



CHEYLIN FOURTH and fifth grade students performed during the Kansas Day celebration on Monday.

Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett



BILL AND VADA Leach, Rosemary Powell and Phyllis Wright helped visitor Dennis Hengen sign in at the registration table where the ages of those attending were kept track of as well as their place of birth.

Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett



BAND MEMBERS of the Swinging Seniors entertained the crowd during their meal at Kansas Day.

Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett

Orphan Trains was the theme of Kansas Day

By Melinda Basnett

Jan. 29 marked the 78th Kansas Day celebration in Bird City. This year's theme was the "Orphan Trains of the Plains."

Following the potluck hosted by the ladies of the Wesleyan Church, president Margaret Bucholtz welcomed everyone to the Bird City American Legion Hall and the raising of the colors was held.

Music by the Swinging Seniors provided entertainment while dining. After dinner those attending were entertained by Cheylin fourth and fifth grade students singing and playing in the band. St. Francis third grade students square danced and sang some songs.

The speaker of the day was Marilyn Holt of the Kansas Humanities Council who gave the program on the Orphan Trains of the Plains. She told many stories of children shipped by train from large cities on the east coast to rural communities on the plains. Most found loving families to care for them, but many found long days of hard work on the farms. Often the children lost touch with any family they might have previously known.

After the program the Kansas Girls singing group entertained the

crowd followed by a group singing led by Marsha Magley.

Stan and Janet Carman agreed to take a turn in the president spot to put together next year's Kansas Day celebration. Tom and Sandy Smull have also agreed to help.

During the benediction Rev. Morita Truman shared her inspiration that on the memorial roster there were 100 names for 2006 and those 100 people had lived a total of 7,703 years.

The oldest woman attending was Helen Peter, born 1912; the oldest man was Coy DeGood, born 1920. Maynard Wright, born in 1915, was the oldest man born out of state. Myra Miller, born in 1910, was the oldest foreign-born woman.

The youngest boy was Taos Dale, and the youngest girl was Grace Wright (great-granddaughter to Maynard Wright).

Appreciation to the Kanred Ladies for their display of their organization's activities over the group's 65-year history was expressed. Other displays by the Tri-State Antique Engine Association, the Cheyenne County Historical Society, Ken and Barb Beougher, and Doug Hempler were also enjoyed.

McDonald woman killed in accident

By Melinda Basnett

Area residents are saddened by the tragedy that occurred last week. So many go on about their daily chores without thinking of how quickly tragedy can strike. The Rawlins County Sheriff's department and ambulances responded to a call of someone having been run over by a loader tractor on the afternoon of Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Mike Sramek farm approximately 10 miles north of McDonald.

On the scene they found Carol Sramek age 53 had been run over by a loader tractor. Emergency services responded as well but Mrs. Sramek was pronounced dead at the scene. No one knows for sure how the accident happened but some think maybe she slipped on the ice and fell out of sight behind the tractor.

Mrs. Sramek was a loving wife and mother who will be greatly missed by many.

Board looks at writing for tax credits

By Karen Krien

Writing another Kansas Income Tax Credit was discussed when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met Thursday.

Jerry Toler, chairman, said he was looking for a general opinion from the board considering the Kansas Income Tax Credits and what projects might qualify for the tax credits. Administrator Les Lacy said there are three areas which qualify for tax credits: 1) community service; 2) crime prevention; and 3) health care.

In the past, Kansas Income Tax Credits have been used by local as well as businesses and individuals outside the county. Both Mr. Toler and Joy Anderegg, board member, agreed that the community should be offered the tax credits.

If the board and administration agree to apply for the tax credits, they would need to submit a plan. Some of the many options included: hospital parking, kitchen and laundry remodel, obstetrics and cardiac monitoring.

In an earlier meeting, Mr. Lacy reported that much of the kitchen and laundry equipment is old and needs to be updated. At the Thursday meeting, he said the dishwasher had broken down but was repaired.

Out of the options suggested, he thought the hospital parking would be the least likely to be approved.

In the past, the hospital board has generated \$780,000 in donations using this program to improve the ambulance entrance, replace the hospitals heating/air conditioning which was put in when the hospital was remodeled, and to assist with the clinic remodeling.

The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Election of officers

The election of officers found all the officers retaining the same positions. Mr. Toler will remain the chairman of the board. Secretary is Mrs. Anderegg and treasurer is Traci Neitzel.

Emergency room door

The board had a bid for \$2,950 from Dependable Glass, Goodland, for emergency room entrance doors. The doors are radio controlled and have push pads.

Eddie Lauer, St. Francis, before his death, had indicated he would pay \$1,000 toward the installation of the doors. His son Roger said he would honor his dad's wishes. The rest of the money for the doors will be taken out of the hospital's memorial fund.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Lacy said the Veterans Administration will be putting in an outpatient clinic somewhere on the plains of Colorado and Kansas. Sites they have indicated interest are in Goodland, Burlington and Yuma.

"We have made several contacts to be sure the our site (Cheyenne County Hospital/Clinic) will also be considered," he said. "We will continue to pursue this."

He pointed out that the facility has a variety of assets, including interactive television (ITV), a robust electronic network and an available clinic setting. Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, said Roger John, Chief Executive Officer of the Alliance, will be calling Pat Roberts, U.S. Senator, on behalf of the hospital.

Dr. Rebecca Allard will be coming to join the hospital staff on Aug. 1.

The hospital administration is implementing a concealed weapon policy prohibiting weapons on the hospital premises for individuals not formally engaged in law enforcement. See related article.

Health fair

A health fair has been set for March 26, 27 and 28. Two health

fairs have been scheduled this year with the second one being held during the last full week in September. More information will be available closer to the date.

Strategic plan

The hospital's strategic plan was reviewed. The goals of the strategic plan fall into 5 main areas: Market Share, Financial, Workforce, Community and Facility. It was noted that many of the goals had either been achieved or were on track. Lacy pointed out that there were several of the community goals that needed more focus.

The board also did an Annual Program Evaluation, which entails a discussion of the hospital's services, volume, needs and future. Another strategic planning session will be scheduled sometime this summer.

In other business

In other business: Mrs. Neitzel said Bankwest was underpledged after she had deposited \$206,127 received from the county treasurer. The board recommended that she have some of the funds be transferred to First National Bank.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 3 p.m. on Feb. 22 in the St. Francis clinic's basement board room.

Deer testing complete in Cheyenne County

Leonard Hopper, officer for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, has told Francis O'Leary, Cheyenne County Wildlife organization member, that the monitoring for chronic wasting disease has been completed and no disease was detected.

"That obviously is good news," Officer Hopper said.

During the 2006 deer season, 2,500 samples were collected statewide. In northwest Kansas, there were 220 samples collected and, in Cheyenne County, where a diseased

deer was shot last year, only 16 samples were collected.

Mr. O'Leary thought the reason for the low testings in the county this year was the fact that the deer shot looked very healthy.

Officer Hopper said he didn't know if the sampling for chronic wasting disease will be done the same way next year but indications at this point are, that they will do it in a similar way. If so, the Cheyenne County Wildlife clubhouse will probably be a place to bring deer for testing.