of the productions.

Photo courtesy of Brenda Day



Miller



Richard

Students receive awards

Two St. Francis high school seniors, Sheryl Miller and Trevor Richard, were awarded the Kansas State High School Activities Association's annual Citizenship Award at the high school awards assembly. Junior high citizenship winners were Brooklin Hnizdil and Drew Zwegardt. In the junior high two eighth-grade girl and two boys were selected for the runner-up Citizenship Awards. This year's recipients of the Principal's Award were Amber Smull, Kaycee Williams, Matt Raile and Trent Raile.

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