

# Questions asked at meeting

By Karen Krien

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Two questions were asked of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board when they met on Thursday: 1) "What do you think Cheyenne County's demographics will be in 10 years?" and 2) "Are there things we can or should do to improve this?"

The board and staff were to meet with Kent Carmichael, architect, the next day to see the facility improvement plan he had developed for remodeling and renovations to meet the needs of the hospital, staff and patients. Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said he wanted to make sure that any planning would still fit the community's needs in 10 to 15 years. When the last renovations had been made, there was still room lacking for the specialty doctors and their patients as well as an obstetrics room and the kitchen/dining room. The last facility improvement plan began in 1996.

Some of the key issues the facility improvement plan is to deal with are crowding of patients on surgery day, confidentiality, lack of space for outpatient services, the above mentioned specialty consult area, obstetrics, and kitchen/dining room improvements. In addition, diagnostic imaging is somewhat cramped and has been scattered through the facility in its' current configuration.

There was good board participation and a through discussion of the topic.

Traci Neitzel, board member, was concerned that there may not be the need for additional space in 10 years.

Kari Gilliland, board member, disagreed, saying that she thought that economic development and the hospital needed to continue to move forward. The hospital, she said, has grown in services. Cheyenne County is an area where grain and land prices are good and people are making it.

We need forward thinking instead of living in fear and woe, she said.

It appeared to be the consensus of the board to proceed with the facility improvement plans.

To improve the future, Mr. Lacy suggested that the hospital con-

tinue to build their staff by training locally. One key for the future of Cheyenne County, he said, is jobs.

At the present time, the hospital's coding is being outsourced. Mr. Lacy said that he would prefer this kind of work be done locally and suggested coding training could be offered to people in the county. An idea related to this aimed at economic development was that a central coding office might be developed to serve local needs as well as other hospitals and medical offices in the region.

Erika Zimbelman, clinic manager, said she thought assisted living was needed. The board discussed the need and that the Village had apartments and a nursing home but no assisted living. However, it was noted that there may be plans to add assisted living on the nursing home campus.

The conference room at the hospital is being used more and more but the staff agreed that it needed some remodeling. They will be applying for a grant. Mrs. Gilliland said a lot of people see the room and it needs to be seen in a professional light.

It was noted that 12 members of the hospital staff has been delivering meals on wheels for the St. Francis Senior Center.

### Administrator's report

In the administrator's report, Mr. Lacy said the hospital has used \$150,000 in funded depreciation dollars so far in March. The money is used to cover the cash flow.

"We expect this to slow down shortly," he said. "We are making plans to repay some portion of this before cost report."

The replacement of the floor and counter surfaces in the kitchen has been completed.

A Primary Care Clinic grant for \$156,550 was applied for on March 15.

The county health department nurse is the health nurse in the Cheylin School. Mr. Lacy said he had talked to the superintendent of the St. Francis schools and is working to provide some benefit from the Primary Care Clinic Grant to both school districts in the county.

### Great Plains report

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance,

### Hospital statistics for February

Total Patient days: 156 – This would be an average of 5.5 patients per day.  
Lab tests: 1,892  
Outpatient specialty clinic visits: 108  
Emergency room visits: 35  
Outpatient services: 1,930

the company which leases the hospital, reported on the new Health Care Plan, noting that, at this time, there are still a lot of unknowns. As she knows more, Jerry Toler, board member, asked that either she or Mr. Lacy give updates.

She then turned to the opening of the hospital in Kiowa County. The hospital was destroyed when a tornado wiped out almost everything in Greensburg. She told about how they had been able to survive and care for people, first in huge tents, then modular units, and, finally, on March 12, they had an open house in the new facility.

The hospital has 15 patient beds, emergency services, full diagnostic services, rural health clinic, and area for specialty physicians, dental suite as well as a daycare center for children of staff members. It cost \$25 million and employs approximately 90 staff members.

### In other business

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- Teri Morris, who will be taking classes at Colby Community College, asked the board to support her in applying to the Kansas Nursing Scholarship Loan Program to help pay for her education. She is currently working at the hospital and is an emergency medical technician. In 5 years, she said she plans to still be working at the hospital.

- Ryan Murray, radiology manager, and Darrel Reed, lab manager/ultrasound, told about what is happening in their departments.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board is planned to start at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis.

# Claim lost or forgotten cash at the county courthouse

Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney's office is currently safeguarding over \$200 million worth of unclaimed property for their rightful owners or their heirs.

As a part of the treasurer's "Unclaimed Property Returns" tour, Mr. McKinney and staff members will be traveling throughout the area talking about and searching for Kansas unclaimed property. They will be in St. Francis at the Cheyenne County Courthouse at 212 Washington Street in the commissioners room from 4 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

"We encourage everyone in the area to stop by and check their name and the names of family and friends," Mr. McKinney said "In this economy ev-

eryone could use a little help and we feel it's important to be sure that these resources get back to the rightful owners. The Unclaimed Property Returns tour is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect Kansans with cash and property currently being held by our office."

Unclaimed property includes inactive savings and checking accounts, uncashed checks, stock shares and bonds, dividend checks, insurance proceeds, mineral royalties, and utility deposits.

In addition to cash, stocks and bonds, safe deposit boxes are also turned over to the State Treasurer's office on an annual basis. There are currently over 15,718 safe deposit box properties on file. Approximately 600

new boxes are turned over to the treasurer's office each year.

"It is my job to reunite Kansans with their unclaimed financial assets," McKinney explained. "Reaching out to people in their hometowns is a great way to give back to Kansans what is rightfully theirs."

Making a claim is free and easy. There are no fees involved in searching for or claiming cash and property. To search, a last name is required and a first name is recommended.

Kansans who can't make it to the county courthouse on Tuesday may call the State Treasurer's office at 1-800-432-0386 or log onto www.kansascash.com to search for unclaimed property.

# Program deadline set for June 1

June 1 is the deadline for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), according to Adrian J. Polansky, state executive director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Kansas Farm Service Agency. This is a mandatory deadline for all participants and department will not accept any late-file applications.

"It is critical for producers to begin their enrollment process as soon as possible," Mr. Polansky said.

Over 99,566 farms in Kansas were enrolled in Direct and Counter-cyclical Program/Average Crop Revenue Election (DCP/ACRE) during 2009. All required signatures must be obtained by the June 1 deadline.

Mr. Polansky also reminds producers that March 31 is the final date to request a marketing assistance loan on 2009-crop wheat, oats and barley. May 31 is the final date for 2009-crop cotton, feed grains, soybeans, and minor oilseeds.

Producers with livestock deaths in excess of normal mor-

tality caused by adverse weather must file a Notice of Loss within 30 days of when loss is apparent. Proper documentation of loss must be provided.

To remain eligible for 2009 and 2010 payments, producers must properly complete the Commodity Credit Corporation-927 (CCC-297) for individuals and Commodity Credit Corporation-928 (CCC-298) for entities, including partners, stockholders, and members to the fourth level of the entity. These forms must be mailed to Internal Revenue Service-United States Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 24033, Fresno, CA 93779.

Do not submit the form to Farm Service Agency. For Internal Revenue Service to accept the form, the following must be completed: producer's name and address used on tax return, tax identification number, mark the boxes for 2009 and 2010, signature of person that belongs to tax identification (ID), and date the form with the current date. Only one person or one entity per form...multiple persons

must submit multiple forms.

This form will allow Internal Revenue Service to notify the Farm Service Agency whether the producer's tax records indicate Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) compliance. The forms must be received by Internal Revenue Service no later than June 15. You can obtain the form at the local Farm Service Agency county office or on-line at www.fsa.usda.gov.

May 31 is the final date to report small grain acreages.

Signup for Supplemental Revenue Assistance is continuing for 2008-crop losses.

Other on-going programs include Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, Farm Storage Facility Loans, Milk Income Loss Contract Program, and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

For more information please contact the Farm Service Agency county office at 785-332-2183 to make an appointment or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

## ANTIQUA AUCTION

Saturday, April 10, 2010 @ 10 am CT  
Public Preview: Friday, April 9, 4-7 p.m.

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## New Physician Helps Keep Patients Closer to Home



Help has arrived for those patients in Western Kansas suffering from kidney disorders. This summer Hays Medical Center hired its first in-house nephrologist, Johanna "Joni" McCullagh, M.D. The addition of Dr. McCullagh, medical director of the Nephrology Center program, means advanced kidney care is now available for patients closer to home.

Dr. McCullagh and the Nephrology Center staff provide a variety of services, including caring for patients with:

- Kidney failure
- Hypertension and hypertensive kidney disease
- Diabetes and diabetic nephropathy
- Inflammation, scarring or hardening in the kidney
- Cystic kidney disease (polycystic)
- Inflammation of blood vessels in the kidneys
- Kidney stones

- Management of dialysis patients, transplant patients and those with end stage renal disease

One of the biggest benefits of this addition to Hays Medical Center is that the hospital now has greater capacity to care for patients in need of regular dialysis. While the hospital previously treated dialysis patients, they can now treat more patients – and patients who need a higher level of care – eliminating the burden and stress of travel for additional families in the area.

Dr. McCullagh, a Wichita native, grew up in Kansas City and completed her education

at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. She completed both her residency in Internal Medicine and her fellowship in Nephrology and Hypertension at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. McCullagh is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and holds memberships with the American Society of Nephrology, American College of Physicians and the American Medical Association.

Wanting to stay within driving distance of family and friends, Dr. McCullagh and her family were excited to make the move to Hays.

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### St. Francis Outreach Clinic Schedule

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(785) 625-4699

**Mobile Mammography**  
Every Fourth Tuesday  
(785) 332-2104

Call the number listed for specific clinic locations.