

Doctor's Clinic will get facelift

By VERONICA MONIER

The Doctor's Clinic will probably be seeing a little bit of renovation in the near future.

At last Wednesday's Norton County Hospital Board meeting, the board saw preliminary plans that will add two privacy booths to the reception area of the clinic.

The issue was brought up at a previous meeting when Hospital Administrator Rich Miller said something of the sort might be needed so the clinic could stay in compliance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), and give patients privacy when registering at the clinic.

Mr. Miller said the plans include using space at the clinic. No new room will be added.

The two booths might take up a little bit of the lobby space, he said, but it won't be much. One booth will be in compliance with the American Disabilities Act.

The board wants to get price quotes before making any decisions. The issue will probably be on the agenda of the next board meeting.

In other business, the board:

- Heard in the month of March there were 308 inpatient days, 64 admissions, two births, 30 surgeries, 3,389 outpatient procedures, 1,464 Doctor's Clinic visits, and 716 inpatient procedures.
- Heard a presentation from Med-Op Executive Director Dave

Brittain. Mr. Brittain spoke about the value of being a member of Med-Op, where the major benefit is network purchasing for medical supplies. The Norton County Hospital is one of 16 hospitals associated with the cooperation, which started in northwest Kansas and has recently spread to other parts of the state.

- Approved a change to the mileage reimbursement policy. Mileage paid to hospital employees will now change with the federal government, which now pays 40.5 cents per mile.

- Received a medical staff application from Raymond W. Smith, M.D., who will be joining the Hays Radiology group.

- Reviewed quality improvement plans from several departments, including health information management, the Doctor's Clinic, physical therapy, central supply, nursing, dietary, laboratory, information technology, house keeping, engineering and discharge planning.

- Heard from Mr. Miller that a bioterrorism grant has been approved with \$18,000 going to staff education, \$3,000 to computers in the emergency room area, and \$1,000 to pharmacy supplies the hospital is required to have under the grant.

- Held a three-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

Extention to provide tractor-safety course

By KEITH P. VANSKIKE, county extension director

K-State Research and Extension councils are combining efforts and holding a youth tractor safety training in Grainfield on Saturday, May 7, at the Gove County 4-H Building.

Any one under 16 planning to work on a farm or ranch this summer must take farm/tractor safety training. Registration needs to be into the Norton County Extension Office not later than Monday. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The cost will be \$10, which will cover materials, supplies, lunch and refreshments. Pre-registration is needed to distribute the manual prior to the course so reading and completion of the homework can be done before the session.

In 1970, the U.S. Department of Labor declared agricultural tasks as hazardous for children under 16. This made employment of those under 16 at these jobs illegal for anyone other than their parents or legal guardians.

This prompted the development of the Hazardous Occupations Training (tractor safety program) to train 14- and 15-year-olds to work in agricultural jobs.

Those who are 13 and will be turning 14 this summer or fall can also take the course.

There are some times where training is required even though a youth is working for their family.

- The farm is a partnership or corporation. Technically, the youth is working for the partnership or corporation and not the parents.

- The youth is working on a grandparents farm.

Exemptions for the law exist only for those employed by their parents or legal guardians.

Older youth and parents are welcome to attend the training.

If you are interested call the Norton County Extension Office at 877-5755.

SEALED BID ITEMS OFFERED

The USD #295 Board of Education is offering selected items for sale by sealed bid. Bids are due on or before May 11, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. Each item is to be listed by number and item description on the outside of a sealed envelope. Please submit only one item per envelope. Possession of items will be on June 1, 2005. The board will consider all bids received at the next regular board of education meeting on May 11, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. The board has the right to reject any and all bids. If you have any questions, please call the school at 785-678-2414. Thank you.

ITEM #—ITEM DESCRIPTION

- 1—2 Drawer File Cabinet
- 2—3 Drawer File Cabinet (grey)
- 3—3 Shelf Wooden Book Case
- 4—4 Drawer File Cabinet (tan)
- 5—4 Drawer File Cabinet (tan)
- 6—4 Drawer File Cabinet (tan)
- 7—Apple I Mac Computer PCG3
- 8—Bernina Serger 004
- 9—Bernina Sewing Machine
- 10—Computer Desk
- 11—Computer Desk
- 12—Computer Desk
- 13—Computer Printer 5150
- 14—eMac Computer
- 15—Food Processor
- 16—Frigidaire Corning top stove
- 17—Grey File Cabinet
- 18—Grey Glass Cabinet
- 19—HP 1160 Color Printer
- 20—IBM Typewriter
- 21—InFocus Projector w/Speakers
- 22—Janome Sewing Machine & Accessories
- 23—Kitchen Aid Mixer
- 25—Laserwrite II NT Printer
- 26—Long Bookshelf
- 27—New Home Sewing Machine
- 28—Orion VCR
- 29—Overhead Projector
- 30—Overhead Projector
- 31—Proxima Projector 5800
- 32—Quasar VCR (no remote)
- 33—Tall Shelf Woodgrain Bookcase
- 34—Tan File Cabinet
- 35—Teacher Chair
- 36—Teacher Chair
- 37—Teacher Chair (blue)
- 38—Teacher Desk
- 39—Teacher Desk
- 40—Teacher Desk



Whispering Pines director, Cynthia Collins, left, served a cup of coffee to Dorothy Lundgren, Norton, who at-

tended the center's monthly coffee.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



Crystal Readle, an employee of Jamboree Foods, stopped to try on an antique hats on display during the center's monthly coffee.

Fancy bonnets modeled at coffee

Those long-gone days when a proper lady wouldn't leave the house without a hat returned Thursday during an afternoon coffee at Whispering Pines Retirement and Assisted Living Center in Norton.

Director Cynthia Collins invited the community to join the staff and residents for an event she called, "What Was In Grandma's Attic".

Ms. Collins decorated the entryway with an antique trunk spilling over with some of the vintage clothing and hats she has collected. A "flapper" dress from the 1920s hung on a mannequin.

The afternoon was dedicated to Ms. Collins' grandmother, Frances tenBensel, 93, Arapahoe, Neb., who brought her hat collection from the 1930s and 1940s. The hats were modeled by staff.

Mrs. Virginia Wroot, Arapahoe, an aunt of Ms. Collins' wrote a rhyming commentary about each hat and acted as narrator during the style revue.

Staff models were Leandra Jacobs, Gloria Jones, Susan White, Cynthia Kindall, Jacqueline Pacheco, Amber Young and Gail Rhodes.

Ambulance service, city send out survey

By VERONICA MONIER

To be able to apply for a grant, the Norton County Emergency Medical Service needs residents of the county to fill out and return a survey.

Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen said they sent out a low to moderate income survey a couple of weeks ago in order to apply for a community development block grant, which would be used to either buy a new ambulance building or to expand the current one.

The reason for the expansion or new building, he said, is space. The current ambulance building has no classroom space, nor does it have bunk or shower areas. It also could use storage space for supplies, a bigger office, and more room for the ambulances.

"We literally cannot get another ambulance until we have more room," said Assisant Director

Ruth Schillig.

If the current building were to be expanded, it would do so to the east.

The entire project depends on getting enough surveys back to apply for the grant and the grant will determine whether the ambulance service could build new or expand. Either way, the cost of paying for it would come from the grant.

Mr. Nielsen said 1,925 surveys were sent out with self-addressed, stamped envelopes so people could return them at no expense to themselves.

Everyone in the county should have received a survey, with the exception of residents of the City of Alma and the City of Edmond. Both cities, he said, already qualify as having low to moderate income.

So far, he said, they've received

about 800 of the surveys back.

In order to apply for the grant, they need 80 percent, or around 1,600, back.

"We have to have 80 percent of the surveys just to apply for the grant," he said. "If we don't get them back, we can't apply."

It's an expensive project with the cost of paper, stamps and envelopes, but the county isn't paying for the entire thing.

Mr. Nielsen said the city is paying half of the cost because it can use the survey as well.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the city is thinking about applying for a community development block grant to help pay for a new water treatment plant.

He said to apply for the grant, they need 80 percent of the surveys from city residents.

Mr. Nielsen said they need the surveys back as soon as possible

so they can get everything needed for the application together and get it sent in before the Oct. 1 application deadline.

But, he said, he's glad the city and county are working together.

"It's nice that the city and county can work together on something like this," he said. "We have to help each other to build a stronger and better community."

If anyone in the county besides residents of Alma or Edmond didn't receive a survey, they should call the Norton County Emergency Medical Service at 785-877-5784 and leave their name, address and phone number. Mr. Nielsen said a survey will be sent to them with a self-addressed stamped envelope to return it.

Seniors can apply for new scholarships

Two new scholarships are available to Norton Community High School seniors from the family of former Norton County residents, Lydia and Gilman Bishop.

The Lydia S. Bishop Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 will be awarded to a student majoring in education at a four-year Kansas college.

The Gilman E. Bishop Memo-

rial Scholarship of \$1,500 will be awarded to a student majoring in agribusiness or in the vocational trades at a Kansas two or four-year college.

Students have until next Friday to apply. Applications are available through high school counselor Jennifer Hauser.

Candidates will be selected by high school staff in consultation

with the Bishop family.

Mr. Bishop, a farmer, graduated from Norton high school in 1927. Mrs. Bishop graduated from Lucas High School in 1929. She taught elementary school in Norton County for nearly 30 years.

Both were active in Norton county, civic and religious organizations and believers in higher education.

Farm Service holds disaster loan sign up

Sign up for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Crop Disaster Program is underway at the Norton County Farm Service Agency office.

County Agency Director Vesta Hobbs said under the program, producers will be reimbursed for crop production and losses for either the 2003 or 2004 crops.

Payments will be issued for losses exceeding 35 percent of expected productions at 65 percent of the price for crops that were covered by crop insurance; 65 percent of the price for crops for which crop insurance was not available; and 60 percent of the price for crops that could have been insured, but were not.

The disaster payments are limited to \$80,000 per farmer.

Ms. Hobbs said the act, which authorized the program, requires the 2003-'04 disaster payments be calculated by the same formula as the 2001-'02 disaster program.

Contact the Norton County Farm Service Agency at (785) 877-5156 for more information.

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