

# Board gives support to lab trainee

**By Karen Krien**

At the Thursday meeting, the Cheyenne County Hospital Board agreed to give support to Kari Meyer, hospital employee, to further her education as a medical laboratory technician.

The board has approved several education requests since the first of the year and Jerry Toller, board member, express concern that some of those making requests would not stay. He mentioned Craig Button who had applied for board help but would only obligate three years to the hospital following his training.

Rueben Schultz, board president, also voiced concern about the number of people asking for assistance. Mr. Toller wondered if it would be less expensive for the board to hire qualified people who are already trained, thus streamlining the process.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said most of the people applying have ties to the community. He said that Mrs. Meyers, who is asking for \$6,399, already works in the hospital lab.

"She is a hard working, stellar employee and long-term resident of

the community," the administrator said.

"The investment we make in our staff will pay off in the end — It's a good investment."

Joy Anderegg, board member, thought that supporting staff members, helping them further their education was good for morale.

Tenille Lee, R.N., St. Francis, plans to request money from the board to complete her bachelor of science in nursing.

During the discussion, the board and administrator talked about the payback of educational requests. Administrator Lacy said if the employee does not fulfill the contract, he/she will be required to pay back the board loan plus a high percent of interest.

Administrator Lacy pointed out that Chaylene Krieh, who had been provided a board loan, had resigned and he will be taking appropriate action to recover the board's investment.

Administrator Lacy said he is increasing his activity with one of the medical doctor candidates as he has completed his second year of residency.

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# Council moves forward with building plans

**By Sandy Barnhart**

At the St. Francis City Council meeting held June 21, the council moved one step closer on the KAN STEP grant for the fire house and emergency medical building. The cost for labor and materials was estimated at \$614,683. Councilman Dale Weeks said the estimate was high and that the exact cost would not be known until bids were received.

He explained that the estimated cost for the volunteer labor, \$248,728 should be subtracted from the \$614,683 and then \$115,480 added for administration and inspection fees, which would leave the final estimated cost of the building at \$481,439, approximately \$81,439 over the \$400,000 target mark.

The council approved to enter into the budget for 2006, \$25,000. Councilman Weeks said that the money more than likely would not be used, but was a cushion to the Department of Commerce that if the project

would exceed the \$400,000 mark, the city had made provisions to cover the amount. The \$25,000 will come from the sale of the city's internet to Eagle.

The proposal will be sent to the Department of Commerce for approval and at that time, bids can be collected.

**Superintendent report**

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger reported that the tear out and replacement of four block on Emerson Street will start the first week of July. Chip sealing will be planned for Aug. 9 and 10.

The council approved Pete Jensen to sandblast the fountain in the park at an approximate cost of \$400.

Superintendent Landenberger will be getting bids from Kip Rethke for repairs on the power plant roof and the theater roof. The theater roof is leaking in the back room by the breaker box.

**Building permits**

The council approved building

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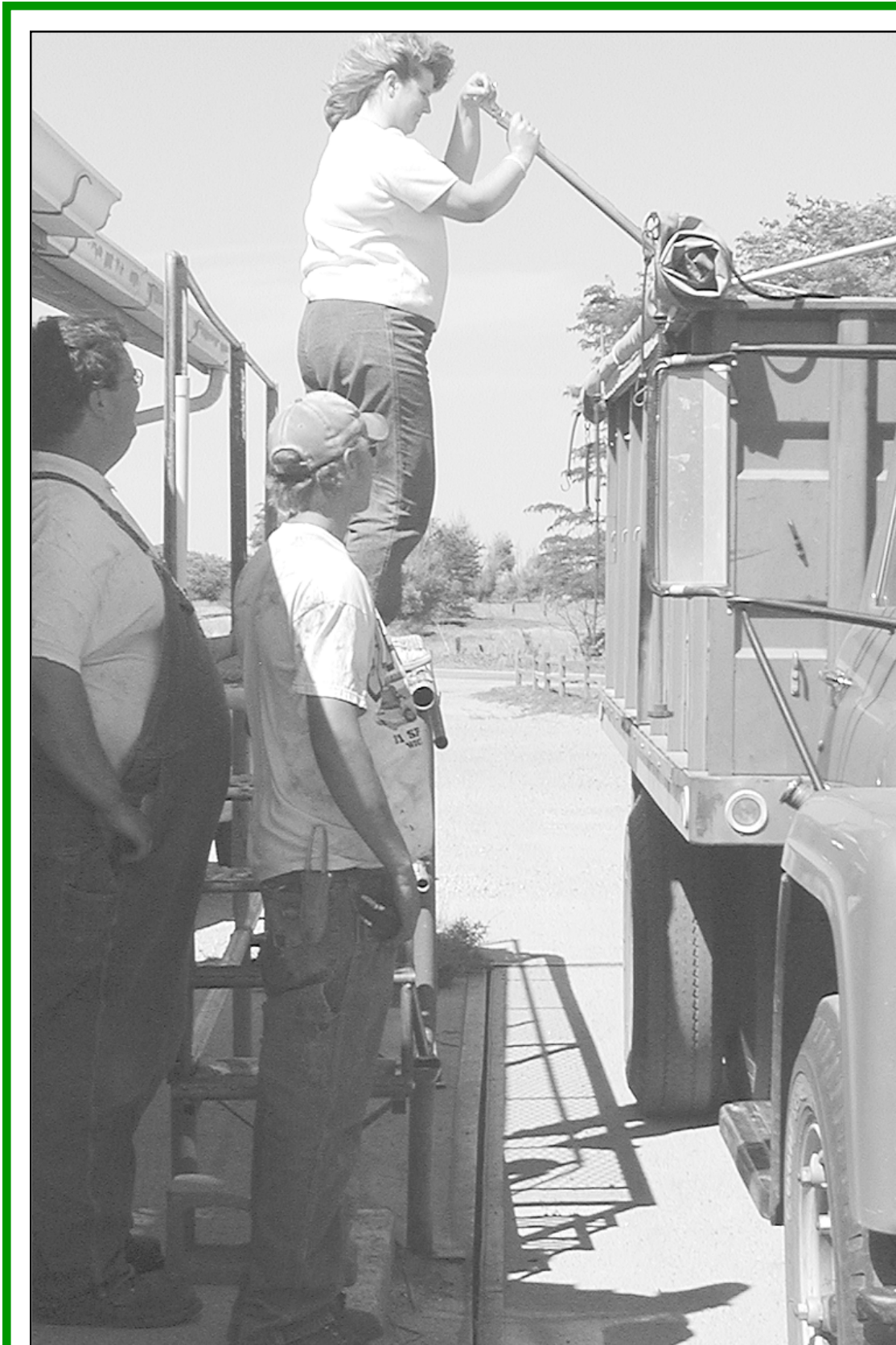
# 'Let Freedom Ring' ceremony is set

Governor Kathleen Sebelius is calling upon civic and community leaders in the state of Kansas to join her in a Fourth of July celebration new to Kansas.

This Independence Day the Governor will lead the state's participation in the national "Let Freedom Ring" ceremony, which includes the ringing of the Normandy Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pa., to mark the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Gov-

ernor encourages churches and other public gathering sites around the state to join the celebration of freedom at exactly 1 p.m. by ringing bells 13 times, in honor of the 13 original states represented on the Declaration of Independence.

Each participating site in Kansas will be recognized in a special proclamation signed by the Governor that day and will be provided with an official, signed copy of the Governor's proclamation.



**FIRST CUTTING OF WHEAT** in the St. Francis area arrived at Bartlett Elevator on Wednesday, June 22. Tadd Neitzel and Blake Krien harvested the wheat for Ron Curry. Christy Wurm, Bartlett staff, is probing the grain.

*Herald staff photo by Sandy Barnhart*

# Rain slows the harvest

**By Karen Krien**

Wheat harvest was expected to be in progress and possibly nearing the end by the weekend but rainy weather has actually put a stop to a lot of the cutting in Cheyenne County. Much of the rainfall has been spotty but it has been enough to stop cutting in some areas.

Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported 1.02 inches of rain since June 21. Over the weekend, the Wheeler

area received up to 4 inches in some places. However, the temperatures have warmed up to the 90s and it has been hot and humid for this part of the county. Earlier, there were some cooler temperatures which also slowed the ripening of the wheat crop.

Tim Burr, St. Francis Equity manager, reported late Monday, that there had been a few loads in and what had come had test weights in the 50s.

"It's too early to tell but it looks

like the wheat harvest this year will be a little better than last year," he said.

Mr. Burr expects harvest to be in full swing by the weekend.

In year's past, wheat harvest has been winding down or done by July 4 but this year will be a different story.

While the rain is slowing down harvest, it is doing wonders for pastures. They are looking green which is a change after over five years of drought.

# First load arrives

**By Karen Krien**

The Harvest Countdown contest, sponsored by eight businesses and *The Saint Francis Herald*, ended with the first load of wheat in the county being brought to Bartlett and Company Grain on Wednesday, June 22, at 4:15.

Tadd Neitzel and Blake Krien harvested Ron Curry's wheat, approximately 4 miles northeast of St. Francis. Doug Ross, manager, said there was 14 percent moisture and the wheat had a test weight of 60.3 pounds.

Mr. Ross said the harvest had not really started as of Tuesday. He said the wheat brought in so far is fair quality but he doesn't expect any big yields.

Last year, Harvey Neitzel brought in the first load on at 3:18 p.m. on June 23. Matt Smull was right behind him.

To qualify for the first load, the wheat must have 13 percent or less moisture. On Monday, June 20, Mr. Ross reported a farmer bringing in a test load but it was still too wet.

**Winners**

For the last four weeks, there have been entry blanks in the participating businesses letting people guess the date and time of the first load of wheat brought into any St. Francis/Wheeler elevators.

This year, there were three people who tied, each having a guess of the closest time within 15 minutes on June 22. They were: Doug Bunjes, 4 p.m.; Kyle Schulte, 4 p.m.; and Seth Swihart, 4:30 p.m. A drawing was held and Seth was declared the first place winner of \$50 in scrip money. Mr. Schulte and Mr. Bunjes will split the total of the second and third place winning, each getting \$25 in scrip. The tickets were found in boxes located at K-Store and Burr Liquor.

Seth said his parents had suggested he use the money to help toward his college expense in the fall. He wasn't sure that was the best (or the most fun) idea but didn't go on to say what he was going to buy with the money.

The scrip money will be good only in the following participating business: Donna's Gift Palace, Pizza Hut, St. Francis Equity, St. Francis Super's, Video Kingdom, K-Store, Burr Liquor and *The Saint Francis Herald*, all in St. Francis.



**YOUNG MISS WINNER Kori Underwood**, right, was greeted by applause after the announcement was made at Saturday night's program. Jade DeGood, left, was the first runner-up.

*Herald staff photo by Sandy Barnhart*

# Bird City girl earns Young Miss title

The new 2006 Cheyenne County Young Miss was crowned Saturday after a long, hot evening. Ten girls were vying for the title and, following a week of practices and interviews, Kori Underwood, Bird City, was selected.

First runner-up was Jade DeGood; second runner-up was Ashley Dowgillo; third runner-up, Sheryl Miller and fourth runner-up, McKenzie Grace.

Other contestants were Angela Van Allen, Sawyer White, Talisa Voorhies, Christi Milne and Madeline Knodel.

"It was a well-run program with fun, talented and energetic young ladies," said Vicki Cress, coordinator. "The week went so fast and the heat didn't hold back the attendance."

Neala Carmichael, Sterling, Colo., was the emcee. The evening began with the presentation of the flag by 2005 Cheyenne County Junior Miss, Chelsey Weeden. Chelsey also performed a special number later in the program.

The Young Miss Program is a scholarship program which also gives the girls the opportunity to benefit from the experiences gained. It is intended to boost self esteem, build character, encourage educational value, motivate creativity and stimulate competitiveness.

Chelsey, in her thank you read dur-

ing the program, said that the committee had given her the chance to feel like a princess and each year, the committee of volunteers spend much of their time pampering their "daughter" for the week.

The scholarships are determined by judges who evaluate each girl on their academics (worth 30 percent); individual interviews (20 percent); performing arts or talent numbers (20 percent); endurance (15 percent); and grace and elegance (15 percent). Scoring is based on a scale from one to 10. Academics is judged by a different judge than those at the Saturday night program.

There were other awards. They included: Scrapbook Award, Sheryl Miller; Contestant Choice Award, Christi Milne; Academics, Sheryl Miller; Individual Interview, Ashley Dowgillo; Grace and Elegance, Kori Underwood; Performing Arts, Jade DeGood; and Endurance, Kori Underwood.

Special presentations, a certificates of appreciation, were made by Mrs. Cress to Aimee Northrup, Kristi Guthmiller, Tina Elliott and Keely Loyd. Mrs. Cress also presented each of the contestants with a rose.

Judges for the program were Sally Parker, Idalia; Amanda Schnakenberg, Webber; Karla Orth, Lindon, Colo.; Tracy Hillmer, Goodland; and Susan Brown, Akron, Colo.

## The Saint Francis Herald

### office will be closed

## July 4th

Papers will be delivered one day later





# SUPPORT

Continued from Page 1A

Shawna Blanka, administrative assistant, also attended the Kansas Association of Family Physicians annual meeting to meet and recruit.

### Electronic medical records

Administrator Lacy talked about the future in electronic medical records and how it will work in the Cheyenne County Hospital and other rural hospitals. The benefit of electronic medical records include: 1) orders are more quickly transmitted to departments and testing results back to physicians and nursing staffs; 2) "check-points" are available to assure acceptable diagnosis are attached to orders to assure payment by insurance; 3) charges are automatically posted to patient accounts when tests are completed; 4) nursing audits to determine if all tests ordered were completed are eliminated; 5) re-capture of lost charges (one hospital estimated at 15 percent); 6) patient registration can be completed by nursing staff at admission; 7) electronic transmission of orders eliminate paper requisitions (saves time and the expense of costly multi-part forms); 8) electronic audit trails of orders assists in monitoring quality of charging process; 9) speeds up "paper-work cycle" which reduces time between work done and billing; 10) data repository stores results making results available for comparison; and 11) results are electronically collected eliminating the risk of errors in result reporting due to clerical errors.

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, said connectivity and funding for

electronic medical records continues to be issues under investigation at the federal and state levels of government and there may be opportunities for grants.

Great Plains is working toward structuring a data center which will put the Alliance in a more competitive position when grant funds are announced. Great Plains will have the potential to have 30 rural hospitals which can share in the opportunity to implement an electronic record process.

"We (Great Plains) are continuing to move ahead with the initial step of our plan for electronic applications with the implementation of the order communications, data repository and the laboratory system in hopes that our planning process will increase our opportunity for grant funding," Director John said.

### In other business

In other business:

• Mark Hoffman, the independent auditor from Grant Thornton, Wichita, met with the board to go over the audit. A few questions

were asked and answered.

• The clinic in St. Francis made a profit of \$6,365 last month; the clinic in Bird City, lost \$1,260.

• The board approved the final pay application of \$113,000 for the hospital remodeling project. However, \$5,000 will be withheld until the sheet metal work is done.

• Administrator Lacy will meet with the county commissioners at their June 30 meeting to present the hospital's budget. The board approved a request for \$525,000 — part is ad valorem taxes and the rest is an estimated amount of the 1-percent sales tax allotted to the hospital. He pointed out that the amount will vary with the amount of sales tax collected in the county.

### Executive session

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel. They came out of the session making no decisions.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 3 p.m. on July 21 in the basement meeting room at the clinic in St. Francis.

## PLANS

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permit for: Good Samaritan Village, concrete for sidewalk.

### Other business

In other business:

• The council approved license for Troy Porter, landscaping.

• Fireworks licenses were approved for Brunk Brats, Donna's Gift Palace and the Class of 2006.

• The council approved to con-

tinue with Adams, Brown, Berens and Ball as the City's auditors.

• The council approved Ordinance 529 (published last week in *The Saint Francis Herald*) which will increase the city's loan \$150,000 for the correction repair of one of the cells at the waste-water treatment facility. This will increase the repayment from \$14,000 to \$18,219 every six months.

### St. Francis News

Kelly Allen, Clay Center, spent the weekend with her parents Billy and Karen Krien and enjoyed attending the alumni activities. Marilyn Krien, Aurora, Colo., arrived on Sunday to spend a few days with the Kriens. Both Kelly and Marilyn also visited Bill and Leone Krien.



## Music team entertains

The Ambassadors Music Ministry Team from the Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis will present an inspirational concert at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, July 3, at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis. The public is cordially welcome.

The Ambassadors feature Christian music ranging from traditional to contemporary. The 60-minute concert includes more

than 10 songs, two testimonies of faith, and a brief message.

Association Free Lutheran Bible School is a two-year, college-level school of the Bible. The Ambassadors team five members are from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and South Dakota.

The Ambassadors will travel for 10 weeks throughout the United States, visiting more than 60 churches and camps.

The concert is free but a free-will offering will be taken.



**RED CROSS BABYSITTING CLINIC** was held on Saturday. The clinic was sponsored by the Cheyenne County Extension office. Connie Jo Johnson, right, American Red Cross, taught the seven girls attending. They worked with manuals, had video training and hands-on training with children.

## Plain Sense

### Children and watching television

A recent research study at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle reported that every hour preschoolers watch television each day increases their chances (by about 10 percent) of developing attention deficit problems later in life. Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), a common children's mental impairment, becomes more apparent when children enter a school setting where paying close attention and completing assignments is a necessity. Young children with attention deficit problems may exhibit difficulty concentrating, acting restless and impulsive, and being easily confused.

The Seattle researchers explained that their findings are similar to previous research which had indicated that watching too much television can shorten a child's attention span. The Seattle study suggested that television might over stimulate and permanently "rewire" the developing brain and includes a recommendation that children under age 2 not watch television. The researchers explained that

it isn't necessarily the content of the shows that preschool children watch that is the issue. Rather it is that the unrealistically fast-paced visual images typical of most television programming might alter normal brain development.

Parents have been advised for a long time about the importance of monitoring the time their children spend watching television, which takes away from important activities such as school work, playing outdoors, exercise, and interactions with family and friends. In addition, children are influenced by the large number of commercials, many of which are for alcohol, fast foods, and toys. Young children are also highly impressionable about the content of television shows, including violence, sexuality, race and gender stereotypes, and substance abuse. To encourage healthy child development, it is suggested that parents monitor the content of programs, place limits on their child's television viewing, choose age appropriate shows, and turn off the television during family

meals and study time.

*Contributed by Karen Beery, LCPC, Manager, Consultation and Education Department, High Plains Mental Health Center*

## Sainty kids place in livestock show

*By Betty Jean Winston*

The Kit Carson County Spring Livestock Show was held in Burlington on June 4. Two St. Francis youth, Amber Havel and Katelyn Jones, were involved in different class and in showmanship.

Havel received Reserve Champion Senior Showmanship; was first in Cross Class 3 Steers, had the Champion Heifer, and her heifers placed first and third in the Heifer Class.

Jones was fifth in Senior Showmanship and placed fourth in the heavy weight steer and fourth in her light weight steer.



## ANNOUNCING — The winners of the 2005 Harvest Countdown \$50 in Scrip Money is Seth Swihart

**\$25 Second Tie Place:**  
**Doug Bunjes**

**\$25 Second Tie Place:**  
**Kyle Schulte**



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