

Tour

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practicality and comfort. It is a two-story slab home with radiant floor heat that sits on three acres. It has three bedrooms, two and a half baths, a two-car garage and a fireplace in the living room.

"This is the house Chris promised me when we got engaged," said Tina.

The radiant floor heating keeps the floors nice and warm in the winter, according to the Tanners and the walls are foam-filled insulated, which is antimicrobial and it strengthens the walls. The front and back porch are also heated, so Chris doesn't have to shovel as much snow in the winter.

Building their home wasn't without obstacles, however. The Tanners said finding a front door was the most stressful part of building their new home, because "we couldn't find one we liked, nothing seemed to work," said Tina.

They eventually found their front door and Tina designed the home's interior. "The majority of the interior decisions were mine," said Tina. "You pick it, I'll do it," Chris chimed in.

The house is open and spacious which is one of the things the Tanners wanted. The Tanner children, Shelby, 13 years old and Greyson, 11 years old

each have their own room and share a large bathroom with his and her sinks. Shelby's happy because she doesn't have to share a room anymore with her brother

"It's great to have my own room. I can be by myself," said Shelby.

Chris wanted a space of his own as well, a man-cave, which is the only room on the second floor level. It's a long and narrow room. At one end is his office with his desk, computer and a gong which he says is used to relieve stress (tongue in cheek). At the other end of the man-cave is Chris' viewing area with a big-screen TV and a comfortable sofa. And what man-cave would be complete without the "man" having his own private bathroom.

The Tanners master bedroom is large and spacious. It has his and her sinks and the drain for the shower is in the corner, so you don't have to stand on it while showering. These are all nice touches but it's the dry sauna in the bathroom that captures your attention. The shower can also be used as a steam room or wet sauna.

The kitchen is large and open with lots of drawers and cabinet space, and looks out to the dining room. The dark wood floors and the stainless steel appliances

make this kitchen stand out.

"The kitchen is exactly the way I envisioned it," said Tina.

The living room is large and airy, with a large cozy fireplace. The room faces east and has lots of windows making it nice and sunny in the morning hours and shady in the evening, and "the moon comes up right over the hill," said Chris.

The Tanners are also proud of the fact that most everything needed to build the home was purchased from local retailers and vendors.

"We got a higher quality product at a cheaper price," said Chris.

The Tanners also recruited local help for the projects they couldn't do themselves. The electrical work was completed by Larry Hawks, the dirt was removed by Whitney Construction, the plumbing was done by Sloan's Plumbing, Jeff Jones laid the cement block and Prairie Land Electric did the air conditioning work.

Now that the Tanners dream home is built, Chris has set down his hammer and nails, and now farms wheat, corn, milo and beef cows full-time on his property.

"I built my retirement home, this is a one time thing," said Chris.

Chris and Tina are far from



A beautiful dining room is at the entrance of the home, with stainless steel appliances in the kitchen and dark hardwood floors throughout the main level. The living room is large and airy with lots of windows looking out over the Kansas landscape.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Report

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concluded in their report that 849 of the nation's critical access hospitals - nearly two-thirds of them - would not meet the law's distance benchmark, if they were forced to reapply for the designation using the original standards. Of those, 751 had been designated by state leaders, such as Sebelius, as "necessary providers."

Cutting costs

The inspectors are recommending that Congress change the law so that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services could reassess the critical access hospitals.

If that were done according to the original distance requirements, they concluded, hundreds of the hospitals would fail to meet the standards and the government and Medicare patients would save billions of dollars than to halted preferred payments.

By their estimate, pushing those hospitals out of the designation would save taxpayers \$268 million a year in 2011 dollars. Medicare patients would save another \$181 million than to reduced co-insurance payments.

Those calculations are challenged by the National Rural Health Association. Officials there don't even agree with the

way the inspectors calculated the number of hospitals that would fail the distance standards, if forced to reapply.

"We happen to think that list is in error," Slabach said. "They didn't use very sophisticated mapping techniques. It could be over or under we don't know. But I would say any hospital on the list that doesn't meet the (original) criteria should consider themselves vulnerable."

Critical Access Designation

To be certified for favorable Medicare rates, Critical Access Hospitals must meet location requirements and cannot have more than 25 beds for acute-care or "swing-bed" patients. They must offer 24-hour emergency services and the average annual length of patient stays cannot exceed 96 hours.

Quite a few Kansas and Missouri hospitals would be among the vulnerable.

"Seventy-two of our 83 (critical access) hospitals would be affected. That's a lot," said Cindy Samuelson, vice president of member services and public relations at the Kansas Hospital Association, commenting on the HHS OIG report.

Slabach and KHA officials said their respective groups were rallying members of Congress in an effort to ward off any of the payment cuts proposed in the inspector's report

and likewise to stave off a budget proposal from the Obama administration that also would pare the nation's list of critical access hospitals, though less dramatically.

The Obama plan would bump from the list about 70 hospitals nationwide that are within 10 miles of one another, trimming Medicare spending by about \$40 million a year.

Congressional opposition

Slabach said Kansas' U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, both Republicans, have signaled they would oppose the proposed changes to the critical access system and a bi-partisan letter penned by two other farm state senators to HHS has picked up more than 20 signatures. Nose counting in the U.S. House also is underway.

LIST OF IMPLICATED KANSAS CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS:

Ashland, Atwood, Coldwater, Columbus, Dighton, Ellinwood, Garnett, Kinsley, Lakin, Leoti, Mankato, Oswego, Plainville, Ransom, Saint Francis, Sedan, Seneca, Winchester, Holton, Horton, Syracuse, Meade, Stafford, Satanta, Hill City, Ellsworth, Minneapolis, Lyons, Caldwell, Kiowa, Oakley, Lincoln, Johnson, WaKeeney, Ness City, Minneola, Greensburg, Tribune, La Crosse, Hoising-

ton, Medicine Lodge, Hugoton, Sabetha, Eureka, Herington, Hiawatha, Wamego, Neodesha, Larned, Anthony, Hoxie, Norton, Concordia, Russell, Washington, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Onaga, Marion, Hillsboro, Lindsborg, Belleville, Colby, Marysville, Osborne, Washington, Harper, Quinter, Jetmore, Goodland, Clay Center, Scott City, Iola, Fredonia, Beloit, Girard, Smith Center, Council Grove, Kingman, Chanute, Abilene, Atchison, Winfield,

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Eco Devo

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area to house it but no matter what building was to be used they would be looking at a lot of work to get them ready. Sproul has spoken to a consultant about Cosmic Bowling packages or as they are now called, Boutique Bowling Alleys. These type are more relaxing and inviting with comfortable seating, food, drinks and other things than just bowling being offered.

Hopkins suggested that they visit other area fun centers to get a better idea of what it all entails and everyone agreed on this. Donna Foley was nominated to head the planning to get the visits done and reports made to show the rest of the board members.

The final topic of discussion was that both Scott and Verla needed new computers since the current ones are having difficulties with locking up and

other things. They had two bids turned in for these, one from Mortensen Computer Services and the other from Ardenttech. The board voted to accept the bid from Mortensen Computer Service since there is enough money available to them out of the equipment purchase and computer expense fund.

The meeting was adjourned until October.

Approaching age 65?



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