

Cheyenne County Museum holds a variety of history

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Museum, located on U.S. 36, St. Francis, is probably one of the best museums in the area. It is stocked with a variety of historical items, collections and books but what many people appear to like the best are the “rooms.”

The rooms are displays of former county businesses, doctor and dentist offices, post office, and rooms depicting another era. There are sections which show old machinery and equipment, saddles and other such items.

People, local and travelers, often spend hours just looking at what the museum offers. School children take field trips to the museum and marvel at how “it used to be.”

“The museum has had people coming from as far away as China and Spain and people are always amazed at everything we have,” said Margaret Bucholtz, president of the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

What is even more amazing is the fact that the Cheyenne County Museum is run on a “shoestring” budget. The county commissioners appropriate \$3,500 to \$4,000 a year. In the beginning, the museum received a half of a mill.

Money is also raised by selling books, through donations and memorials, and with membership dues. They have received a grant or two but most grants require matching funds which the museum does not have.

In recent years, the museum had a curator who worked part-time. Having Marge Fossett as curator was nice because the museum was always open when she was there. But, because there was not enough money, the museum doesn’t have a curator and hours are not always regular.

Today, the museum is kept open throughout the year and on special occasions with volunteers. It is the volunteers who clean and do the upkeep on the museum and the Ye Ole Country Church; and volunteers who set up the displays.

Tobe Zwegyardt volunteers his time to give tours in the county. There have been other tours such as



OLD-TIME SCHOOL ROOM is one of the many attractions which can be viewed at the Cheyenne County Museum. The many displays will take visitors back in time.

the cemetery tour and the Kidder Massacre. Each year the volunteers, who are also generally members of the Historical Society, hold a special Flag Day ceremony.

The mission of the museum is to research and record historical events in the county as well as those reports of businesses and individuals. They often do research for people who are looking for genealogy information. Again, volunteer work.

Books have been published about the county, its residents and veterans. On sale at the museum are the Cheyenne County History Book, The Veterans’ Book, Burial Book, 1935 Flood and Early Bird City History Book. Members of the Historical Society are now considering

compiling a second volume of the county history book and one on country schoolhouses.

Museum work

The work on the museum began in 1985 under the direction of Milton Lampe. It was finished in 1987. The church was moved in later.

Today, there always seems to be something that needs to be repaired. The church is presently being painted. Kurt Bucholtz has installed additional lighting around the back of the building.

The Historical Society is the working force behind the museum operation and upkeep. Members are always needed. The election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 14. See related article for more information.

Historical Society elections scheduled

Elections of the Cheyenne County Historical Society are scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the museum on U.S. 36. Any member of the Society can cast their vote. People can join on Nov. 14 and

still vote. If members are unable to go to the regular meeting which begins at 5 p.m., they can vote during the day as the museum will be open.

Officers are an important part of the Society and are necessary to the operation of the Cheyenne County Museum.

Those up for election are: president - Stan Carman; vice president - Margaret Bucholtz; secretary - Dee Dorsch; treasurer - Clarence Iliff. One board member will be elected. Running are Milton Lampe and Lucille Rossbach.

If there is someone who would like to run for office, or know of someone who would like to be an officer, contact Elmer Kellner or Margaret Bucholtz.

When the elections are held on Tuesday, there will also be an opportunity for nominations from the floor.

The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Even if members cannot attend the meetings, they can still pay their dues and it can be their way of supporting the museum.

For more information, contact Mrs. Bucholtz at 785-332-2040.



GODSPELL MUSICAL will preform Thursday and Friday by the Cheylin High School students. Above (left to right) Sam Hengen, Nikki Johnson, Lincoln Pochup and Colleen Shrader are part of the cast.

Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett

Board members discuss in-patient volume at hospital

In-patient volume at the hospital was consistently up in October.

Administrator Les Lacy told the Cheyenne County Hospital Board at the Oct. 24 meeting that the hospital has continued to be very busy averaging nine to 10 patients daily.

Traci Neitzel, board member, asked about the maximum number of patients in the hospital. Administrator Lacy said the hospital is licensed for 16 beds. When the hospital begins taking obstetric patients, it may bring up some other issues but these patients will only be in the hospital for two to three days.

Mrs. Neitzel asked how the administrator adjusts the staff for the slower times vs the busy times. The administrator said that when the hospital has low patient numbers, the staff may volunteer or be asked to take “low-census” days.

However he indicated that there is a limit to how many low-census days employees can take without needing to seek other sources of income. Using more certified nurses’ aides during the busier times helps which is one reason the hospital is currently looking for two aide positions and then one experienced registered nurse who can assist with obstetrics and in the emergency room.

Dr. Rebecca Allard, who will be coming to practice at the hospital in 2007, has recently worked in the clinic and saw inpatients. The administrator said she was received very well by staff and patients.

The statistics were reviewed and the volume for the providers and clinic has been steady. Administrator Lacy reported that a “Docs Who Care” physician will be at the hospital to help the providers.

The administrator said the average length of patient stay is climbing which is good. The physical therapy numbers are the best they have been in the last five years.

The County Health report was reviewed. The report showed a steady volume of patients and a variety of activities which are reaching all areas of the communities.

Memorial garden

Contractor Troy Porter gave a proposal on the landscaping in the back of the hospital. This proposal included grading all areas for drainage, installing fabric barrier and approximately 100 ton of fractured granite to a depth of 3-4 inches and place four or five moss rock boulders for soil erosion and beauty.

Mrs. Neitzel suggested making the area into a “memory garden” and using some memorial money to put in a bench. After some discussion it was decided that the administrator would write a request for a proposal with Mrs. Neitzel’s help to get more bids.

The proposal would include a part that if a county business had a bid and was a certain percent higher than out-of-county bids, the board had the option to stay in the county. This proposal would include 50 shrubs or grasses to control erosion and would be easy to maintain plus be attractive.

Fire marshal

The Kansas State Fire Marshal was at the hospital and left with several deficiencies. The three broad categories the deficiencies fit into are:

- 1) Fire caulking and smoke sealing issues - these have been referred to the involved contractors.
- 2) Documentation issues - these relate chiefly to the inspector wanting the hospital to use new forms that were made available by the fire marshal’s office during the inspection.
- 3) A pre-existing, non-conforming condition at the east basement exit - discussions are now underway with the architect and the fire marshal’s office.

In the event that the discussions between the architect and the fire marshal are not able to get the pre-existing, non-conforming condition at the east basement exit grandfathered, the administrator has indicated that he and the hospital maintenance person can repair the condition with an in-house project.

Equipment

Administrator Lacy presented a bid on a new anesthesia machine. This is the model preferred by Kim Zwegyardt, the hospital’s certified registered nurse anesthetist, and is

the same machine Dundy County Hospital administration recently purchased. The VHA contract price is \$39,631, the monitor is \$12,729 and a 3-year contract is \$2,131 for a total of \$54,491. This will be paid with by funded depreciation. The board agreed to purchase the anesthesia machine. This purchase was not on the capital equipment budget for this year.

A bid for a new phone system to replace the obsolete 10-year-old system was presented. All replacement parts for the current system are refurbished parts and the system is unable to expand further.

The bid for \$44,494 was accepted by the board and will also be paid for with funded depreciation. Neither the phone system purchase nor the new anesthesia machine are in the capital equipment budget for this year.

Director’s report

Great Plains Health Alliance report was given by Jackie John, area director. She said the hospitals in the Great Plains Health Alliance network have joined the Quality Health Indicator Benchmarking Project starting this month. This project will help Critical Access Hospitals collect, track and trend data that is pertinent to their unique environment and to participate in a nationally recognized initiative that demonstrates health care quality in rural America. It will also give them the opportunity to benchmark their quality against other Great Plains Health Alliance facilities and other participating facilities in Kansas.

In other business

- In other business:
- The administrator reviewed the mission, vision and values of the facility and staff. It was decided that the board members would take the survey’s home and do the short survey and bring it back to the next meeting.
 - The heating for the concrete in the front and back of the hospital is not done but should be completed soon.
 - The lab system which is up and running is still undergoing several issues.

Next meeting

The next meeting was moved to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30, in the Cheyenne County Clinic basement meeting room in St. Francis.

Editor’s note: The above article was taken from the unapproved Oct. 24 Cheyenne County Hospital Board minutes.

Public Notice

Petition filed in estate for administration

Published in the Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, November 2, November 9 and November 16, 2006. (44-46)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Case No. 06-PR-19
DELORIS E. NIPPS A/K/A
DELORIS NIPPS, DECEASED
PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 59

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on October 30, 2006, a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration

was filed in this Court by Charles W. Nipps, sole heir of Deloris E. Nipps, deceased.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within four months from the date of first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Charles W. Nipps, Petitioner
APPROVED BY:
JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARTERED
James M. Milliken #07001
101 W. Washington, P.O. Box 627
St. Francis, Kansas 67756-0627
(785) 332-2101
Attorney for Administrator

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2006 TAX LEVIES FOR CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS USED TO FUND THE 2007 BUDGETS

Prepared by Cheyenne County Clerk
Taxable Valuation of Cheyenne County is \$43,460,833
(Levies shown are taxes per \$1,000.00 valuation)

Comparison of 2005 and 2006 levies and valuations:					
	2005 Valuation	2005 Levy	2006 Valuation	2006 Levy	Difference
State	\$40,501,431	1.500	\$43,460,833	1.500	
County	\$40,501,431		\$43,460,833		
General		26.245		21.862	-4.383
Road & Bridge		11.293		16.221	4.928
Bridge Building		0.840		0.057	-0.783
Noxious Weed		0.556		0.665	0.109
Bond & Interest		5.625		6.560	0.935
Hospital		5.569		5.353	-0.216
Total		50.128		50.718	0.590
2005 Valuations(Dollars)					
Bird City	2,330,316	33.132	2,278,873	40.753	7.621
St. Francis	6,565,963	28.753	6,567,322	31.755	3.002
USD 103	11,462,294	35.862	10,861,103	37.858	1.996
USD 297	29,039,137	34.520	32,599,730	34.329	-0.191
Cemetery Dist 1		0.822	11,415,054	0.865	0.043
Cemetery Dist 2		0.817	32,045,779	0.720	-0.097
Rural Fire 1		1.172	33,721,285	1.164	-0.008
Rural Fire 3		1.490	893,353	1.485	-0.005
NWKS Library		0.881	34,614,638	0.942	0.061
Sunflower Ext. Dist. 6			43,460,833	1.985	
Levies of Taxing Units					
State Levies	K.S.A.	Levy	City of Bird City	K.S.A.	Levy
KS Ed. Bldg.	76-6b01	1.000	General	79-1953	38.205
State Institutions	76-6b04	0.500	Library	79-5032	2.548
Total		1.500	Total		40.753
County Levies					
General	K.S.A.	Levy	City of St. Francis	K.S.A.	Levy
General	79-1946	21.862	General	79-5032	27.754
Road & Bridge	68-5,101	16.221	Library	79-5032	4.001
Bridge Building	68-1135	0.057	Total		31.755
Noxious Weed	2-1318	0.665			
Bond & Interest	19-15,116	6.560			
Hospital	12-183	5.353			
Total		50.718			
001 City of Bird City					
Valuation	\$2,278,873		State	1.500	
City	40.753		County	50.718	
USD 103	37.858		City	31.755	
Cemetery 1	0.865		USD 297	34.329	
SED #6	1.985		Rural Fire 1	1.164	
Total	133.679		Library	0.942	
			SED #6	1.985	
			Total	121.007	
002 City of St. Francis					
Valuation	\$6,567,322		State	1.500	
City	50.718		County	50.718	
City	40.753		City	31.755	
USD 103	37.858		USD 297	34.329	
Cemetery 1	0.865		Rural Fire 1	1.164	
SED #6	1.985		Library	0.942	
Total	133.679		SED #6	1.985	
			Total	121.007	
008 Bird City Township					
Valuation	\$7,019,925		State	1.500	
County	50.718		County	50.718	
USD 103	37.858		Cemetery 1	0.865	
Rural Fire 1	1.164		Rural Fire 3	1.485	
Library	0.942		Library	0.942	
SED #6	1.985		SED #6	1.985	
Total	95.032		Total	95.032	
010 Bird City Township					
Valuation	\$893,353		State	1.500	
County	50.718		County	50.718	
USD 103	37.858		Cemetery 1	0.865	
Rural Fire 1	1.164		Rural Fire 3	1.485	
Library	0.942		Library	0.942	
SED #6	1.985		SED #6	1.985	
Total	95.032		Total	95.032	
0017 Calhoun Township					
Valuation	\$300,114		State	1.500	
County	50.718		County	50.718	
USD 103	37.858		USD 297	34.329	
Cemetery 1	0.865		Cemetery 2	0.720	
Rural Fire 1	1.164		Rural Fire 1	1.164	
Library	0.942		Library	0.942	
SED #6	1.985		SED #6	1.985	
Total	95.032		Total	91.358	
018 Calhoun Township					
Valuation	\$780,829		State	1.500	
County	50.718		County	50.718	
USD 297	34.329		USD 297	34.329	
Cemetery 2	0.720		Cemetery 2	0.720	
Rural Fire 1	1.164		Rural Fire 1	1.164	
Library	0.942		Library	0.942	
SED #6	1.985		SED #6	1.985	
Total	91.358		Total	91.358	
019 Calhoun Township					
Valuation	\$129,149		State	1.500	
County	50.718		County	50.718	
USD 297	34.329		USD 297	34.329	
Cemetery 1	0.865		Cemetery 2	0.720	
Rural Fire 1	1.164		Rural Fire 1	1.164	
Library	0.942		Library	0.942	
SED #6	1.985		SED #6	1.985	
Total	91.358		Total	91.358	
027 Cleveland Run TWP					
Valuation	\$1,165,894		State	1.500	
County	50.718		County	50.718	
USD 297	34.329		USD 297	34.329	
Cemetery 2	0.720		Cemetery 2	0.720	
Rural Fire 1	1.164		Rural Fire 1	1.164	
Library	0.942		Library	0.942	
SED #6	1.985		SED #6	1.985	
Total	91.358		Total	91.358	
033 Wano Township					
Valuation	\$191,320		State	1.500	
County	50.718		County	50.718	
USD 297	34.329		USD 297	34.329	
Cemetery 1	0.865		Cemetery 1	0.865	
Rural Fire 1	1.164		Rural Fire 1	1.164	
Library	0.942		Library	0.942	
SED #6	1.985		SED #6	1.985	
Total	95.032		Total	91.503	
034 Wano Township					
Valuation	\$192,008		State	1.500	
County	50.718		County	50.718	
USD 297	34.329		USD 297	34.329	
Cemetery 1	0.865		Cemetery 1	0.865	
Rural Fire 1	1.164		Rural Fire 1	1.164	
Library	0.942		Library	0.942	
SED #6	1.985		SED #6	1.985	
Total	91.503		Total	91.503	
036 Wano Township					
Valuation	\$18,899,049		State	1.500	
County	50.718		County	50.718	
USD 297	34.329		USD 297	34.329	
Cemetery 2	0.720		Cemetery 2	0.720	
Rural Fire 1	1.164		Rural Fire 1	1.164	
Library	0.942		Library	0.942	
SED #6	1.985		SED #6	1.985	
Total	91.358		Total	91.358	
048 Orlando Township					
Valuation	\$666,339		State	1.500	