

Hospital board receives patient report at meeting

By Karen Krien

The good news for hospital board members when they met on Thursday was the hospital and both the clinics in St. Francis and Bird City were being well used.

Hospital administrator Les Lacy said during November, the number of patients using the facilities was high with the exception of the last week. In October, there were 28 acute-care patients discharged from the hospital and that was a record for October with the next highest October being 18 in 2003. There were nine surgeries and four endoscopies.

The lab was busy with a record of 2,234 procedures. The next highest October for the lab was 1,825 in 2004. There had been 102 CT scans, which Mr. Lacy said was "good" was the best for the year.

Outpatients at the hospital were also at a record high, both for the year and for the last five years of October. The statistics shows 1,968 patients. There were 1,751 outpatients in 2004 and during the year, there were 1,912 in August.

Dr. Mary Beth Miller and the other providers were also busy.

X-ray and lab

Darrell Reed, X-ray and lab manager, told about happenings in his department. Mr. Reed had come to the hospital in 2003 and seen many changes including the new X-ray equipment, CT scanner and everything going digital.

In the near future, the hospital will have an ultra sound machine. Both Mr. Reed and Warren Harkness are going to school to be licensed. Other department em-

ployees are Kary Meyers, Mary Ruth Burkett and Ryan Murray.

"Darrell has put a great amount of time working for the betterment of the hospital," said Mr. Lacy.

Several other areas were discussed including a system for storing films, additional equipment for the lab and how much blood is kept on hand.

In other business

In other business:

- The board agreed to give employees a \$35 Christmas bonus. Traci Neitzel, board member, said the employees do a lot during the year and, when the board can do so, she thought that the bonus should be raised from \$25.

- The administrator had purchased a used obstetrics bed for \$6,000. New beds cost \$12,000.

- New people hired at the hospital are: nursing positions Irma Reed, Kim Voeller and Priscilla Prentice; and Donna Draper and Donna Northrup, housekeeping and kitchen.

- The clothes dryer had been replaced. It was one of the oldest pieces of equipment in the hospital.

- The hospital is offering a fitness-testing program which includes lab work, and exercise fitness test. The physical therapy department documents the fitness of each individual.

- The Memorial Garden was briefly discussed but more information is needed.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board will be held at 3 p.m. on Dec. 28 in the meeting room in the clinic basement, St. Francis.



LIONS CLUB MEMBERS Carl Williams (left) and Bill Ehrman check out the breakfast order as part of their kitchen duties at the annual Pancake Day held the first Saturday in December. Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

Book Review

Book review from St. Francis Public Library

Hey, Good Looking By Fern Michaels

Darby Lane and Russell Gunn had been inseparable friends from their early years in the Horseshoe, their wonderful Baton Rouge neighborhood of Southern comforts and childhood fancies, all the way through to graduate-school dreams and beyond.

Then the unthinkable happens: a tragic accident takes Russ's life, and Darby's world is shattered. Returning to the Horseshoe in utter despair, Darby clings to the only family she's ever known: the three

wily and colorful aunts who raised her.

Her long journey to healing takes hold as Darby begins to see Russ's brother Ben through new eyes. Suddenly love blooms in the place of grief, and now, with the help of her aunts, Darby faces the challenge of reuniting Ben with his estranged father, if they can get through the conniving schemes of Ben's social climber stepmother.

Calling on the same tender care and patience with which she builds custom doll houses, Darby begins to create a new life out of her loss - and comes to understand that love truly can conquer anything.

By High Plains Mental Health

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a brain disorder, which various estimates say affect between 4 percent and 12 percent of school-age children, or as many as 3.8 million kids. Children with this disorder often have trouble sitting still and paying attention and act impulsively at home, school and in social settings. Often these children have a low frustration tolerance and may engage in frequent temper outbursts. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is seen much more frequently in males than in females. Recent research has established a possible link between smoking while pregnant and the development of Attention Deficit

Plain Sense

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Hyperactivity Disorder.

According to the on-line journal "Environmental Health Perspectives" approximately one-third of attention deficit cases among U.S. children may be linked with tobacco use by the mother while pregnant, or to lead exposure during infancy and childhood. The researchers analyzed data on nearly 4,000 U.S. children ages 4 to 15 who were part of a 1999-2002 government health survey. They asked whether mothers had smoked during pregnancy, but used blood tests to determine lead exposure.

Children whose mothers smoked during pregnancy were 2.5 times more likely to have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder than children who were not prenatally exposed to tobacco.

These findings build on previous research linking attention problems with childhood lead exposure and smoking during pregnancy. The findings are consistent with a National Academy of Sciences report in 2000 that said about 3 percent of all developmental and neurological disorders in American children are caused by toxic chemicals and other environmental factors, and 25 per-

cent are due to a combination of environmental factors and genetics. In other words, the environment children are exposed to both before and after birth has significant long-term health implications.

Although there are still many questions regarding the causes of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, these studies clearly demonstrate the importance of good prenatal health and maintaining a home environment free of dangerous substances.

Contributed by Ken Loos, MS, LMLP, LCP, Consultation and Education Department



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