



**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHORUS** has begun practice at Peace Lutheran Church under the leadership of Neala Carmichael. Before practice, some of the members stopped to visit. Pictured are (l to r) Sandy Bandel, Brenda Nelson and Stephanie Nelson. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr



Jackie John



Roger John

## Johns awarded association honor at convention

Jackie John and Roger John, Great Plains Health Alliance, have each been awarded the Charles S. Billings Award by the members of the Kansas Hospital Association. The Johns were honored on Nov. 16 during the Kansas Hospital Association's annual convention and trade show in Wichita.

The Charles S. Billings Award, named after the association's first president, was created in 1971 to recognize distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the field of health care in Kansas. The Association reserves this award for those who have truly shown their commitment, leadership and dedication to that noble pursuit. Jackie John and Roger John, the 32nd and 33rd recipients of this award, have certainly demonstrated these qualities during their devoted health care careers.

Mrs. John is the vice president for resource development and vice president for regional operations for the Great Plains Health Alliance in Phillipsburg. Prior to her position with Great Plains, she worked as a nurse, then director of nursing, and then administrator at the Scott County Hospital in Scott City. She served as the hospital administrator for Scott County Hospital from 1974-1989. She also worked for Weld County Hospital in Greeley, Colo., and Hadley Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Hays.

She served as chair of the Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors in 1994 and chair of the Kansas Health Education and Research Foundation Board of Directors in 2002. Most recently, she has served as an Association representative to the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board and as a Kansas Hospital Association representative on the Kansas Health Information Exchange Board.

"Jackie's involvement with the Association is a tremendous example of her willingness to give of herself," said Tom Bell, Kansas Hospital Association president and chief executive

officer. "She has probably served on more Kansas Hospital Association councils, committees and task forces than anyone in the Association's history."

Mr. John is the president and chief executive officer for the Great Plains Health Alliance, Inc. He has been in this role since 1991, and has been with Great Plains since 1972, with the exception of a couple years when he served as the assistant vice president at the Security State Bank in Scott City. He also worked for the Great Plains Lutheran Hospitals, Inc., and Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital in WaKeeney. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army Reserve with the rank of captain in 1980.

Mr. John served as a member of the Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors and was chair in 2007. Most recently, he served as a member of the Association's Task Force on Medicaid Efficiencies, a very important group that is guiding Kansas Hospital Association's policy on the transformation of Medicaid in Kansas.

"Roger has always been willing to serve in any capacity for which he was needed, from being a member of many of Kansas Hospital Association councils, committees and task forces, to helping to represent the Association during meetings with our Congressional Delegation in Washington," Mr. Bell said.

Roger and Jackie John have been an important part of the Association's advocacy efforts, Mr. Bell said, always taking the time to make sure their elected officials knew how proposals affected Kansas hospitals. They have dedicated their careers to making health care in rural communities better.

"Roger and Jackie know Kansas, and the health care services provided in our state, as well as anyone, Mr. Bell said. "Without their dedication, many rural communities would not have access to local health care today."

## Commissioners meet with council

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners and the St. Francis City Council met Tuesday before the commissioners' meeting. The meetings between the two entities are held about every two months.

Discussed was the Good Samaritan Village and county-wide law enforcement.

Concerning county-wide law enforcement, both the council and the commissioners agree that each entity is paying for services that could be done out of one office. These services include the dispatch, vehicles and officers, just to name some and there is the gas to operate the vehicles plus the

expense of two offices.

They also discussed having the sheriff as an elected office. There were several suggestions including hiring a sheriff and electing an undersheriff, to just hiring a person to take over both law departments. Everyone appeared to agree that a combined law enforcement office would save the taxpayers a great deal of money.

We are probably spending a half-million dollars on the two of them, said Roger Jensen, city councilman. Both the city and the county are strapped for money and so are the taxpayers.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said he has seen places where a law enforcement board is elected for

a two-year term and the sheriff or head law officer works under the board's direction.

Mr. Jensen said that people ask why we have so many law officers because years ago, there were only two in the county. But, he said, times have changed and so have the kids.

It is less than a year before the next election. Paula Keller, city councilwoman, thought that maybe the implementation of a hired sheriff to take over both the county and city of St. Francis law enforcement could be put in place by then.

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, said she would look up the statutes and send a memorandum

to those present.

**Good Samaritan Village**

The city council members wanted to know what the commissioners were thinking concerning taking over the Good Samaritan Village nursing home. The commissioners said that they had met with Randy Fitzgerald, director of operations for the Good Samaritan Society, but they had not signed a contract.

Carla Lampe, city councilwoman, said money had been put aside to help with a study concerning the contract and the nursing home. Andy Beikman, commissioner, said the county was not at the point of needing a study.

Mr. Jensen wondered if the work the society was doing at the nursing home was like the television show, "Curb Appeal," where it looks good but is not good structurally... is it up to par?

Mr. Patton said that the commissioners are not rushing into any decisions. Every time I make a hasty decision, he said, I regret it.

I want to see what is going to happen, said Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, before we make any decision or sign any contract.

The contract submitted to the commissioners by Mr. Fitzgerald, was only an example. Attorney Gilliland is going over the contract.

Scott Schultz, St. Francis Mayor, suggested that the commissioners needed to know if there was a profit or at least if the nursing home was breaking even financially.

In the meantime, the county has not spent any of the money approved by the voters in the August election.

Mr. Patton said that he was not opposed to subsidizing the Village; we already subsidize the hospital, he said.

The commissioners agreed that they were all for what is going on with the Village but they were just very cautious about the contract and any decisions they will need to make.

## Residents and land owner dispute ownership of short road

By Karen Krien

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On Tuesday, Nov. 15, Cheyenne County resident, Bill Dungan, made a return visit to the Cheyenne County Commissioners. At the end of the visit, the commissioners agreed to grade the road in front of his house and suggested that he and Dave Yost work out an agreement.

Mr. Dungan said he would - in court - where he would meet Mr. Yost and Kari Gilliland, county attorney.

Mr. Dungan has a 1947 abstract that has the road in front of his house named "East Fourth Street." When was it changed? Mr. Dungan wanted to know, and who has the responsibility to maintain it?

The only way a road or easement can be changed is if people sign a petition.

Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor, said as far as he can remember, it has not been a street. All three of the commissioners said the same.

Mr. Dungan said he has walked on that road since he was a child but Mr. Yost said he couldn't walk on the road any more because it

was his property.

According to deed, Mr. Dungan said, Dave Yost owns that ground to the north side of the road. Part of the property is supposed to be an easement.

About that time, Mr. Yost walked into the commissioners' room to keep an appointment concerning the airport.

Mr. Yost was asked if he had the land surveyed when he purchased the land. He said, yes, he did. He said he has the abstract and there is no Fourth Street.

There was never a problem, Mr. Dungan said, until Yost purchased that property. If it were not for my mom and my aunt, I would not be in this damn town, he said. I can burn the house down and walk away.

If the county maintains the road and it is in the minutes and it is legal to walk down the road - is that what you want? asked Andy Beikman, commissioner. We don't know exactly what you want.

If we need to maintain it, we will, said Mr. Beikman. And, if Bill is comfortable walking on the road... both of you are going to have to give a little...this is really

not the county's problem.... it is not a public road.

I used to grade it, said Mr. Yost. Then the rain washed it out and then I got complaints again. I thought if I just left things alone, they would go away but obviously not.

The commissioners said they didn't understand what the issue was. If we maintain it, said Ernie Ketzner, then how often. We want a starting point and a stopping point. I don't think both parties are ever going to be happy, he said.

If the road is an issue, the commissioners agreed, then run the grader.

Mr. Yost said that would be good with him if that would eliminate complaints from here on.

If there is more bickering, Mr. Beikman said, then you two are on your own.

My personal issue has nothing to do with the county, Mr. Dungan insisted, when was it changed from a street to an easement?

Mr. Dungan left the meeting telling both Mr. Yost and Attorney Gilliland that he would see them in court.

### STROH PUBLIC AUCTION

From Idalia, CO, east 2 mi on Hwy 36, south 2 mi on Hwy 385, east 11.5 mi on Yuma Co Rd 7, or from St. Francis, KS, west 11 mi. on Hwy 36, south 5 mi. on Rd 3, west 1 mi. on Rd 1.

**Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011 @ 9:30 a.m. MT**

Tractors ~ Vehicles ~ Trailers ~ ATV ~ Hay Equipment ~ Hay ~ Livestock Equipment ~ Two Character Colorado Brands ~ Farm Machinery ~ Antiques & Collectibles ~ Shop & Miscellaneous Items ~ Household Goods

Stroh Farms, Inc., owners; 970-354-7302 or 970-630-3181  
Sale conducted by Michal Auction Service. www.michalauctions.com;  
David 970-521-0208 or 970-580-4072, Jim 719-765-4446 or 719-349-4446

### The Festival of Gingerbread & Cowboy Christmas Ball

**Sunday, Nov. 27 at Old Town (Burlington, Co.)**

Featuring David Ball (Hits include 'Riding with Private Malone' and 'Thinkin' Town')

2 p.m.-Festival of Gingerbread throughout Old Town buildings  
5 p.m.-Wine Tasting featuring Worden Farms Grapes  
6 p.m.-Dinner provided by The Post Bar & Grille

7 p.m.-Concert featuring David Ball

Tickets are \$40 for the wine tasting, meal, and concert and can be purchased from Ken Viken Agency-State Farm 719.346.8602 or Jenna at Zimelman's Jewelry 719.346.8623. Tickets will be \$50 the day of the concert. Babysitting is available.

### Help Wanted

The Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office is seeking an applicant for part-time secretary/records clerk. Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and be able to pass a background check. Applications can be picked up at the Sheriff's Office in the Cheyenne County Courthouse until Dec. 2. Cheyenne County is an equal opportunity employer.

What a better way to say *Thank You* than a

### Customer Appreciation Chili Lunch

December 6th  
11:30-1:30 pm cst  
St. Francis Equity Feed Store

Special Event Sale items from the Feed Store and the Equity Station!

Enter November 28 to Dec. 6th at our St. Francis Locations for our Turkey Giveaway!  
(Drawing to be held day of Chili Appreciation Lunch)



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~ Sunday 1-5 p.m.