

# DRUGS

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places until they have been fever free — without the use of fever-reducing medications — for at least 24 hours.

If a child younger than 5 years, or an individual of any age who has a medical condition like asthma, diabetes, or a neurological problem and develops symptoms, including a fever and cough and/or sore throat, call the clinic and seek medical attention, she said.

"This is because younger children and those who have chronic medical conditions may be at a higher risk of serious complications from

influenza, including the new H1N1 strain.

If the following symptoms occur, take the ill person to the doctor right away:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing.
- Bluish or gray skin color.
- Not drinking enough fluids.
- Severe or persistent vomiting.
- Not waking up or not interacting.
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held.
- Flu-like symptoms improve but returns with fever or worse cough.

# FLU

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flu, Dr. Allard said.

The vaccine is being produced and will be available in the coming months as an option for the prevention of the new flu. One unique aspect of the novel H1N1 flu vaccine is the age groups that are targeted for vaccination.

For the normal seasonal flu vaccine, targets are people over the age of 65, children, 6 months to 18 years, those with chronic medical conditions, healthcare workers and any others who wish to protect themselves and their families against the seasonal flu.

For the H1N1 vaccine, initial targets are pregnant women, household contacts and caregivers of infants less than 6 months of age, healthcare workers, children 6 months to 4 years, and children over 4 who have chronic medical conditions.

As the supply of the novel H1N1 vaccines increases, the target will be expanded to include school-age children and people 25 to 64 years of age with chronic medical conditions.

Unlike the normal seasonal flu vaccine, Dr. Allard said, those people 65 years and over are not targeted for this vaccine until the rest of the public has been vaccinated. Studies have shown that people in this age range are not affected as much by the virus and may have some immunity from exposure to similar viruses in the past.

In addition, the novel H1N1 virus typically targets the younger population. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment statistics, 80 percent of infected people in the state have been under 35 years old and the median age has been 17 years.

# GIFT

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to commit to the project.

### Statistics and financials

The administrator went through the statistics and financials. He noted that the trend at both clinics was to show an increase of patients. In March, the St. Francis clinic had shown 642 patients and there were 620 patients in April but it had leveled off to 528 in July. All but July 2008 had over 500 patients.

In the Bird City Clinic, averaged 89 patients per month during the last year. In July, the number had gone to 112.

CAT scans and ultrasound were up. MRIs were also strong.

In 2009, there have been 15 babies born at the hospital. The staff is planning for 26 babies this year.

Accounts Receivable at the hospital was \$1,289,941. He said the hospital has continued to have higher volume. Accounts receivable at the clinics was \$108,423 and, this figure, Mr. Lacy said, is stable.

The funded depreciation account totals \$1,348,213. Earlier, there was money drawn from this account, but, Mr. Lacy said, it was paid back with the cost report settlement.

### Administrator's report

Administrator Lacy, in his report, said Tenille Lee recently attended a "mock survey" training course presented by Mary Kabriel in conjunction with Kansas Hospital Associa-

tion and The Kansas Health Education and Research Foundation. She will be conducting surveys on other facilities in preparation to keep the St. Francis facility compliant.

Other items presented included:

- A grant was recently submitted to support the cost of a new colposcope, which is used for some kinds of gynecologic exams.
- The cardiac treadmill will need to be replaced, it is believed that this can be done with operational funds.
- The clinic roof has received hail damage during the past storms and the adjuster totaled it so it will be replaced.
- The H1N1 has statistics showing a history of 10 to 15 percent absenteeism in employees so the hospital is looking into this plus off-site care and many other options that may come about with this virus.

Mrs. Young asked if the staff gets vaccinations?

Mr. Lacy said the flu vaccination has been made available to staff free of charge annually. Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, said Great Plains is looking into exceptions on the benefits such as sick time to manage through these times. She also said they are looking at the possibility of making vaccinations mandatory for employees.

A new base radio unit will be located at the nurse's station to communicate better with the ambulance service plus one will be put in the emergency room and one located downstairs near the area used as a tornado shelter. The ones now don't always have good reception and that is not acceptable.

The budget hearing with the commissioners will be at 9 a.m. on Tuesday. Mr. Lacy asked the board members to attend if possible. He will also visit with them about the hospital's challenges.

### Next meeting

The next meeting has been moved to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Because of conflicts, the meeting dates may be changed to Wednesdays, rather than Thursdays.

## Club Clip

### United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on Sept. 2 at the United Methodist Church with 26 in attendance.

Following the business meeting, Marie Holzwarth and Nola Burrus presented an interesting program. Nola read scripture from Acts 13. Marie shared some of her early church heritage traveling back to the Lawn Ridge and Neville churches.

The United Methodist Women will have their annual soup supper from 5 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 2 in the church fellowship hall.

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Nov. 9 in the United Methodist fellowship hall. All ladies are invited to attend.

Hostesses, Wanda Gienger and Mickey Smith served delicious refreshments after the meeting adjourned.

# St. Francis students hit the books!



School has begun and St. Francis students are already hard at work. At the top, Seth Prentice, left, and Lukas Zwegardt are busy first graders; clockwise: Tate Busse and Adam Krien have their book bags and are ready for a full day of classes; CJ Leibbrandt and Rylan Doyle are doing just what wtheir teacher, Joyce Faulkender, has told them to do.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

## Program set for women

A program for women involved or interested in agricultural-related issues titled "Women in Denim" will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. mountain time on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at the Kuhrt Ranch near Edson. The Kuhrt Ranch, now listed on the National Historic Register has welcomed guests since the 1880s. Diana Flanders, owner, will be presenting history and a tour of the ranch.

Featured speaker for the day is "Sophy" from Elkhart. She brings outstanding entertainment with her hilarious "down home" jokes and stories. Sophy has experienced farm life first-hand and appreciates the role of the farmer in rural America. Her experiences in the business world enable her to humorously relate to the workplace. Sophy will tickle the funny bones of those attending and touch heartstrings as she entertains.

Also on the agenda is Byron Hale, Twin Creeks Extension with a presentation on "Important Papers...Keep or Toss" and Farm Safety Instructor, Greg Nemechek, will present a session on farm safety.

Lunch includes a registration fee and Dori Knobbe will be providing musical entertainment during the meal. Contact the local conservation district office for a registration form or more information. Registration is due by Sept. 11, but is limited to the first 50 participants.

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