



Members of the American Legion Honor Guard perform their duties during the Memorial Day Services held at the Bird City Cemetery.

Times Staff photo by Casey McCormick



Color Guard members Demi Shahan, Keith Dorsch, John Dapron, and Bob Brubaker wait to show their colors at the Memorial Day Service.

Times Staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Local service honors all vets

By Casey McCormick

A windy, gray morning was the setting for the Bird City Memorial Day Service. A large group of people were present for the program titled, "In Memory of Veterans of All Wars."

Legion Commander, Charles Coleman, presided over the ceremony. Local veterans made up the Color Guard and Honor Guard.

Shirley Daire, of St. John Lutheran Church, was the speaker and gave the benediction. The memorial wreath was placed by Hollis Dapron and Joy Anderegg. They were joined by this year's Poppy Girl, Cheylin third grader, ElsaCraig Burr.

Several veterans were recognized during this year's Legionnaire Roll Call. They were Martin Busse, Marvin L. Dowdy, Oscar Johnson, Donald Kramer and Otto Lillich.

The service closed with Nikki Johnson playing Taps.



Nikki Johnson

## Many enjoy alumni potluck and visiting

By Vera Kacirek

The McDonald Alumni Day 2007 was well attended on Sunday, May 27, at the McDonald school gym. Tables were set up for 240 place settings, and there were only a few empty spaces.

Fran Harwerth, class of 1955 welcomed everyone to the dinner and offered a prayer before the meal.

Rod Klepper of the 50 year class acted as master of ceremonies and acknowledged the honored classes. Only two alumni from the 65-year class were present. They were Goldie (Halligan) Nygaard and Duane Smith. Alumni from the 60-year class were LeRoy Enfield, Bob Johnson, Keith Loker, Elaine (Golt) Johnson, and Margie (Courtright) White.

The class of 1952 enjoyed supper on Saturday evening at Two Lee's and later were guests of C.W. and Sandy Antholz. Those attending were Lois (Johnson) Morelock, Ronard Moreland, Julianna (Harwerth) Layne, Phyllis (Officer) Cass, C.W. and Sandy Antholz, Nadine (Golt) Kehlbeck and husband Arlie, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Simon.

The 50-year class had the largest representation. Members were introduced by Beth Klepper. Attending were Larry and Patty Frisbie of Payson, Ariz., Patricia (Sramek) Egle of Stratton, Neb., Dennis and Joyce Sis of Ogallala, Neb., Don and Jan Hartman of Loxley, Ala., Myron Jacobs of Lakewood, Colo., Albert Holub of Wichita, Calif., Carolyn (Larson) Williams of Arlington Heights, Fla., Rod and Beth Klepper of Bird City, Glen Pickett of Greeley, Colo., Tom and Judy Kopriva of Excelsior Springs, Mo., and Lloyd and Maxine Rooney of College Station, Texas. Following the din-

ner, all were guests of Rod and Beth Klepper in Bird City.

From the class of 45 years were Jerry Frisbie, Doris (Knapp) Martin, and Johnny Johnson. Kathy (Andrews) Frisbie was the only member of the 40-year class that was present.

A drawing was held for the door prizes which were potted plants used as table decorations. Winners were: Amelia Banister, Barb Ewing, Glen Pickett, Vera Kacirek, Greg Moyer, Charlene Kramer, John Phifer, Julianna Layne, Denis Burk and Davie Kacirek.

The tables, decorated by the McDonald Garden Club, carried out a patriotic theme with potted plants as centerpieces.

Alumni books which were first printed in 1989 had another printing and were on sale. They end with the class of 1975 which was the last class before the consolidation with Bird City. Anyone who did not get a book can contact Kathy Frisbie or Margie Hubbard.

It was a day to be remembered with good food, lots of visiting, and no storms. People lingered to visit with old friends and classmates, and promised to come back in 2008. Lots of work goes into this day. There are tables to be set up, tables to be decorated, food to set out, and the clean-up afterwards. Margie and Dan Hubbard are always at the registration table. This day doesn't just happen, it take a lot of people to keep this celebration going on year after year.

After the day was over, many went to Bird City to attend the program given by Jamie Banister on the archeological dig she had attended in 2006 in Jordan.

## Administrator reports extremely busy week to board members

By Karen Krien

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The administrator reported that the hospital had been extremely busy when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Thursday, May 24.

Les Lacy, administrator, said they had 12 patients at one time during that week. He said the Community Service Project Tax Credit application had been completed and sent in on time. The board will know if the project has been accepted or denied early in July.

The tax credits will be used to purchase patient lifts for rooms and to remodel the hospital's kitchen and dining area. He felt very confident that the patient lifts would be considered as a worthy project but how interested the state would be in a dietary remodel. Both projects are needed at the hospital.

Mr. Lacy reported that Darrell Reed, Medical Technologist is looking at a Robert Wood-Johnson grant which could be used help provide primary professional education locally.

**Business office**

Heidi Tice, business office manager, talked about the functions of her office. She took over the position nine years ago, following the retirement of Blanche Goff. There are five employees in the office and they deal with payroll, billing and payments.

The future includes centralized billing to improve the hospital's cash flow and reimbursement. Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital is planning to provide this service. No local jobs will be lost in the transition. When asked what she saw as a necessary capital improvement for the

office, she said the hospital needed more parking.

"I have a good staff and good support from Les and Great Plains," she said. "It makes my job much easier."

**Tornado**

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains, told about the Greensburg tornado and the Kiowa County Memorial Hospital which was destroyed. She said the staff was able to get themselves and patients to the basement of the hospital and all survived.

She said teams from Great Plains hospitals and staff were able to help in the recovery of medical records, X-rays and other important documents. The majority of the documents were dry but wet records and X-rays are being sent for special handling. All financial records were backed up by the Data Center. The foresight to remove the medical records server had prevented the loss of important information, she said.

She said health services are continuing to be offered and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Kansas National Guard are supplying a field site which was to be assembled that week.

"When the hospital is completed and employees oriented, the business of hospital related services will resume," she said.

This service, she said, will provide care to the community, jobs to the employees and a beacon of hope to the people in Kiowa County.

**Memorial garden**

Traci Neitzel, board member, reported on the memorial garden which will be incorporated to the landscaping on the north of the hospital. The landscaping

will be worked on when the "Join Hands" group meets on May 31. Board members were asked to volunteer to help.

**In other business**

In other business:

- It was noted that Mrs. John has 44 years of health care experience while Mr. Lacy has 30 years.

- The administrator said Kristle Neuhalfen, physician assistant student, will be working at the hospital for a short time on a rural rotation.

- The final payment on the generator was approved. Mr. Lacy said the equipment works well and is quiet. However, it may need a taller exhaust system.

- The board was asked to check out the hospital's advertisement on CBS, Goodland, and ABC, Colby, television. The ad is scheduled to be shown around the daily news for the next three months.

- The board noted several items they would like to discuss on future agendas. Suggestions included business and environmental issues, business and economy, needed services, disaster preparedness, safety, risks, obstetrics and county health.

- The fire marshal had made another visit to the hospital and found several minor deficiencies. They have been corrected or will be in the near future.

- The power door at the emergency room is now operational. The door was donated by Eddie Lauer.

**Executive session**

The board briefly went into executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made after coming out of the session.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the board has been set at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 28, in the basement of the St. Francis clinic.