

Health fair begins March 23



The Cheyenne County Hospital Spring Health Fair for men and women will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 23 through 25.

During these three days, the health fair will offer female and male exams for the patients as well as lab draws at a much reduced price for going through the health fair. Participants must remember to fast after midnight the night before labs are drawn.

"We encourage people to drink lots of water prior to lab draws and to take your prescribed medication as well," said Mila Bandel, county health nurse. "No other foods or beverages should be consumed prior to lab draws."

The county health department is coordinating the educational exhibit booth fair that will end the annual health/safety fair on Thursday, March 26. Several exhibitors from various services and organizations have already reserved a booth space for the annual event at the St. Francis Grade School gymnasium.

Those planning to have booths include: the fire department,

emergency medical services, hospital's diabetes program, laboratory department; physical therapy, hospital nursing, Early Detection Works-Cancer program, Farm Works program, county health, Healthy Start Home Visitors program, Parents as Teachers, Unicare/Healthwave, Social Rehabilitation Services, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Cheyenne County, Regional Prevention Center, Farm Bureau, Ministerial Alliance, Hospice Care, car seat distribution check station, nutritional services at the hospital and the Masonic Lodge with the child identification program.

There is still booth space available, Mrs. Bandel said.

The educational healthy/safety fair is a hands-on learning event for all ages and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The result of the lab draws that week, said Mrs. Bandel, will be available with one-on-one consultation from the Cheyenne County Medical providers for your lab consultant report.

For more information, contact Mrs. Bandel at the county health department, 332-2381.



IT SEEMED MORE LIKE A SUMMER BREAK than and daylight saving time, it is all about who can jump spring break for Ivan Kemp (l), Joslyn Ketzner and Joseph Augusta. Taking advantage of the warm weather the highest. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Emergency medical technicians in short supply, especially in Bird City

Emergency medical technicians are needed in Cheyenne County, especially in the Bird City area.

Jannelle Bowers, Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service director, reported at the Friday county commissioners' meeting that there might be a slightly longer dispatch time for both Bird City and St. Francis ambulance calls.

"We are approaching the time of year that the majority of the technicians in Bird City and St. Francis are usually out on agricultural-related jobs that do not allow them to respond in a timely manner," she said.

The Kansas State Board of Emergency Medical Services

dictates a minimum requirement of technicians on a call calendar. At least two emergency medical service personnel, specifically at least one first responder or higher and one emergency medical technician-B or higher must be available in order for an ambulance to proceed to the scene.

"We are asking the citizens of our county for their help in understanding this matter due to the possibility of an ambulance coming from another town," Mrs. Bowers said. "There might be a delay in transportation."

Typically, one or more technicians will respond to the scene to provide patient care prior to the arrival of the ambulance.

"Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service is providing patient care to the best of our ability," Mrs. Bowers said.

The service personnel is asking for understanding and cooperation from local employers. The state prohibits employers from discharging any employee by reason of the fact that the employee performs duties as a volunteer fire fighter, volunteer certified emergency medical services attendant, as defined in KSA 65-6112. Also amended are volunteer reserve law enforcement officers or part-time law enforcement officers.

"We are deeply grateful to all employers who not only allow their employees to leave work to

provide emergency patient services but also encourage their service to the community," Mrs. Bowers said.

"If you are a citizen of Bird City or St. Francis, who is concerned about the shortage of emergency medical service volunteers in the county, please keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming First Responder or EMT-B classes or contact me at 785-332-8888 or 785-734-7111," she said. People can also write her at P.O. Box 453, St. Francis, KS 67756.

"We are always looking for additional, dedicated volunteers to help serve this great county!" she concluded.

Construction of steps near completion

Finally! After several years of discussing, bidding and, in short, going to the west side of the courthouse to enter, the public will be able to use the courthouse steps by July 1.

The Cheyenne County Commissioners discussed the steps at the Friday meeting and called the low bidder, Cary Stupka, Concordia, to meet them Monday afternoon.

Mr. Stupka traveled from Norton where he was completing a job on the prison. He talked about his plans for the replacement of the steps. He is the general contractor and has hired Kansas Concrete, Salina, to take out the cement, noting that the center will be taken out in bigger pieces and the cement near the step side wall will carefully be taken out in smaller pieces so as not to damage the brickwork.

The dirt will then be removed and hauled off. He said when the

dirt is removed, he will have a better idea about the pillars which originally held up the floating granite steps. There are two there but he will put in a third pillar. Beneath the steps will be an open space, giving the needed air for the stone steps. He estimates this work will take approximately two weeks.

Mid-Continental Restoration, Concordia, will be putting in the stone steps. Mr. Stupka said the stones will be cut to size before arriving in St. Francis. There was a question about the middle handrail as it wasn't included in the drawings. Mr. Stupka said he didn't think that would be a problem and Eric Johnson, engineer, will probably put that into the drawings.

He said he will plan to move his equipment from Norton to St. Francis so it will be ready when the construction begins. At the time of construction, a fence will be put around the

area including the construction equipment trailer.

The courthouse doors will need some work and there is a \$2,200 (not \$22,000 as stated in a previous story) alternate bid which will take care of that expense.

As plans stand, barring a great deal of rain, the steps should be ready for use at the end of June or first of July.

Funding

Funding the steps project has been a concern for commissioners as well as the courthouse staff and patrons. In December 2007, the steps were closed on orders of the county's insurance company as they were determined "unsafe."

Greg Kite, former resident now serving on the Sedwick Historical Society, heard about the steps and said that there were grants available for replacing the steps back to their original state.

The county received a grant for \$78,384 from the Kansas State Historical Society. The commis-

sioners had put back \$20,000 to cover the remainder of the costs. Unfortunately, there were no bids on the project and winter was closing in. The grant was renewed and the bids were sent out shortly after the first of the year.

Mr. Stupka's bid was the low bid at \$135,900 which was \$139,061 lower than the other bid received from Shamber Historic Preservation, Damar.

However, the county was still short of funds. Mr. Kite said he thought he could get another \$11,700 grant and possibly some other funding. When all the figures were totaled, the county will be able to meet the cost of the steps.

The commissioners, while anxious to get the project rolling, are cautious about getting the work done to meet specifications of the Kansas Historical Society and the insurance company.

"We provide ourselves in quality work," Mr. Stupka said.



READY TO GO - Advanced voting can now be done in the courthouse clerk's office. Deb Lindsten, deputy clerk, has the equipment ready to go.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Cast an early vote at the courthouse

By Karen Krien

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The voting booth in the county clerk's office at the courthouse is now ready to take those voters who prefer to cast their ballots early.

Deb Lindsten, deputy clerk, said the booth opened Wednesday morning and will be open until noon on Monday, April 6, the day before the general election (April 7).

The general election will include seats on the St. Francis and Cheylin school boards as well as the St. Francis City and Bird City city council and Bird City mayor. Also to be on the ballot will be place where people can vote for members on the Sunflower Extension District Number 6.

The election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In St. Francis, the voting will be at the Peace Lutheran Church, College Street; in Bird City, at the American Legion Hall, West Fourth Street.

There are seven people running for a seat on the St. Francis City Council but only three seats are vacant. Those running are incumbent Carla Lampe, along with Jennifer Dankenbring-Padgett, Justin Gardner, Michael Hanson, Daniel Hoard, Paula Keller and Bruce Swihart.

There is one race for a seat on the St. Francis Board of Educa-

tion. Incumbent is Kelly Gienger, District 2, position 5. Derrick Tice is the only candidate running for District 1, position 4. There are three vying for the position of District 3, position 6: Mike Antholz, Bob Holzwarth and Ed Marin.

Bird City

In Bird City, there are two seats up for election on the city council and only one person, Wade Carmichael, incumbent, running. Troy Burr is running again for the seat of mayor.

Cheylin Board of Education has four open positions. There is a race in District 1, position 1 where both Jim Cahoj and George Louderbaugh have filed. The other race is in District 2, position 6 with three candidates running: Jan Busse, Kerby Krien and Belinda Serano. Others running for seats on the Cheylin school board are Anita Pochop, District 1, position 3; and Hal Antholz, member at large.

Extension board

The Sunflower Extension District Number 6 needs two people from Cheyenne County to fill seats on the board. Cindy Burr, Bird City, has served on the board since Cheyenne County joined the Sunflower Extension District. Also running for the second position is Tammy Grice, St. Francis.