



FOUNDATION RECEIVES MONEY – Bob Muirhead, director of economic and community development with Midwest Energy, Inc., left center, met with members of the St. Francis Community Foundation to give them \$1,000. This is something the company does, he said. Receiving the money for the foundation were Carla Lampe, foundation treasurer, and Tom Keller, president. Gene Dodd, Midwest Energy, St. Francis, left, was also on hand.



Gymnastics —
THE GYMNASTIC TEAM will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday at the St. Francis Grade School gym. Above, Mia Morrow will be one of the performers.
Herald photo by Talley Morrow

Hospital board has an audience

By Nathan Fiala
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The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Thursday, Oct. 27. There were numerous visitors in attendance and they were addressed first.

Jenny Newblock, coordinator of Hospice, addressed the board and said the organization would like to help with hospital equipment and furniture. Edie Wolters, volunteer, then introduced herself and the other volunteers in the organization. Elmer Kellner addressed the board about a love seat that had gone missing. He said he'd heard it had been sold at auction. Hospital administrator Les Lacy said he did not know about this specific issue, but that similar things had happened in the past and that he would make more of an effort to communicate with the hospice in the future. Dr. Mary Beth Miller pointed out that refurbishing these items is sometimes not possible as infection control can be a concern.

The other visitors in attendance were prompted by a letter to the editor in the newspaper to be there, concerning the hospital looking into purchasing a house right behind the clinic just after a mill levy increase. This was on the agenda, so the board skipped to this part in the meeting and Mr. Lacy addressed the issue. He started by saying that when he first came to this hospital, doctor retention was an expensive problem. Housing them was

also an issue as they could not stay in the hospital. He opened a spreadsheet and compared costs to when he first came here, current costs and projected costs of buying the property. He also said that the hospital has various investments and that a house is an investment that increases in value over time. Besides that, it could be used for living quarters for residents and doctors, or could be used as office space, freeing up more area in the hospital for more clinical space.

Mr. Lacy agreed that local taxpayers could be concerned about the hospital buying a house after a mill levy increase, but it is an investment opportunity that popped up after the fact, and that it would be more irresponsible of him to not, at the very least, run the numbers on the property to see if it's a good investment.

Jackie John of the Great Plains Health Alliance said that in the time she had been on this board, she'd always seen a concern about providing services for the community without raising taxes, such as refocusing on delivering babies here, and how that was done even though they knew it would cause a cut in Medicare.

Dr. Miller added that Medicare pays less based on your volume for the next year, so a hospital does not operate like the average business. She also said there are costs to upgrade services and equipment, like the Health Information Exchange, that may seem costly and unnecessary at the time, but

that they will be mandatory as time goes on and there are usually discounts for early adapters.

Mr. Lacy assured the visitors that no decision had been made about purchasing the house and before moving on to new business, the visitors left.

Hospital board secretary Kari Gilliland said that she had been contacted earlier in the day by a homeowner in the vicinity offering to sell their property. This was noted and will be researched further and the board moved on.

Mila Bandel handed out a county health report and went over the information briefly. She gave an overview of the department's objectives, personnel, funding and what they do, such as community disease prevention and protection, immunization and vaccination, chronic disease prevention and early detection for breast and cervical cancer. Mrs. Bandel is also a school consultant, provides services for child health care, farm workers and also coordinates the public health emergency preparedness and response.

Les Lacy went over the administrator report, saying that the cash needs are met and will look to pay back into the funded depreciation account. The inpatient volume has been weak this month but the outpatient volume has been strong.

The hospital is still looking for a director of nurses. There is a leading applicant and he is hopeful they can get her. They are also

actively working tax credits and currently have \$140,000 to fill.

Mr. Lacy has also talked to Greg Bonk about a joint demonstration project with the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund. The project is going slowly but still moving forward.

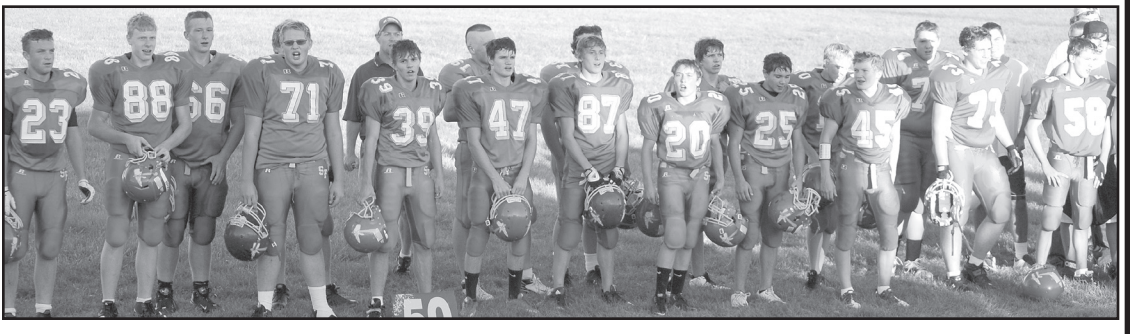
Stacy Kaup, Vicki Coates, Kathy Biggs and Dr. Miller attended a seminar on Patient Based Medical Home and now have ideas to implement better care management.

Jackie John reported on the budget control act and the office of inspector general.

Committee reports stated there is an issue with Medicare paying if a patient is readmitted within 30 days of their last visit, which can be a big problem if the patient is using the emergency room as the primary point of care and not doing any preventive care. They also had their third quarter risk management assessment and did well and were not reported to the state with any violations.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 3 p.m.

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\$5.00 Registration Fee per 4-Her/FFA member

- Fee includes: One Adult T-Shirt, Lunch, Handouts, Brochures, Door Prizes and a Kick Start to beat the competition! Parents can purchase extra T-Shirts for \$5.00 apiece.
- If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Danielle Stout at (785) 332-2113, Cell (785) 772-5144 or email at dstout@cityofstfrancis.net

Schedule of Events	
10:30 am	Nutrition
11:00 am	Cattle Evaluation
11:30 am	Show Ring Success
Noon	Showmanship Skills
12:30 pm	Lunch and Guest Panel
1:00 pm	Health Issues
1:30 pm	Skill-a-thon & Conclusion

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