

Board of Healing Arts suspends Hoxie doctor's license

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN
jkackerman@gmail.com

A Hoxie medical doctor's license has been suspended by the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts in Topeka.

An order alleging Dr. John Rand Neuenschwander is unable to practice medicine with "reasonable skill and safety to patients" was filed by the state medical board on June 6. The order says if Neuenschwander continues to practice medicine the public's health, safety and welfare is in "immediate danger."

Neuenschwander has been licensed to practice medicine in Kansas since June 15, 1973.

Board of Healing Arts Executive Director Larry Buening offered little about the doctor's case.

"Unfortunately the complaints we receive are confidential and state law does not allow us to divulge the source of the complaints," Buening said.

The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts is made up of 15 members appointed by the governor. Twelve of the members hold medical licenses, the other three are members of the general public. The Board licenses or registers 13 health care professions and out-of-state contact lens distributors. The mission of the Board of Healing Arts is to protect the public by requiring health care professionals to meet and maintain certain qualifications and standards of conduct.

Those professionals include medical, osteopathic, chiropractic and podiatric doctors; physicians' assistants; physical therapists and therapists' assistants; occupational therapists and therapists' assistants; respiratory therapists; naturopathic doctors; contact lens distributors; and radiologic technologists.

Dr. Myron Leinwetter, a family practice physician from Rossville, has been appointed to serve as

presiding officer in all proceedings in the case. Attorney Michael O'Neal of Hutchinson represents Neuenschwander.

Richard Krannawitter of Hoxie is the chairman of the board of Sheridan County Health Complex. He said he was aware Neuenschwander's license has been pulled.

"I read it on the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts web site," Krannawitter said Tuesday morning. "We sent in paperwork that was asked of us. I'm basically

on the outside looking in. You'll have to go to the administrator for anything more."

Joe Stratton is the administrator of the complex which is made up of an 18-bed hospital, 38-bed long term care unit, and eight assisted living apartments under one roof.

Calls to Stratton were not returned.

The order suspending Neuenschwander's license alleges he treated a patient on Sept. 21, 2007, for injuries related to a motor vehi-

cle accident. A second doctor who saw the patient "noted several issues" relating to the laceration care of the patient, according to the order.

The same order alleges Neuenschwander treated a patient for "abdominal pain and weakness" at the Sheridan County Health Complex (in Hoxie) on May 28 and May 29. Nursing staff contacted Neuenschwander about the patient's "deteriorating condition" and asked that he come to the hospital. The doctor did not

arrive at the hospital until "nearly two hours" had passed, according to the order.

Buening said the case was set for a hearing on June 25, but has been continued because O'Neal was not available to attend on that day. No new date has been set.

Neuenschwander has until July 7 to file a petition with the Sheridan County District Court seeking a judicial review of the suspension order. As of Tuesday, a petition for judicial review had not been filed with the court.

Roads: Feds can help pay

(Continued from Page 1)

If a drainage tube is silted in due to the flood, the government will pay to have it cleaned out.

Administrative time is being paid differently now than it was when the county received help from a bad ice storm a year or so ago.

"They were very positive," he said. "They saw no reason why we couldn't claim the damages."

Anything that breaks down related to road repair work can be turned into the government if the county gets the OK, he said. They won't pay for regular servicing, but if a clutch goes out while doing repairs, they will pay for that.

The inspectors said that they would like to have a good map of the county roads so they can see what's being done, he said.

The commissioners said that they could provide one similar

to one they have hanging in their meeting room.

Mr. Brannan said that his crew was being careful to document everything they do on repairs.

"We're writing everything down," said Mr. Brannan. "We're trying to make notes. What kind of damage do we have on this road?"

He said the inspectors told him they should know whether or not the government will help pay for the damages in about two weeks.

"We're making every effort to get everything found," he said. "We can't claim anything until we start the paperwork."

Commissioner Leroy Lang said that working with the federal government is always interesting.

"They don't give you the rules ahead of time," he said. "You just have to find them out."

County: Road hearing held

(Continued from Page 1)

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a hearing and, since there were no protests, agreed to close a section of Road D in Crystal Township on land belonging to the Meyers family.

- Received a budget request for \$15,000 from Norton County Conservation District Manager Twila Dizmag. This year the county provided \$10,000.

- Received the state assessment. "Right now we're up a little," Robert Wyatt, county clerk, said. "There are some adjustments, but right now that's what they're certifying for us."

- Held 20-minute and a 15-minute closed sessions to discuss collection of medical bills with emergency medical services billing clerk Judy Carlyle and County Counselor Doug Sebelius.

- Learned that prisoners from the Norton Correctional Facility have not been allowed by the prison to return to work at the landfill. Mr. Archibald said that his crews are a little behind in the recycling but it isn't too bad yet.

- Received an annual update from Darla Juhl, coordinator for the Solomon Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area. Ms. Juhl also handed out the group's new brochures and invited the group's new brochures to the next council meeting on Friday, July 11, at Prairie Land Electric in Norton.

- Heard from Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Becker that she has had a request to rent a sign at the old Moffet Station on South State. She thought that \$200 would be a good price for a one-year lease.

Lightning: Seek shelter

(Continued from Page 1)

of warmer air start to rise and cumulus clouds form. Continued heating can cause these clouds to grow vertically into towering cumulus clouds, often the first sign of a developing thunderstorm.

- When to seek shelter. Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles from an area where it is raining. That's about the distance you can hear thunder. If you can hear thunder, warns the National Weather Service, you are within striking distance. Seek safe shelter immediately.

- Outdoor activities, minimize the risk of being struck. Most lightning deaths and injuries occur in the summer. Where organized outdoor activities take place, coaches, camp counselors, and other adults must stop the activities at the first roar of thunder to ensure everyone time to get to a large building or enclosed vehicle. Leaders of outdoor events should have a written plan that all staff are aware of and enforce.

- Indoor activities, things to avoid. If you are inside a building, stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that puts you in direct contact with electricity.

Stay away from pools, indoor or

outdoor, tubs, showers and other plumbing. Buy surge suppressors for key equipment. Install ground fault protectors on circuits near water or outdoors. When inside, wait 30 minutes after the last strike before going out again.

- Helping someone struck by lightning. If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and get medical care immediately. Cardiac arrest and irregularities, burns and nerve damage are common in cases where people are struck by lightning.

However, with proper treatment, including CPR if necessary, most victims survive a lightning strike.

You are in no danger helping someone struck by lightning, the charge will not affect you, says the National Weather Service.

Additional information is available by going to the following web sites:

www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

www.lightningsafety.com

www.weather.gov/pueblo/ltp-phpp

www.weather.gov/goodland

The National Weather Service in Goodland "wishes you a safe and enjoyable summer!"

90 years in business



Garrett Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning Company celebrated 90 years of service June 13 with an outdoor lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs for visitors at their open house. Some of the product representatives on hand included Comfort Products, Kearney Winnelson and Kris-Davis.

— Telegram photo by Christie Anderson

Election issue forums face delay

By TOM BETZ

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Public forums on at-large election of Sherman County commissioners, originally set for this month, will be delayed until August.

It was felt the June dates were too early, and that people would be too busy. It was suggested holding one forum in August during the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair, one in September and one in October.

"Whatever works is fine with me," said county commissioner Mitch Tiede.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he was concerned that people would have forgotten the issue by the time the forums come up. Commissioner Kevin Rasure

said he felt the task force's plan was good.

The forums were suggested by the commissioners to comply with a request from state legislators who sidetracked a bill that would have allowed Sherman County voters to decide on a question of voting on county commissioners at large and doing away with the commissioner districts.

The bill was introduced in the House in 2007, and passed the House that February, but stalled in the Senate and the session ended with it still in committee.

In March, a question was raised at a commissioners meeting about passage of the bill.

The commissioners received an updated version and voted 2-1 to ask Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer

(R-Grinnell) to get it passed in the Senate. He was able to do that with a 40-0 vote in April, but the bill stalled again when the House asked for a conference committee rather than accepting the Senate's amended version.

After receiving conflicting signals from the commissioners, legislators held the bill. In the final days of the session, it was used to fix another election bill, leaving Sherman County citizens without any choice this year. Commissioner Chuck Thomas said the

legislators had suggested public forums on the issue, but none was set up. Thomas, who had voted for the issue last year, has said he has changed his mind and does not feel there is any need to eliminate the commissioner districts.

Before the bill died, the commissioners had asked the Shine On Sherman County Government Services Alliance Task Force to consider holding public forums on the issue to educate the people in advance of a potential vote in November.

Got a news tip?

Call us at (785) 877 3361

Your Life is Going to Change...

This is Susie. She likes dolls and social studies. She doesn't think about what she'll be when she grows up, but we do. With Nex-Tech's fiber-to-the-premise, Susie will be able to stay in Norton when she grows up and raise her kids in the same community she loves. Susie will work each day from her home office in Norton and telecommute to her job in Kansas City with her 50 meg Internet connection. Nex-Tech's state-of-the-art fiber makes it possible for children like Susie to stay in our area when they grow up but have the same opportunities larger cities can offer.



The future of technology is coming to Norton and your telecommunications world will never be the same.



117 N. Norton • 877.4135 • www.nex-tech.com