

Hospital info now available on web site

By Karen Krien

Board members were informed about the hospital's new web site when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Thursday.

Shawna Blanka, administrative assistant, has assisted in the development of a web site for the county hospital and board members were shown how www.cheyenecountyhospital.com could help patients, as well as others who want to know more about the hospital, clinic and general health issues.

The site includes: an introduction to physicians, referrals and jobs along with the latest information from the hospital.

County health office

Administrator Les Lacy said he is waiting for the final word from the Community Development Block Grant officials to proceed with the approved project, the county health office which will be located in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis. The administrator said the design work should start within 60 days and expects construction to begin in June with the completion date being estimated at 90 days.

There are two ways of handling the \$25,000 matching funds which the hospital needs to put up for the grant. The board was given the choice of giving the \$25,000 to the county treasurer and she automatically handles the bill paying or the funds could stay in the board account.

Following discussion, the board decided they would have more control if they would pay the board's share of the bills as they came.

Parking area bids

Bids for the parking area on the west side of the new hospital addition were reviewed. There were four bids: Krien Steel, Ron Krien,

St. Francis, \$18,477; Baxter Concrete, Wauneta, Neb., \$13,145; Troy Porter, St. Francis, \$14,000; Kris Doyle, St. Francis, \$15,900.

Considerable time was spent discussing the bids including the quality of the workmanship and could the job be completed by March 15. The board members also wanted to keep the work in the county but when it came time to make the final decision, the board felt it was necessary to take the low bid which was with Baxter Concrete.

Invoices/pay applications

The board approved the architect's invoices of \$9,102 and \$11,169; and the contractor's pay application of \$166,691 to be turned into the commissioners for the final approval and payment. Administrator Lacy reported that \$130,509 has been retained until the job is completed.

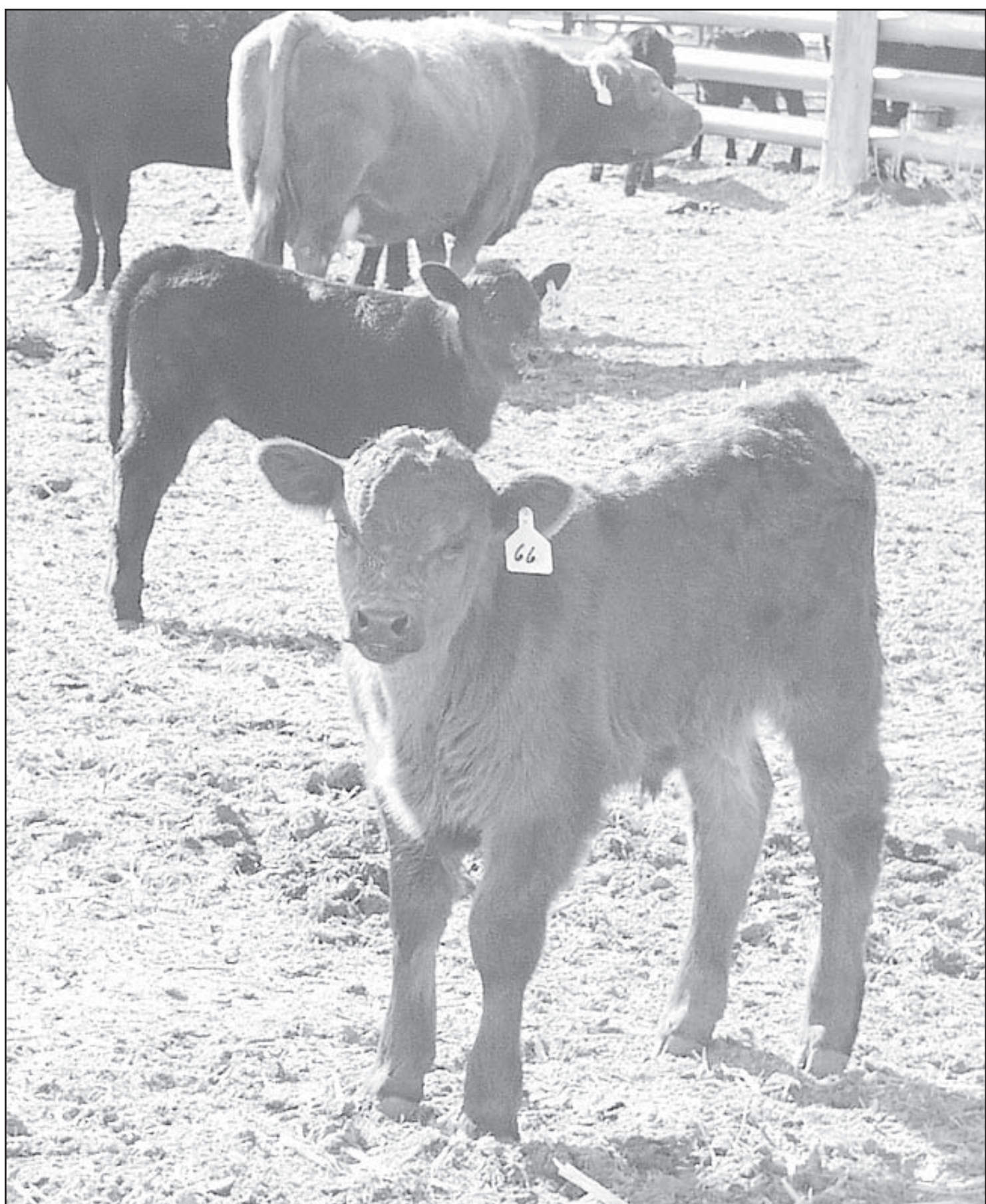
Administrator's report

The administrator reported the hospital usage had been steady both by those staying in the facility and those who were using the outpatient services. The hospital had also been able to meet its cash needs since the last board meeting.

The search for an additional physician is continuing. Administrator Lacy said he is carefully looking, having ruled out four possible candidates.

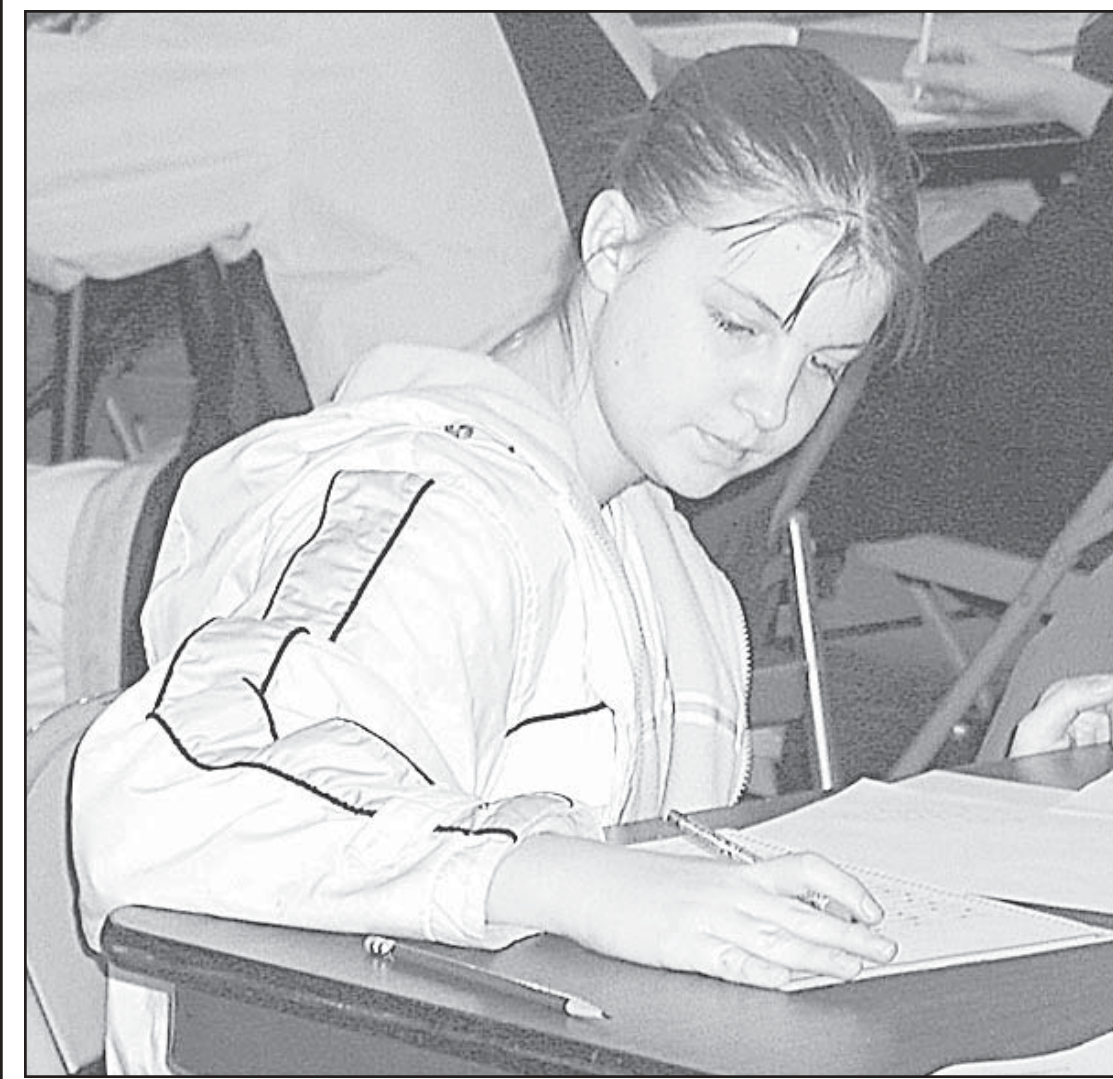
He also said that Tim Hoskins, a doctor who had signed to come to the county and then backed out, has signed with Colby. The administrator said he is working with the Colby administrator to recover the hospital board's investment with interest.

Lab One is a preferred provider plan for labs but the administrator feels that the hospital is uncomfortable with the Lab One Agreement
See HOSPITAL on page 6



GET ALONG LITTLE DOGGIES! One sure sign of Spring is calving season. Area ranchers have been spending long hours tending to the new borns. This little fella seems right at home southeast of Bird City at Dean Knapp's ranch.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick



NIKKI JOHNSON is in deep thought during an area scholarship competition held at Cheylin gym. Seventh and eighth graders participated in the contest.

Photo courtesy of Susan Jensen

Cheylin students excel in state

Twenty-four students from Cheylin Schools will be recognized on March 17 at a school luncheon for having attained the Standard of Excellence on the 2003 state assessments. Each student will receive a certificate of recognition from the State Board of Education for his or her accomplishments.

Students being recognized for their performance on the state assessments include: Heath Antholz, Craig Busse, Whitney Churchwell, Daniel Frisbie, Caleb Keltz and

Chris Walden for Math 4, Vance Churchwell, Lance Leonard, Naomi Reeh and Caitlin Wright for Reading 5, Whitney Churchwell and Chris Walden for Science 4, Sydney Busse for Social Studies 6, Vanessa Antholz, Sarina Burmester and Kaedra Dixson for Math 7, Justin Antholz, Andrew Marshall and Rebecca Mason for Math 10, Samantha Beeson, Aubrey Kehlbeck and Nathan Ketzner for Reading 8, Hayley Young for Reading 11, Vanessa Antholz, Chris

Basnett and Kaedra Dixson for Science 7, Justin Antholz and Rebecca Mason for Science 10, Samantha Beeson and Aubrey Kehlbeck for Social Studies 8 and Cristi Antholz, Chase Krien and Hayley Young for Social Studies 11.

"These students can take pride in meeting such a high standard of academic performance," said State Board of Education Chairperson Janet Waugh. "Their accomplishments also reflect well on the efforts of teachers and their school."

Meth lab found in county

Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring announced on Monday that the KBI, Cheyenne County Sheriff's Department, Sherman County Sheriff's Department and St. Francis Police Department executed a search warrant in southwest Cheyenne County on Feb. 20.

They found what is believed to be a substantial-sized meth lab.

The HAZMAT emergency response team came to the scene and cleaned up the site.

Sheriff Dankenbring stated that charges are pending.



MUSICAL TRAFFIC SIGNS: Workers for the Kansas Department of Transportation returned the speed limit to the east of town on Highway 36 after they had moved the markers earlier this month. KDOT officials could not be reached for comment, watch *Bird City Times* for a related story soon.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Health care administrator goes to nation's Capitol for action

By Casey McCormick
Affordable health care is a primary concern for all, but especially for the elderly. The administrator for St. Francis Good Samaritan Village, Paul Rainbolt, recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to make a difference.

He met with Representative Jerry Moran and staff members of Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback to discuss the need for giving the elderly more home health care. Mr. Rainbolt sees the future of the health care industry to focus on providing for individuals as long as possible in their own home.

While visiting the nation's Capitol Mr. Rainbolt became

aware of a grant for home-based health care from the Department of Agriculture. One of the stipulations for the Federal grant is that a non-profit based community development organization must be involved. With the help of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, a request has been submitted seeking \$22,750.

Along with the efforts of Mr. Rainbolt, much of the grant process was handled by Susan Hobrock, Cheyenne County Development Corporation Coordinator.

"Flexibility by Susan Hobrock did a great deal for additional work on government

forms," Mr. Rainbolt said.

If the grant is approved it will provide for 842 county residents over the age of 65.

Mr. Rainbolt is not stopping there. Another possibility for health care funding is PACE, the Program of All-inclusive Care of the Elderly. Several PACE programs are operating in the United States and provide additional services for home health care. Unfortunately they are all based in large urban areas.

But on March 10, Mr. Rainbolt plans to attend a work group in Hays which will address strategies for adapting PACE to serve rural areas.



BIRD CITY ALUMNI look over restored photographs. John DaPron shows off his handy work used to restore aging Cardinal mementos being stored at the American Legion Hall. Members of this year's alumni organizers are Donna Johnson, Sherrie Krien, John Hendricks and Barbara Beougher. The alumni banquet will be held May 29.
Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

The McDonald Senior Citizens will hold their March meeting and potluck dinner on Monday, March 1. Members of the McDonald Federated Church enjoyed their annual Valentine's supper on Wednesday evening in Colby at Montana Mike's. February birthdays were celebrated on Wednesday, Feb. 18 for lunch at the Frosty Mug. "Birthday girls" were LeAnn Rall, LaVina Waters, Betty Lewis, Sue Miller, Vera Kacirek, Dee Archer and Joan Tongish. It was decided that birthdays will always be celebrated on the third Wednesday of the month. March birthdays will be celebrated on March 17. R.J. and Susie Sabatka spent the weekend in Hays with Chanda and Rachel and helped Taylor Wilson celebrate his sixth birthday.

On Wednesday Amelia Banister and Eleanor Swihart accompanied LaVina Waters to Atwood to attend the funeral of Lucille Denny. Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison accompanied Ray and Marlene Johnson to Colby on Wednesday evening to the Valentine supper at Montana Mike's. Amanda Banister was a Sunday supper guest of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison. Ray and Marlene Johnson were Saturday evening visitors of George and Eula Vandegriffe in Atwood. Visitors of Tunney and Leila Loker this past week were Gary Loker, Vance and Missy Redding of Wray, Colo., were Sunday supper guests. Tunney and Leila Loker were Wednesday afternoon visitors of Lila Howard.

Vance and Betty Lewis were Wednesday visitors of Lenora Spicka and then visited Dorothy Headrick and her daughter, Verda Wancura at the Prairie Plaza in Colby. Mildred and Sue Heinbigner of Culbertson were Saturday morning visitors of Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson. All drove to Goodland to attend the 80th birthday open house for Virginia Wilkinson. They also visited with Wilma Burk and Bev Frayley while in Goodland. Rod, Lisa and Josh Johnson were Saturday supper of Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson. Norman and Tessa Davis were guests of Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson to St. John Church to enjoy the Mardi Gras supper served by the Catholic Youth Organization members.

South of McDonald By Sandy Binning

George, Kathy and Amanda Banister attended the Cheylin- Tribune basketball games Friday. Afterwards they traveled to Topeka and were overnight guests of Lonnie and Stacey Martin. Saturday morning Amanda went to Washburn University and took the test for the Garvey Scholarship. The Banisters also watched Nichole Martin play basketball Saturday and then they returned home. Tim Rieb of Brewster, Washington was a Wednesday through Saturday guest of Lavern and Bethel Golt. Tim is Bethel's nephew. Matt Golt of Wichita flew in Friday to visit his parents, Lavern and Bethel Golt. Tim Rieb's mother, Barbara Rieb of Denver, was an additional Friday overnight guest of Lavern and Bethel Golt. Ty and Teryn Carmichael were Saturday guests of their grandpar-

ents, Jim and Cheryl Banister. Mark and Dawn Officer of Broken Arrow, Okla., are proud to announce the birth of a son on Feb. 20, 2004. Caleb Daniel weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches long. Welcoming him home are brother, Curtis and sister Kaylyn 3. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Laswell of Gentry, Ark., and Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Officer of McDonald. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Earl McNair, Mary Laswell of Gentry, Ark., Betty Dewey of Seward and Eunice Officer of McDonald. Joe and Charlene Kramer and Diane Shay and children all spent the weekend in Ozarkie visiting with family and friends. Henry and Eldean Cahoj attended the 80th birthday celebration for Bill

Cahoj Sunday afternoon in Atwood. Afterward they attended the Rawlins County Emergency Medical Technicians and firefighter reception held at the Atwood Bowling Alley. Tyler Hill was a Sunday supper guest of Tom and Kelly Dewey. Mr. and Mrs. George Banister and family attended the Cheylin basketball games Tuesday evening in McDonald. It was parents' night. George and Kathy Banister attended the basketball games Friday night in Healy. Amanda Banister attended the Norton Regional wrestling tournament Saturday. Ty and Teryn Carmichael were Saturday and Sunday guests of their grandparents, Jim and Cheryl Banister.

Airport Authority has meeting

At the Jan. 30 Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, two Airport Authority members Rodney Bracelin and Dave Yost, along with Robert Grace and Richard Grace, discussed the opportunity to receive a 95-5 matching grant with the county having to match only 5 percent of the costs. The Federal Aviation Administration's new proposal would make funding available to the airport in the amount of \$150,000 a year for three years with the 95-5 match. The commissioners gave tentative approval to apply for the grants but felt, that since there were only two Airport Authority members present, a second meeting should be held with

a larger turnout of members and decide what constituted a quorum. The Airport Authority met on Feb. 10 and four members were present: Ken Krien, Rod Young, Rodney Bracelin and Rick Rogers. All three county commissioners, Tim Raile, Jane Brubaker and Ron Krien, also attended. According to the Airport Authority meeting notes, three motions passed unanimously: 1) Mr. Bracelin was named temporary chair for the meeting. 2) A quorum for the Airport Authority would be four of the seven members. 3) It was decided to pursue Federal funding for the Cheyenne County Airport with the initial

step being the hiring of an engineering firm to create an airport master plan. The necessary paperwork was signed. Ken Krien noted that he would resign from the Authority if a replacement could be found. Since he is in Commissioner Brubaker's district, she said she would make inquiries to see who might be interested in serving. The county attorney will be contacted to see if the Airport Authority should have a set of bylaws and possibly a constitution.

Hospital

Continued from Page 1
as the plan's aim to take lab volume out of the community. This would make it difficult or impossible for the hospital's lab to provide the current array of lab services. However, to serve the community, negotiation with Lab One are underway. Administrator Lacy pointed out that the nursing staff is very good at this time although the hospital is short about two nurses. The hospital has eight registered nurses but also agreed with Swede Calnon, board member, that he needed to continue encouraging younger nurses to come to the county and/or be able to offer scholarships to those interested in a nursing career.

of the clinic enclosed. The cost will be around \$250. **Next meeting**
The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 7 p.m. on March 18 in the clinic basement in St. Francis.

The administrator announced that Dr. Charles Frankum, a general surgeon from Denver, is now licensed for Kansas and he has surgeries scheduled for March 3 at the Cheyenne County Hospital. There was discussion on the purchase of scopes and the board decided to purchase one-half set of scopes for \$14,995 which would include the accessories. Rawlins County Hospital will purchase the other half set of scopes. They will also share some of the scopes since Dr. Frankum will be practicing surgery in both counties.

In other business
• Board office elections were held with the officers remaining the same as last year: Reuben Schultz, chairman; Joy Anderegg, secretary; Traci Neitzel, treasurer.
• Jackie John, Great Plains Health Alliance Director, gave a report on hospital statistics and brought members up to date on what is happening in the Alliance.
• Administrator Lacy, in the third quarter Continuous Quality Improvement report, told about ways the staff is being recognized; that help was still needed in the dietary department; and the nursing department is improving emergency room response time.
• The board agreed to have tile laid on the basement floor of the new hospital addition. The cost of the tile is approximately \$2,500 and Bill Wilger, hospital maintenance man, will do the labor. The board asked that Mr. Wilger get at least one more bid on the cost of tile. They also discussed window covering for the new windows and basement windows which will be taken care of when the need arises.
• The board agreed to have the janitor supply room in the basement

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2003 Toyota Corolla LE --- All Power, Spoiler, CD, Loaded, 12,708 Mi. ----- \$13,300
2002 Olds Alero --- Spoiler, All Power, CD, Loaded, Factory Warranty, 7,026 Mi. ----- \$11,800
2003 Chrysler Sebring --- Loaded, All Power, 14,409 Mi. ----- \$11,800
2003 Chevy Malibu --- V-6, Factory Warranty, 5,774 Mi. ----- \$10,800
2003 Mitsubishi Galantes --- 13,000 Mi., Factory Warranty, CD, All Power, Auto \$9,400
2001 Pontiac Grand Am --- All Power, Spoiler, Loaded ----- \$6,800
1999 Nissan Sentra --- All Power, CD, Auto ----- \$3,800
26 MORE TO CHOOSE FROM

Vans
2004 Chrysler Town &Country --- 2nd Row Quads, Rear Air, Loaded, 9,090 Mi. ----- \$20,800
2003 Dodge Grand Caravan SE --- (2) Child Seats, Rear Air, Loaded, Loaded, 2,817 Mi., Factory Warranty ----- \$18,600
2002 Dodge 3/4 Ton Cargo Van --- White, 23,533 Mi. ----- \$12,800
2000 Pontiac Montana --- Loaded, Loaded, 2nd Row Quads, Rear Air ----- \$10,800
1998 Pontiac Prizm --- (4) Door, Rear Air, All Power, V-6 ----- \$4,800
11 MORE TO CHOOSE FROM

SUV's
2000 Chevy Suburban --- Leather, Loaded, 26,898 Mi. ----- \$26,800
2000 Chevy Suburban --- Leather, Loaded, 55,450 Mi. ----- \$23,800
2001 Ford Expedition --- Loaded Loaded, Perfect, 29,012 Mi. ----- \$22,800
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1998 Jeep Cherokee --- 4x4, 43,503 Mi. ----- \$6,800
1998 Isuzu Amigo --- 4x4, 53,214 Mi. ----- \$6,600
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