



## Grant sought for county health facility

By Karen Krien

Administrator Les Lacy talked about the Community Development Block Grant status at both the Cheyenne County Hospital Board and Commissioners' meetings last week. If the grant is received, that money will be used to establish a county health facility in the basement of the clinic across the street from the hospital in St. Francis and, since the county is allowed two grants per year, there is a possibility that the fire departments will

apply for one or two fire trucks as both Gary Rogers, emergency manager, and Dave Hickert, Bird City Fire Chief, have mentioned the need.

When the clinic was remodeled and a portion was built on, the future plans were to eventually have the health office moved from the highway location to the clinic basement but funds for the project are not available.

The hospital board can apply for up to a \$400,000 grant. However,

part of the grant will need to be matching funds which the administrator pointed out that the hospital board has already reserved \$50,000 toward the project. The architect/engineer will be appointed and the costs will be determined through this company.

The county has put away funds for fire trucks which can be used as matching funds.

What now faces the administrator, hospital board and others is conducting a survey to find the average

income in the county. In order to qualify, the survey will need to have 80 percent participation which will show that the county has at least 50 percent of those people in low-to-moderate incomes as designated by the Housing and Urban Development guidelines.

### Surveys to be returned by Aug. 15

The board's goal is to have the survey completed by Aug. 15 so the paperwork can be completed and

submitted to Amy Griffey of the Northwest Kansas Planning Development Commission. The city of St. Francis was surveyed two years ago and that survey is still current for the grant. However, all of the county and the city of Bird City will need to be surveyed.

People in these areas are urged to look for the surveys when they come and return them immediately. Residents should keep in mind that the county is more apt to receive a

grant if the low to moderate income levels are high. They are also reminded that the information submitted will be confidential.

With the low prices for crops, poor crop yields and just an overall depressed time, the hospital board is hopeful that the surveys will come back showing that there is a 50 percent of low-to-moderate income people which will help the grant application be more favorable.

## Thresher events are scheduled

There are lots activities held during the four days of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show but one of the buildings which draws many of the people is the Eggers Building 8. Each day, there is a schedule of events and, to help those get to the activities, the days and times are listed below:

### Thursday, July 31

Morning: welcome and registration.

Afternoon: Introduction of Thresher Queen and placing of the doll.

Introduction of the Junior Miss and talent number.

3:30 p.m.: Drawing for door prizes (must be present to win.)

3:45 p.m.: Sing along with Martin Busse around the old player piano.

### Friday, Aug. 1

10:00 a.m.: Beaded angels and snowmen demonstration by Phyllis Wingfield.

2:30 p.m.: History of early post offices by Marsha Magley.

3:30 p.m.: Drawing for prizes.  
3:45 p.m.: Sing around the piano.

### Saturday, Aug. 2

10:30 a.m.: Tabetha Ketzner and her innovative Bird City bird seed treats.

11:00 a.m.: Helene Landenberger, The Wild Rose Poet, with poetry and song.

2:30 p.m.: The Quilting Lady "Orphan Blocks" demonstration by Dee Dorsch.

3:30 p.m.: Door prizes.  
3:45 p.m.: Sing around the piano.

### Sunday, Aug. 3

Morning: attend one of the 30 minute services at the Country Church (9, 9:30 and 10 a.m.)

11 a.m.: "Across the Plains in 1864" with a grandmother's diary by Dorothy Mast.

2:30 p.m.: Visitation time at the Old Piano Parlor.

3:30 p.m.: Door prizes.

3:45 p.m.: End the day with a joyful song around the player piano with Martin Busse.



THE TRI-STATE ANTIQUE Engine and Thresher Show is just around the corner. Last year this giant from the past rumbled across the show grounds and delighted the crowd. Photo courtesy of Peggy Horinek

## Magistrate judge's charges come before a hearing panel

A state hearing panel will consider charges against Tamara Zimbelman, district magistrate judge for Cheyenne County, and could recommend that she be removed from office.

On March 21, Judge Zimbelman was found guilty of intimidation of a witness in Cheyenne County District Court. Judge Zimbelman could face up to six months in jail and a fine up to \$1,000, in the criminal case.

On March 25, Kay McFarland, chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court told *The Saint Francis Herald*

that Judge Zimbelman was prohibited from performing any judicial duties. Instead, she would perform administrative assignments as directed by the chief judge of the 15th Judicial District.

On Friday, Edward G. Collister Jr., an examiner for the Commission of Judicial Qualifications, said that the commission, through an investigating panel, had issued a written notice of formal proceedings against the magistrate.

The notice said that Judge Zimbelman could file an answer within 20 days. Regardless whether

an answer is filed, the papers said, the case may proceed to a hearing and disposition.

There are nine counts listed against Judge Zimbelman, all pertaining to conduct which allegedly violated the provisions of the Canon 1 and 2 of the Supreme Court on judicial conduct.

It is alleged that, in violation of the Canons, Judge Zimbelman, on Dec. 22, 2001, phoned Chris Merklin, St. Francis, when she learned that her husband and a third party, Scott Baumfalk had been accused of illegally visiting the

Merklin home the evening before, and threatened Mr. Merklin by stating, "if you don't drop the charges against Rell (the judge's husband), I'm going to send you to jail for burglary."

On Dec. 20, 2001, Judge Zimbelman allegedly requested that city police officer Travis Stein meet her at the residence of Jim and Christy Miller where she wished to confront the Millers because her purse had been stolen and she thought they might have taken it. When Officer Stein arrived at the Miller residence,

Judge Zimbelman was already there. They went to the front door where the judge knocked on the door and questioned the Millers.

Judge Zimbelman, on Dec. 21, 2001, in a telephone call, told Officer Stein that she was sending someone over to the Millers' home to, "scare the living dickens out of them."

Judge Zimbelman, during the investigation of the Merklin episode by agents of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, at first allegedly denied Officer Stein's report of her statement and attrib-

uted the statement about scaring the Millers to Officer Stein. She later, when questioned by Special Agents Butler and Atteberry of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, she told them that Officer Stein did not lie.

Judge Zimbelman, on April 22, 2002, in a letter addressed to Agent Butler, wrote, concerning a question posed about the same conversation with Officer Stein, "On reflection of the polygraph test I took Friday, April 19, 2002,

see JUDGE on page 8

## Piano is big show pleaser

By Casey McCormick

The 50th annual Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show will begin on Thursday, Aug. 31, at the show grounds in Bird City.

For most folks, the first vision of the show is of monstrous machines belching black smoke. But upon further review the list of wonders to see is countless. One particular item of interest is Maynard Wright's player piano.

When the show opens many will flock to the Egger's building where they will gather around a vintage player piano and enjoy an old fashioned "sing along," just like the old times back home. Mr. Wright's piano is capable of hours of entertainment since it comes with a collection of several hundred song rolls. But the history of the piano is as unique as anything at the show.

Mr. Wright's parents bought the Gulbranson piano in the early 1920s. The family had many happy times around the instrument. However, in the early 1940s, a "hot-shot" shyster came to the country and told folks that if they didn't remove the player part it would destroy the piano," said Mr. Wright. Not only did he convince the Wrights but many other locals paid the con-man \$20 to dismantle the player unit.

"The player part was stored in the granary and during World War II



MAYNARD WRIGHT KNOWS this piano like an old friend. It continues to draw folks to sing alongs at the Thresher Show

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

people stole all the brass off it," said Mr. Wright.

But he had a dream to restore the family heirloom and told his family so. When, through inheritance, he got the Gulbranson piano and began the awesome task.

Mr. Wright contacted an outfit in Denver that specialized in repairing player pianos.

"We won't touch a Gulbranson at any point!" the man said.

He realized that if this piano were to play the rolls again he would have to use his country skills, knowledge and own hands to make it happen.

He began by steaming what was left of the player unit to separate each part from the animal glue

see PIANO on page 8

## Commissioners talk about county-wide law enforcement

By Karen Krien

For some time, the county commissioners have talked about consolidated law enforcement and there appeared to be little interest in the plan they were proposing. However, at the July 15 meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners, the Bird City City Council proposed a little different plan to consolidate the county sheriff law enforcement with the Bird City law enforcement.

On hand for the discussion were Dave Hickert, Bird City Mayor; Troy Burr, Bird City Councilman, and Laura Miller, Bird City Clerk.

For a number of years, the city of Bird City and the county commissioners had an agreement for shared

law enforcement with the agreement being signed yearly. But after the election seven years ago, the sheriff did not want to continue working with the law enforcement officer in Bird City so the agreement was ended and the Bird City council had pursued grants to fund its law enforcement. However, those grants will run out and the council is looking for a more efficient way to cover the city's needs of an officer.

The council preferred that the officer live in or very near the city of Bird City. Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring was present at the meeting and thought this plan would work for both the city's cov-

erage as well as giving the sheriff's department another officer to help cover the eastern part of the county.

The council also wanted to approve the officer hired for the job. For the coverage, the Bird City Council proposed to pay a flat sum of \$20,000 and the county would pay the benefits and mileage if any. It was noted that Bird City had a vehicle for law enforcement so there might not be a need for mileage to be paid.

Tim Raile, commissioner, said that he was in favor of the agreement and could see benefits for the county as well as Bird City.

The commissioners agreed to see COMMISSIONERS on page 8

## Hospital employees resign, new workers are hired to fill spots

By Karen Krien

Administrator Les Lacy reported to the Cheyenne County Hospital Board on Thursday that two employees would be leaving the hospital at the end of July.

Val Cayabyab resigned his position as lab/X-ray supervisor and his wife Melodie is a registered nurse.

Administrator Lacy said there is a candidate for the lab/X-ray position and he planned an interview in the very near future. With the recent graduation and licensure, the hospital's nursing situation is good.

Both Beth Gabel and Annie Dulany have graduated with the Kansas Nursing Scholarship Loan Program. The hospital sponsors the candidate and gives \$1,000 a year for those planning to go into nursing. The state matches \$2,500 a year for up to two years for registered nurse students and \$1,500 for licensed practical nurse students. When candidates use the program to further their education, they have an obligation to work for the hospital for every year they were supported in school. If they chose to

leave before their obligation is up, they will need to refund the money.

"This help for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses is available to help those wanting to go into the medical profession," Administrator Lacy said, adding that anyone interested in more information should contact him at the hospital.

If the administrator needs to hire traveling nurses, the costs has risen from \$30 to \$35 per hour to \$45 to

see HOSPITAL on page 8

## Judge

Continued from Page 1

I want to reiterate to you that I do not remember saying what has been alleged. I feel like I was backed up in a corner by both you and Mr. Atteberry and badgered until I broke down. I still maintain I do not remember saying that, although you advised me the results say different."

On Dec. 9, 2001, Judge Zimbelman authored and delivered to Police Chief Jason Ryan and Officer Mark Davidson a letter informing them that if investigating officers failed to call her involving any alleged criminal action by a member of her family she would, "find you (officers) in contempt of court and pursue the matter from there." She also threatened to take the issue up with the city council if necessary.

On March 14, 2003, the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office investigated activities of four juveniles at or near the St. Francis Cemetery, including questioning of the juveniles. The sheriff asked his wife, who was the only female with the officers, to pat down a minor female because it was better than having a male officer perform the task.

Later in the evening, the sheriff was asked by St. Francis police to come to the home of the minor female. It is alleged that, in violation of the judicial regulations, several minutes later Judge Zimbelman appeared at the same location. She proceeded to question the sheriff's authority to have his wife pat down the young female.

The judge wanted the sheriff's wife to come into the house, apparently to be questioned. Officers decided not to agree to that request. Judge Zimbelman then proceeded to question Officer Davidson about his reasons for stopping the vehicle and then questioned the undersheriff about questions he had asked the girl a month earlier. The sheriff reported that then decided the encounter was going nowhere and was uncalled for, so the officers left.

Judge Zimbelman, on the early morning of April 27, 2003, after being informed that her husband Rell had been stopped while driv-

ing a vehicle in a suspicious fashion, appeared at the scene and accused the officers of harassing her family.

It was common knowledge among the law enforcement officers that Mr. Zimbelman had a suspended license. In the ensuing investigation, a law enforcement officer discovered a probable controlled substance present in the cab of the pickup Mr. Zimbelman was driving and arrested him for possession of a controlled substance.

Judge Zimbelman allegedly attempted to get into the pickup and was told to stay out because it was going to be impounded in connection with the criminal investigation. At that point, Judge Zimbelman commenced cursing at the sheriff. The incident ended without further interference by the judge after the sheriff walked back to his vehicle to get his second set of handcuffs.

Canon 1 and 2 of the Supreme Court relating to judicial conduct include:

- A judge shall uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

- A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining and enforcing high standards of conduct, and shall personally observe those standards so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary will be preserved.

- A judge shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all of the judge's activities.

A) A judge shall respect and comply with the law and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

B) A judge shall not allow family, social, political or other relationships to influence the judge's judicial conduct or judgment. A judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others; nor shall a judge convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence the judge.

## Piano

Continued from Page 1

which held it together. At this point he saw how many parts were missing.

"I couldn't imagine he would ever get it together again, there were too many pieces," his wife Lucille said.

But Mr. Wright would not quit,

### Facts

Some facts are... well.... obvious, while some others are not!

- Marriage is like taking a hot bath. After you've been in it for awhile ... it isn't so hot.

- I read recipes the same way I read science fiction. I get to the end and think, 'Well, that's not going to happen.'

- Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

- I asked Mom if I was a gifted child ... she said they certainly wouldn't have paid for me.

- Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut save you thirty cents?

- In the 60s people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

- Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.

he found another Gulbranson player unit but it was from another model. This would provide some of the necessary parts.

One of the most difficult steps of the remodel was the recreation of tiny bellows needed to pump air for each one of the 88 piano keys.

"These are made of cloth and can't have leaks. Also they must fold right to work," he said.

The bellows must pump air to the correct place as the roll passes over a slot. The length of the note is determined by how long the hole is in the paper. To coordinate this mechanism without formal training seems impossible.

Looking back Mr. Wright said, "I know why they won't work on them, I wouldn't do it either!" Through the experience, "I got a pretty good education on it."

Luckily he continued this winter project and after about six months the 1920s Gulbranson player piano was in pre-con-man service again. Mr. Wright went further with the job and added a vacuum pump so, "you don't have to peddle it if you don't want," he said.

Those coming to the Thresher Show are likely to see Maynard Wright and his good friend Martin Busse leading folks in songs from the past accompanied on a player piano that is the real deal.

Continued from Page 1

\$50 per hour.

The administrator talked briefly about the lab candidate and may have more information at the next board meeting.

### Audit report

Mark Hoffman with Grant Thorton auditing firm went over the 2002 audit with the board. He pointed out that the asset and liability figures shown in the report were comparable to the last two years.

As the board went through the report, Mr. Hoffman said that it was important that there be some funds set aside so when a necessary but unexpected expense came up, there were funds to cover it. This had been a problem several years ago when the hospital roof was leaking and there was no money to reroof it.

Another comment Mr. Hoffman made about expenses was that when volume (the number of people using the hospital)

was down, the expenses were also down.

### Director's report

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance which leases the hospital, reported that the 2002 Cost Report Settlement from Medicare had left the hospital in a great cash position. The bills are being paid and the year-to-date loss has been better than last year. This year, the net profit loss was \$59,174 compared to \$250,249 last year.

"Medicare contractual was better than budget but Medicaid contractual was worse," Mr. Lacy pointed out.

In fact, Director John said the hospital had actually made money (\$20,704) this year compared to the loss of \$40,631 last year.

### In other business

In other business:  
• There have been fewer patients than expected using the hospital the first of July, however, the hospital staff has been able to

meet its needs without board funds. Patients seeing specialists have been fairly steady this month. Administrator Lacy reported that on the day of the meeting, the hospital had been very busy.

- The clinic contractor's "punch list" was being whittled down and the company wanted to be finished and paid by the night of the board meeting. However, board members had several suggestions that needed to be completed. The board is holding \$20,000 until the work is completed.

- The architects for the projects of both the clinic and the hospital wanted their money. Concerning the clinic, the board was still holding \$7,378. The architects also wanted up to 80 percent of their work done on the hospital remodeling and addition which would

amount to \$69,988 but when 80 percent of the cost of the project was figured, the company was asking for more than the board had agreed to. The payment to the architects was tabled until the administrator could talk to the architects.

- Board members were encouraged to attend a health leadership forum on Aug. 21. Members will be contacted before that date.

- The administrator presented plans for the Community Development Block Grant to the board. He had also informed the commissioners of similar plans. An article on this grant appears elsewhere in this issue.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the board will be changed from Aug. 21 to the 20 with the meeting starting at noon.

# Hospital

## Commissioners

Continued from Page 1

think about the proposal and look at the numbers. They will then submit their proposal to the city council.

### Senior center

Art Krueger and Ken Quigley, both representing the St. Francis Senior Center, talked to the commissioners about the plight of the center. They noted that the center not only provides a place for the seniors to meet but also provides three balanced meals for a reasonable price three times a week. The county allows the senior centers in the county one-half of a mill and that amount is split with St. Francis receiving three-fifths (\$4,703) and the other two-fifths going to Bird City. The money collected for meals (\$2.25 is recommended but some pay less) goes to the Area Department on Aging which is used for food and to pay the head cook.

However, with rising expenses, the senior center is dipping into memorial funds and savings each month. They said that Sherman County received 1 mill and McCook seniors had received enough money to build a new center.

Mr. Krueger had a list of expenses and a graph showing that, if the center continued at the current rate, it would be out of money by the year 2006.

The commissioners made no decision to give extra funding to the center.

### Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, gave the commissioners the bids for two new graders and one ripper. The total cost would be \$263,716. There was a great deal of discussion on purchasing new graders vs. used graders.

Commissioner Jane Brubaker pointed out that the commissioners were always talking about being strapped for funds and budgets being tight and then turn around and purchase two new graders.

Commissioner Ron Krien said that it did not make sense to buy two graders that were halfway worn out. The new graders could be leased, the interest rate was low and they would have 5-year guarantees.

The money for these purchases had been put aside in the budget and the commissioners finally decided to make the purchases of two new graders and a ripper and go with the lease company/bank that would give the lowest interest rate.

Supervisor Flemming pre-

sented an agreement for the county to purchase the easement from Stroh Farms, southwest of St. Francis. The payment will be paid on Oct. 1.

Ervin Hilt had shown interest in getting a water permit for his gravel pit however, he would want the royalty on the gravel removed. The board felt like they would like to see if any landowners in the same area would like to donate gravel in exchange for the pond that was created. The supervisor will be checking with other landowners in that area.

### In other business

In other business:  
• The commissioners approved the purchase of two hand-held radios for the St. Francis Police Department. The cost is \$1,300 and funds to cover the purchase will be taken from 911 funds.

- Overtime hours (22 hours) for the undersheriff were approved.

- The Trego Juvenile Interlocal Agreement was signed and the county will be assured that juveniles will be taken at the facility. The cost per person will be \$145 per day.

- One of the courthouse's air conditioning units went out and the commissioners agreed to repair the unit for \$1,746.

- Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital Administrator, and Susan Hobrock, Cheyenne County Development Coordinator, talked about obtaining a Community Development Block Grant. (See related article.) The commissioners were in favor of Administrator Lacy getting the ball rolling on the grant process.

- George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, said that during an inspection, six of the Scott Paks used by the department had bad bottles. The replacement cost for new bottles will be \$2,000 but Chief Harper said he could get used bottles for a cheaper price. The St. Francis City Council agreed to pay for half the cost and the commissioners will pick up the other half.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been changed from July 31 to July 30 starting at 8 a.m. in the commissioners' room at the courthouse in St. Francis.



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## Wedding plans made

Darrell Petz, Bird City, and Sherrie Antholz, Topeka, are proud to announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Shanda Petz, to Shane Preston, son of Paul and Sue Preston, Alma.

Shanda is a graduate of Cheylin High School and a recent graduate of Fort Hays State University with a bachelor degree in psychology and business administration. She accepted a job with Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center in Chanute.

Shane is a graduate of Wabaunsee High School and North Central Kansas Technical College. He is employed with Ranz Motor



Petz and Preston

Company as an automotive technician in Chanute.

A Dec. 6 wedding will take place at the Otterbein United Methodist Church in Chanute.

## South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Kaylyn and Curtis Officer were Friday overnight guests of their grandparents Lynn and Rita Officer.

Brian and Shannon Kauffman of Olathe were Sunday evening guests of Lindon and Diane Montgomery.

Linda Dewey was home visiting her parents, Ote and Ellen Dewey for a couple of days.

George and Kathy Banister and family attended the 4-H Style Review in Atwood Thursday. Amanda was a participant and George was part of the entertainment.

Aaron and Lacy Sramck and children were Saturday evening guests of Lee and Pam Vyzourek.

Pam Vyzourek spent Sunday with Joe Vyzourek in Colby.

Bethel Goltl attended the 90th birthday celebration for Walt Roesener in Bird City Sunday afternoon.

George, Kathy, Debbie and Jamie Banister and Jamie's friend Mary of India went to Denver Wednesday to view the mountains.

George and Kathy Banister and family were Thursday dinner guests of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison.

Jamie Banister and Mary returned to St. Louis Friday.

George and David Banister were Friday and Saturday overnight guests of Steve and Diane Heiman and family of Chester, Neb.

On Sunday afternoon, Kathy, Amanda and Debbie Banister were part of their Beardsley Beaver 4-H tour.

Curtis and Kaylyn Officer and Ariel and Alexi Regier were Friday night till Monday afternoon guests of their grandparents, Lynn and Rita Officer. Mark and Dawn Officer left Friday on a mission trip to Chicago.

Sunday evening guests at the home of Lynn and Rita Officer were Margaret Voorhies and Rachelle Herydt, Tierman, Olivia and Allison.



## Early Announcement Potluck - Fellowship Dinner

for Former Congregation of the Berean Fundamental Church

Rev. Frank Hogeland & family will be special guests

Sun., Oct. 19 • 12 CDT

Senior Citizen Center

322 W. Washington • St. Francis

For more information call:

Donna Northrup • 785-332-2509

or Janet Elliott (Young) • 303-594-5937

## FUNDRAISER

for Heartland Rural Counseling Services

**Pizza Hut**  
Sunday, July 27 at St. Francis

Tuesday, July 29  
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## AUDITIONS for

"D.K. Molar, The Devious Dentist"

Wednesday, July 30 • 7 p.m.

Cheyenne Theater

Scripts available at the Public Library (Script reading **NOT** required for audition)

Auditions are for **D.K. MOLAR** actors only: •4 females •2 males

Also needed: •Singers + Dancers for Oleos •Stage Crew •Scenery Help

NEW Production Dates: Nov. 1-2  
Participants will be asked to rehearse 14 weeks prior to production.  
Rehearsals begin the week of August 10.

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