

# HOSPITAL

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underway, the inspector was satisfied that code issues will be fixed. Much of the kitchen is the same as when the hospital was built in the 1950s. There is poor traffic flow for kitchen staff as well as employees who eat there. The cupboards and floor needs replaced; the dining area needs to be larger and there needs to be a separate area for the kitchen office.

Three plans had been drawn up. One would barely meet the needs for now but, in the future, there would need to be more remodeling; the second would work well for the kitchen staff but the traffic flow was still not good; the third plan, which was more of a long-term, permanent fix, completely takes care of the flow of people and enlarges the dining area, which will take a part of the medical records office.

It was pointed out that, with new electronic medical records, space is less of an issue but it remains an important one. Still taking part of that office would work out by shifting room use. In all plans, the kitchen office would be established in the old chapel.

The cost of a long-term permanent fix for the kitchen would be anywhere from \$150,000 to \$200,000. They also talked about having much of the work done by the maintenance crew.

More information was needed but it will be back on the agenda at the November meeting.

### Cardiac monitors

The cardiac monitors, which the hospital is now using, are serviceable but they are over 10 years old.

"We can still get them repaired but it is something that we need to be looking at," Administrator Lacy said.

### Parking

There is a need for more parking around the hospital. There are also some issues with the east side of the hospital that will be taken care of when the parking lot is put in. But, for now, parking is on the bottom of the board's "needs" list.

The board talked about applying for more tax credit dollars as well as trying to get United States Department of Agriculture grants and loans that are low interest. No decisions were made.

### Strategic plan

The hospital's strategic plan was updated in October. It was noted that one of the goal is to increase the market share or the number of people coming to the hospital. The key to bring numbers higher is to focus on good customer services. The hospital has added specialty physicians in psychiatry, dermatology and orthopedics to the services. They are currently looking for urology and ear, nose and throat doctors to come to the hospital.

Financially, the members plan to build board reserves to \$600,000 by December 2011. Since 1996, the hospital has been able to build reserves on a decreased amount of local tax dollars. However, due to the impact of inflation and the need to establish new provider practices, as well as handling the load of county health and obstetrics, it may be necessary to re-evaluate what the hospital needs.

Funded depreciation has been stable in the \$600,000 range for several years and will fall slightly this year, said Mr. Lacy.

The plan calls for establishing or use an established foundation to provide for the hospital's future capital needs. They would like to accumulate \$500,000 for the hospital's needs by December 2011.

The hospital failed a tax credit application this year but will be approaching this issue next year.

### In other business

In other business:

- Cristy Tygart and Dee Wilson met with the board to tell them that they were interested in pursuing their education in the nursing field. Both were approved for the Kansas Nursing Scholarship Loan Program.

"The board can be very proud of the hospital — it is very up scale," Mrs. Wilson said.

- Dee Epperson, health information manager, said she had been in the department for 7 1/2 years. She said the computers have been the biggest change in the department and having Trish Harkness as a full-time technician has been a great help. Others working in the department are Jackie Ritchey and Rita Keeker. The biggest future expense will be scanning and archiving records.

- Priscilla Prentice has taken the clinic's medical assistant position. The administrator said that candidates are being interviewed for the county health administrative assistant. He is also looking for a replacement for the ward clerk position.

- Administrator Lacy announced that Warren Harkness, X-ray technician, had resigned. The hospital has also been using a temporary lab tech to cover for two employees who were injured in an automobile accident.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been rescheduled to 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 19, at the clinic meeting room.



# OFFICE

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flat-rate boxes available.

He would like to see everyone make sure they have their new addresses sent to people and businesses that will be sending them mail.

"We will make every effort to get people their mail but it sure helps when the right address is on the envelope or package," he said.

The Lalickers have four children, Trista, Brett, Ryan and Matthew. Mrs. Lalicker is a stay-at-home mom but, when all of the children are back in school, she would like to resume her job as an elementary and/or Title I teacher. Mrs. Lalicker is the daughter of Al and Hilda Price,



**OLD FASHIONED SNOWMOBILE** — This may be one of the first ever snowmobiles. The picture was brought to The Herald office by Mickey Graves which the family found while going through old photos. There was no year but Hurb

Graves said it had been owned and possibly built by Dr. Haddon Peck. The Herald staff would appreciate anyone knowing more information or having similar photos to please send them.

# TURNOFF

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the asphalt work. Mr. Flemming said that Eric Oelschlager, District 3 engineer, Atwood, said that extra turning lanes have proven to be dangerous. Sometimes the lanes are confusing and people are passing in wrong lanes.

Truck turning lane caution signs were discussed but this is a decision the state has to make.

The commissioners talked about establishing 40 mile per hour zones in that area or putting up flashing lights. They had been told that the state refuses to put in slower zones but they may go for putting up flashing lights. At this time, there probably isn't enough traffic to justify the zoning or lights.

After considerable discussion, the commissioners agreed to go ahead with putting in a wider turning land south of the highway and west of the dairy entrance road.

### Ambulance

Amy Griffey, representing Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, along with Janelle Bowers, county emergency medical service director, were present to finalized the Community Development Building Grant for the new Bird City Ambulance. After signing the necessary papers, the grant will be submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce. The ambulance will cost approximately \$142,000 with the county paying \$71,000.

### Road graders

The county has nine road graders in use. There are three graders which have between 14,000 and 13,000 hours. The one with 14,000 hours has had a new transmission. All three are over 10 years old and Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, had priced new graders.

He said the new CAT graders have no steering wheel but "joy" sticks instead. He said several of his crew had tried the new steering and thought that they could easily adapt to it; however, the price for these new graders was about \$20,000 more.

Martin Tractor, Colby, has three old version graders with steering wheels. Both Mr. Flemming and Andy Beikman, commissioner, wanted to wait a couple of years before purchasing one of the new graders with joy stick steering.

The commissioners asked Mr. Flemming to get a bid on a new older-

style grader.

### Sheriff's report

Sheriff Craig Van Allen said the remodeling of the 911, sheriff and deputy offices are continuing. He didn't expect there to be a big expense. Carol Gamblin, communication director, said the equipment is also expected soon. James O'Loughlin, who will be overseeing the grant administration and dispatch process, will be at the next commissioners' meeting on Thursday, Nov. 15.

The sheriff said officer Jon Lanz will be attending the next training academy starting Nov. 12. He will take the training instead of Cody Beeson who has a broken leg.

The commissioners' decided to get two debit cards for the sheriff's office.

The sheriff purchased two new bullet-proof vests. A grant paid for half the cost (\$350) and the county paid for the other half.

### In other business

In other business:  
• Justin Barrett, county attorney, explained that appeals of jury trials were not part of the county attorney's duties. These cases would need to be hired out or charged for.

• Ralph Unger, Decatur County Commissioner, will be appointed as representative of the Northwest Kansas Special Alliance Stakeholders Group for the Upper Republican River Basin conservation of water. Earlier, Commissioner Ernie Ketzner

had shown an interest in being the representative.

• The commissioners approved for Ed Garner, landfill supervisor, to give his sick-time leave to Kelly Doyle. This change will be written into the employee's policy handbook and each case will be determined by the commissioners.

• Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed/prairie dog supervisor, updated the commissioners on the chemicals Rozol and K-Put which are used to eliminate prairie dogs. He also briefly discussed the work he was doing in the area.

• Sharon Elliott, clerk of the district court, talked about removing documents from the clerk of the court's office. It was decided no records will leave that office. Copies can be made in the office if needed.

• Those approved to attend schools or workshops were: Terry Miller, county clerk; Robert Van Allen, judge; Danny Schlittenhardt and Ed Garner, hazardous waste training.

• Mrs. Gamblin will begin interviewing people for 911 dispatchers in the near future.

### Executive session

Two executive sessions were used during the meeting:

• Andy Beikman, commissioner, asked for five minutes to discuss personnel. No decision was made.

• Clerk Elliott asked for 10 minutes to discuss personnel. No decision was made.

# BEST

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an ordinary dish into a show-stopping centerpiece.

Recipes will be demonstrated and shared that are delicious and impressive.

Since frozen pastry is easy and very versatile, it can be used for savory dishes as well as decadent desserts.

Lori Sporer, Logan County Agent, will talk about the "Beauty and the Feast."

"When you think about your traditional family feasts at holiday time, do they resemble a Norman Rockwell painting, with colors so vivid you can almost taste them?" she asks. "Adding color, texture and interest to your holiday meals will make your guests' mouths water and eyes pop!"

Ms. Sporer will share ideas for dressing up the holiday table. Recipes and directions will be shared so all can dazzle holiday celebrations this season.

# Idalia area children enjoy the safe fall celebration

Idalia area children recently enjoyed a safe fall celebration sponsored by Idalia Student Council and Modern Woodmen of America, a national provider of fraternal financial services and programs. The event took place at the Idalia School gym on Oct. 31.

The Saf-T-Fun Fest gave kids a chance for a fun, supervised celebration. The kids were encouraged to respect others, and have

fun through a costume contest.

Costume contest winners were kindergarten, Jake Garton and Dax Towns; first grade, Jace Juhnke and Breann Shaffer; second grade: Maggie Earl and Brandon Kock; third grade: Ivan Cordova and Alex Weyerman; fourth grade, Jason Dutton, Jennoy Terrell and Paxton Waitman; fifth grade, Stephanie Helling and Alan Trevizo-Vargas and sixth grade, Jesel

Herrera, Morgan Kock and McKayla Schafer.

Door prize winners were Nicholas Dyck, Mathew Dyck, Tiani Tovar, Jace Juhnke, Johnathon DeLeon and Trista Brust.

The Saf-T-Fall Fest is one of seven free Youth Educational Programs Modern Woodmen offers to schools and youth groups nationwide.

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