



SELLING LEMONADE and cookies. Darcy, Sydney and Abbey Vernon sell some cookies to their favorite customers, Crystal Vernon and Deanna Vernon. The girls are the granddaughters of Nancy Vernon

Nine conservation offices in Kansas are being closed

Nine Natural Resources Conservation Service county field offices are being closed in Kansas. Harold L. Klaege, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas, announced that the National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC) approved the proposal to close nine county field offices (FOs) and consolidate operations with neighboring county field offices to more efficiently and effectively manage operation. With the council's approval, Mr. Klaege hopes to have eight of the field offices consolidated by October 1. The service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The following are the field office consolidations.

- Chase County office (Cottonwood Falls) will be consolidated with the Lyon County office (Emporia).
- Comanche County (Coldwater) will be consolidated with Barber County (Medicine Lodge).
- Geary County (Junction City)

will be consolidated with Riley County (Manhattan).

- Gove County (Gove) will be consolidated with Logan County (Oakley).
- Johnson County (Olathe) will be consolidated with Miami County (Paola).
- Leavenworth County (Leavenworth) will be consolidated with Jefferson County (Oskaloosa).
- Morton County (Elkhart) will be consolidated with Stevens County (Hugoton).
- Woodson County (Yates Center) will be consolidated with Wilson County (Fredonia).
- Wabaunsee County (Alma) will be consolidated with Pottawatomie County (Westmoreland). These offices will be moved when space can be found in Wamego and the offices will be collocated with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) sometime after October 1.

"Producers in counties where an office is closed," said Mr. Klaege, "would be allowed to choose which county field office they would like to have their records kept.

"All counties will still receive the same program benefits and services from Conservation Service. Our employees will continue to be out on the land with the producer to provide technical assistance and information for conservation programs," said Mr. Klaege.

"While Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service are both a part of Department of Agriculture, their missions and partners are different. The Conservation Service has a unique partnership with the county conservation districts, and we provide technical assistance to state and local programs through the districts," said Mr. Klaege.

Visit your local county field office to learn more about natural resources conservation. The county field office is located at your local Department of Agriculture Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the internet at offices.usda.gov). More information is also available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

Hospital is preparing for arrival of new doctor

By Karen Krien
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The new doctor will begin at the hospital in August and the Cheyenne County Hospital board, at the Thursday meeting, spent time talking about getting ready for her arrival.

Dr. Rebecca Allard will be specializing in obstetrics and plans for getting a labor/delivery room remodeled have been underway for several months. GMCN Architect, Garden City, had turned in a bill for \$2,933 which the board voted to pay.

The bids for the electrical and mechanical work will need to be sent out. The architect plans needed to be finalized before bidding could begin. This work is estimated to cost around \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Les Lacy, administrator, reported that Dr. Mekki Saba, orthopedic surgeon from Colby, will be coming in the third Friday of every month. He has also talked to Karen Johnson, a dermatologist certified in mole removal, who has shown interest in coming.

Other plans

Another remodeling/addition plan which received a great deal of discussion was parking for patients, visitors and staff. Administrator Lacy said the city will close the street in front of the hospital for repairs in the near future. The street will be closed from three days to one week.

During that time, arrangements will need to be made for alternative parking as well as foot and wheelchair traffic between the hospital and clinic. While the street is being repaired, to improve the connection between the clinic and the hospital, the city supervisor and the administrator and is considering the option of putting in a 6-inch slab of concrete across the street for better wheelchair access.

Parking for visitors and staff has been an issue. Eventually, the east side of the hospital grounds will be turned into a parking area similar to the west side. However, there will still be limited parking. In recent months, a lot with a house on the north side of the hospital (across the alley) has come up for sale. After considerable discussion, the board agreed to

purchase the property. Eventually, the house will be razed and the lot used for additional hospital parking.

The memorial garden on the northwest side of the hospital is still under construction. Elmer Kellner and the Join Hands group had moved rock in an area which could not be reached by a tractor which had helped a great deal.

In the lab department, a technique in the microbiology section is being used to shorten the time span required to identify growth in specimens.

"This provides a diagnostic advantage to the providers," the administrator said.

Lifeline service

The hospital could be the provider for Lifeline services in the near future. Glenn and Millie Glasco have been the coordinator for this service for many years.

Lifeline provides a small device which elderly patients wear around their neck. If they fall or there is an emergency, the patient presses the button which alerts Lifeline Systems in Framingham, Maine. The system's personnel tries to contact the subscriber and, if necessary, notifies emergency medical technicians and/or law officer to go to the scene.

Administrator Lacy said there are 37 devices in the county and currently, 33 are being used. The cost of having a Lifeline device is \$50 a month.

There are expenses which includes the company which alerts medical and law officers when the device is used, bookkeeping and replacement costs.

"It (Lifeline service) is a mini-

mum load on the hospital but gives maximum benefits to the community," he said.

Kitchen manager's report

Christa Brown, manager, reported on the kitchen department. She said, in the past month, the kitchen had prepared 101 guest meals, 2,362 patient meals and 2,875 employee meals.

She said adding the salad bar to the menu has been a big plus for those eating at the hospital. However, the small dining area is a challenge when it comes to accommodating a number of people.

Mrs. Brown said she is looking forward to the renovation of the kitchen. The freezers leak and she would like to see it replaced with a walk-in freezer which would take up less space and free up more area for the salad bar.

She said that she has worked in the kitchen for three years and likes enjoys the staff and patients.

"I like making people happy," she said.

Mr. Lacy said that there are favorable comments from the patients and one had actually asked to stay until after lunch.

In other business

In other business:

- Dave Dellasega, chief financial officer for Great Plains Health Alliance, gave the audit report.
- Dr. Mary Beth Miller commended the board for their foresight. See related article.

Next meeting

The next hospital board meeting has been set for 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, in the St. Francis Clinic basement.

Newspaper Policy

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to P.O. Box 1050; St. Francis, KS 67756.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not

pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

Letters printed are not necessarily the opinion of *The Herald* staff. Replies to letters are welcome and, again, must be signed.

Sainty Sharks Swim Team 2007



SWIM TEAM MEMBERS: Back row - Logan Lampe, Luke Lampe, Katie Schmid, Brice Hays, McKayla Taylor, Kaleb Hays, McKenzie Taylor, Keegan Taylor, Cassie Cooks; middle row: Corbin Sherlock, Braden Schmid, Sarah Trembly, Chloe Miller, Thomas Douthit; front row: Katie McDanel, Daniele Schmid, Briana Cooks, Jacy hilt, Kylie Sherlock, Mason Schmid, Mandie Cooks

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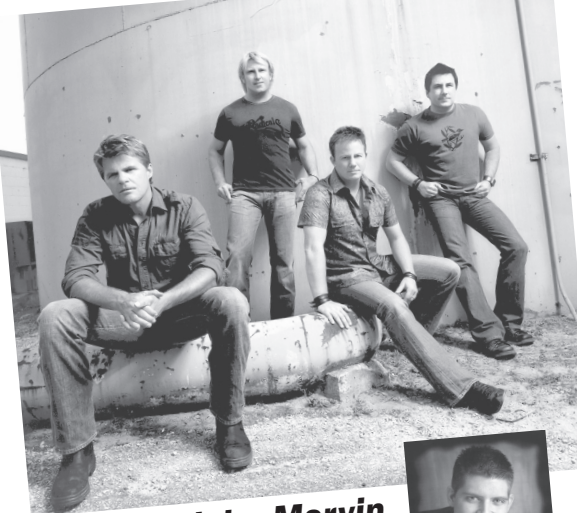
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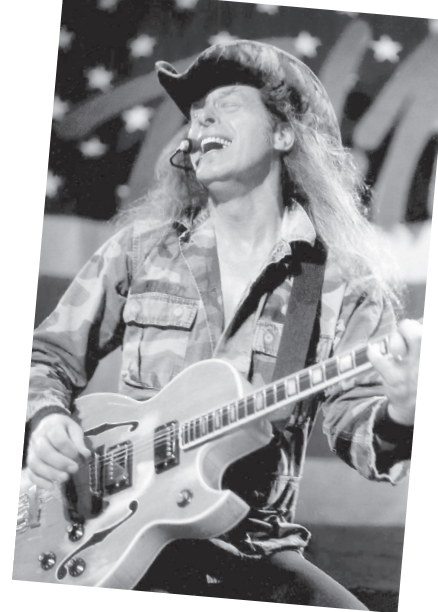
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