

Concordia to host festival which is all about Kansas

Thousands of Kansans will come to Concordia's City Park to celebrate all that is Kansas. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, over 130 Kansas communities will help the public learn about the architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history and people of Kansas at the 19th annual Kansas Sampler Festival.

Cheyenne County will be represented. Gloria Bracelin, St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce secretary; along with Carol Ross, and Eddy and Sherry Schultz, will be promoting the county. Luanne Isernhagen and Betty Orth will be performing in the entertainment tent. Becky Roberson with her bierocks will be serving in the food booth.

The primary focus of the event is to help the public plan day trips around the state. The north central tent that normally has 22 exhibitors has swelled this year to more than 60. Every part of the state is represented from the Flint Hills to Hiawatha in the northeast to Liberal and Goodland and St. Francis in western Kansas to Columbus and Harper County in the southern part of the state.

Kansas musicians and historic performers showcase themselves for hire, food vendors either promote a restaurant or serve a food product made in Kansas or an ethnic recipe. Kansas wineries and one of the microbreweries serve small samples.

In addition, exhibitors in the Kansas Mercantile tent will sell everything from books by Kansas authors to mustard, salsa, jellies, candles, pork, art, and more, all made in Kansas. The biggest Kansas-made products will include a Cobalt boat from Neodesha and fifth-wheel rigs from Smith Center and Chanute.

Pamela Young from Haven is bringing her alpacas to entice people to come see more of the friendly animals at her farm. The Abeldt Family Sheep Farm of Hope will feature sheep shearing. Others will show how to spin wool! Mike Cargill of Great Bend's Kansas Raptor Center returns with his popular bird show.

The Kansas Explorers Club tent will instruct people on the basics exploring the state and will be the place to vote for the 8 Wonders of Kansas Architecture. Marci Penner will ask Kansas questions on the Stump.

Attractions outside the festival grounds will also vie for attention as the Nazareth Motherhouse and Brownstone Hall are open for tours. The Cloud County Historical Museum, the National Orphan Train

Complex, and the famed Brown Grand Theatre are among local features that will also be open.

The festival is a project of the Inman-based Kansas Sampler Foundation but the main organizing was done by festival co-chairs Susie Haver and Barbara Henry of the Cloud County Tourism office.

WenDee LaPlant, Foundation assistant director said, "The park will be chock full of Kansas. Barns, churches, art, scenic drives, specialty shops, local cafes, events, are all promoted here. It's a guarantee that no one will leave this park without being amazed at all that Kansas has to offer."

Good food found at Kansas festival

There will be Kansas home-grown/home-made foods at the Festival in Concordia's City Park on Saturday, and Sunday.

As typical for festivals, it will have food concessions. But take a closer look and see food at the Kansas Sampler Festival with new eyes.

Festival organizers ask food vendors to buy all their festival menu items from a Kansas source, meat locker, or from a locally-owned store. For instance, vendors are asked to use Grannie's Mustard (Hillsboro), Art's and Mary's Potato Chips (Cheney), and to buy any bottled water from a Kansas bottler.

Typically hot dogs are not allowed at the festival but they will be this year because they come from 100-percent organic beef grown by Nancy Vogelsberg-Bush from Home City. Nancy will be serving up her Bossie's Best franks-on-a-stick so ask her about her family farm that has used organic farming methods since 1878--and ask where you can buy her beef year-round.

The festival also loves to support local restaurants and this year, Jude's from Jamestown will have a booth. The idea is to give exhibitor-

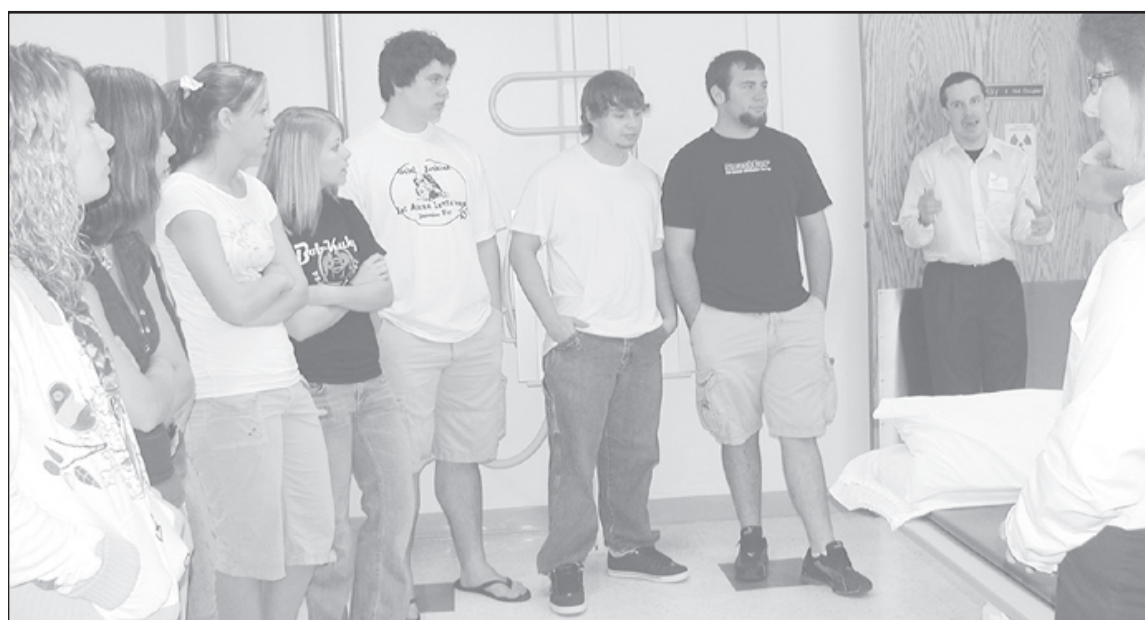
goers a taste of Jude's food so you'll want to go to her restaurant. She'll be serving her famous cheese steak sandwiches, cinnamon rolls, and chop salad.

Becky's Bierocks from St. Francis will introduce people to a German favorite. Our Daily Bread from Barnes will serve their delicious homemade pies. The Bird Song Cafe from Clyde will feature panini sandwiches with ingredients purchased locally. Ice cream from KSU's Call Hall will be sold, as will the popular homemade ice cream served by Old time Ice Cream of Harper. Other vendors come from Ottawa, Harper, and Garden City.

The primary purpose of the festival is to help the public know what there is to see and do in Kansas and to inspire travel around the state. It never hurts to know about more food options, too!

This "all Kansas, all weekend" celebration is a project of the Inman-based Kansas Sampler Foundation.

The Concordia City Park is located at 11th and Washington. There is an admission. For more information call 785-243-4303 or go to kansas-samplerfestival.com.



THE JUNIOR CLASS is one of the groups from the school that tour the lab and x-ray facility at the hospital. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Students explore hospital

Lab Week found the Cheyenne County Hospital staff introducing students from Cheylin and St. Francis to the lab and X-ray facilities. Kary Meyers and Ryan Murray, both lab technicians, talked about the different areas.

"The students were told about the lab capabilities, the education required for a lab technician and showed around the radiology and

lab departments," Mrs. Meyers said.

People around the world learned of the dangers of extensive drug-resistant tuberculosis when Atlanta attorney Andrew Speaker exposed hundreds of airline passengers to the virulent bacterium on a U.S. flight bound for Europe. What didn't gain international media attention was the drug-resistant tuberculosis outbreak averted weeks

later thanks to the quick response of laboratory professionals in Massachusetts, when a young woman's tuberculosis transformed to multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

Although the woman was scheduled to travel on a transcontinental flight within 24 hours, a fast-thinking lab team convinced her to delay her travel and provided the information needed to readjust her medications. The young woman recovered and potential health crises were averted — because of laboratory professionals.

The Cheyenne County Hospital lab, and its technicians, is one of the better labs in the area. Some examples of this technology found in the lab include automated hematology, chemistry, special chemistry (including a variety of drugs assays), coagulation, blood banking and even microbiology. The hospital uses a gel system for blood banking to improve patient safety over older methods. An automated blood culture system enables detection microorganisms up to 23 hours earlier than a manual method. This gives the patient and physician a real advantage in identification and treatment of potentially life-threatening infections.

The hospital lab does about 95 percent of the testing ordered in the community onsite, with a very small percentage going to reference labs.

The lab has five technicians, Mrs. Meyers, Mr. Murray, Catherine Uy, Liezel Lusanez, and Mary Ruth Burkett. Darrell Reed is the lab/X-ray manager. Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said Mr. Reed has been attending school to prepare him for an ultrasound certification exam.

When he becomes certified, Mr. Lacy said, Mr. Reed will be the only fully certified ultrasound tech within a 180-mile radius.

CREDITS

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Financial report

During the financial report, Mr. Lacy reported that the hospital was able to meet payroll and the first big bill run of the month on the billed cash flow.

The accounts receivable was up because the hospital had a good quarter. He noted that there is still an impact in this area due to implementation of the centralized billing office.

He said the hospital is expecting a receivable from the Medicare Program in early June. The accounts payable was stronger than last month and that was due in part to the improved cash flow from the inpatient volume being up.

Financial officer's report

Heidi Tice, chief financial officer, reported that she had been with the hospital for 10 years. She has five people working in her office.

She talked about the new medical check which is made at the time of admittance. She noted that 18 families had applied for charity care. So far this year, \$16,473 was written off as charity care. The total charity care write off for last year was \$94,852.

"Medicare payments have been coming in regularly," she said. "It was a record first quarter for the number of patients using the hospital."

Great Plains report

In the Great Plains Health Alliance report, Jackie John, area director, had attended the American Hospital Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C., April 6 through 8. The small and rural hospital session was a major item of discussion.

Hospitals from California, Texas and Florida shared their experiences. One hospital had just been denied claims totaling \$4 million; another hospital had challenged 1,000 denied claims through the process to the administrative law judge and every denial had been overturned.

ART

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Kuchar, professor emeritus; and Darrell McGinnis, professor emeritus, all of the Fort Hays University of Art.

"The students did very well and have a variety of creative and interesting art," Mrs. Beikman said. "Stop by the local banks to see their work."

Students attending the show and the medium they entered include:

Kaycee Williams, scratch board, colored pencil; Shawn Warren, mirror etching; Teri Walters, two mixed, oil pastel and ceramic; Scott Ford, mirror etch; Daniel Schmid, scratch board, ceramic; Trevor Hilt, mirror etch; Tyler Larson, colored pencil; Chance Hobrock, marker; Jesse Pacheco, marker; Andrea Born, scratch board; Trent Raile, pencil; Katelyn Jones, scratch board; David Stephens, glass etch; Katie Ford, two mixed, acrylic; BreAna Zwegardt, mixed; Kate Marin, ink, watercolor; Ada Fong, colored pencil; Ted Crabtree, string mosaic; Jacob Riedel, mixed; Sam Sowers, pencil; David Guthmiller, pencil; Darris Keller, sculpture, wood; Jenice Hartman, ceramic; Emily Mullins, scratch board; and Corbin Sherlock, ceramic.

These hospitals had not received the reimbursements at the time of the meeting but had incurred huge costs in legal fees.

She said that unfortunately, the recovery audit contractor will be allowed to keep the money they "claimed" as a recovery even though their findings had been reversed. There is a bill in congress, she said, asking for a moratorium on the program until an evaluation can be conducted and changes made in the program.

Hospitals, she said, do not disagree with the need to have a review process to make sure certain claims billed to the Medicare program are legitimate, but believe this process is flawed.

Mrs. John said there was also discussion on the need for health care reform but those present, would not see much action until after the presidential elections.

In other business

In other business:

- The board approved a nursing scholarship for Tammy Church. Mrs. Church will be going to Colby Community College.

- Patrick Delano, physician assistant, will be retiring in May. A reception will be held.

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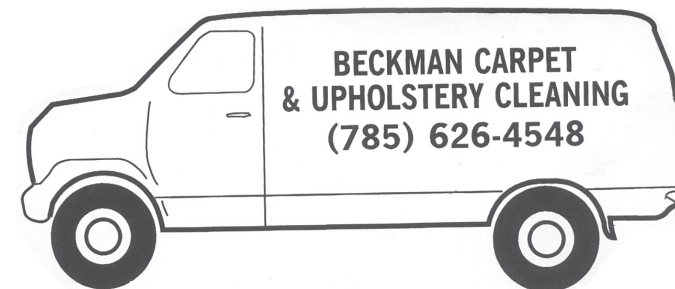
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