

Conference time



Jenna McGinley (left) and Jeanie Schields (right) had a talk with Janet Redlin (middle), the new actress in town, during rehearsing for "45 Minutes From Broadway" Wednesday. The dinner show will be presented Saturday, Sunday and Monday the Elks Lodge.
Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Hospital may take control of clinic

CLINIC, from Page 1

tients, regardless of ability to pay. Hospitals have additional costs, he said, and they recognize that. The clinic has financial challenges, Jolly said, which can be helped somewhat by pooling resources. For example, he said, both need medical supplies and pharmaceuticals. Our contract gives a better price than the clinic gets, he said. The clinic staff will become hospital employees, Jolly said, adding that he doesn't know at this point whether the merger will change the size of the staff needed. They will gain the flexibility to float office staff between the hospital and clinic, he said, but the basic operation will still be a clinic, and staffing will be based on that. Though current clinic employees will have to reapply as hospital employees, Jolly said he anticipates they will continue to work at the clinic.

They are trained in those areas, he said, and will all have roles. The roles may change, Jolly said, but that hasn't been determined yet. Also to be determined later in the plan is the name of the clinic. Rural Health Ventures will maintain its separate identity and legal status, Jolly said, until the merger is complete. Likely, he said, Rural Health Ventures will either dissolve or become inactive as a legal entity. The clinic may have a new name, he said, but that may be the last decision to be made. Long-range goals Jolly said, are to combine the management of Rural Health Ventures and the hospital's outpatient specialty clinic. "We want primary care physicians and specialists to have closer ties," he said, "and this may facilitate that." While some staff positions will change somewhat and gain ability to float between the hospital and clinic, Jolly said, that won't be the case for doctors and nurse practitioners. They already float back and forth, he said, as they have staff privileges at the hospital. There is a need for order in considering the merger, Hoelting said, since the hospital will need to continue operations throughout the process. "We're investigating what it's going to take," he said. As the conversion begins, Hoelting said, there are certain

things that have to follow. Staff and procedures have to be in place, he said, so it's a seamless operation. If someone gets sick in the middle of the night, Hoelting said, the hospital has to be open. "You can't just throw your arms up and quit," he said.

The Rural Health Ventures board approached us, Hoelting said, to look into the opportunity to combine the clinic with the hospital. It's not unusual, he said. There are many situations across the United States, Hoelting said, where clinics are part of the hospital.

Council approves board expansion

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Six members of the Sherman County Economic Development Council held a special meeting at Garcia's Furniture and Appliance on Friday afternoon to review the wording of a resolution expanding the board to 11 members. Chairman Dave Daniels said the Sherman County commissioners had asked that the council review the language for the revised resolution. The specific wording adds four positions to the board, all representatives from banks in Sherman County. There was a question about whether to fine tune the definition of a bank, but John Garcia, vice-chairman, said felt there were enough safeguards in the resolution to cover most cases. "It would be hard to make it cover everything," said board member Royal Reid, adding that the resolution, which require approval of appointments by the seven board members and the county commissioners, was sufficient. Daniels said the council needed to formally approve the new language, and send a copy of the minutes to commissioners for approval.

Reid made the motion to approve the resolution as worded, and it was seconded by Harlan House. The motion passed unanimously. Someone asked about establishing a petty cash fund. Daniels said it has been approved by the commissioners, and since the language

is already in the current resolution, they could open one. Patty Eckhardt, council secretary, drafted a letter to the banks inviting their representatives to attend the next meeting, 5:15 p.m. Monday, March 17, at Western State Bank.



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March Consultant Schedule

Allergist	Jeffrey Rumbyrt, M.D.	March 13
Audiologist	Sherri M. Beck, M.A., CCC-A	March 14
Cardiologist	Barry Smith, M.D.	March 12 & 26
Dermatologist	Charles Ruggles, M.D.	March 13 & 27
Ears, Nose, Throat	Alfred N. Carr, M.D.	March 7, 14 & 28
Endocrinologist	Gerald Poticha, M.D.	
Gastroenterologist	Jeffrey D. Huston, M.D.	March 17
Gynecology	Laura Rokosz, M.D.	March 6 & 27
Neurologist	Steven J. Gulevich, M.D.	March 5, 7 & 12
Obstetrics/Gynecology	David Forschner, M.D.	March 19
Oncology/Hematology	Martin Rubinowitz, M.D.	March 4
Ophthalmologist	David Pfoff, M.D.	March 7, 14 & 28
Orthopedist	Theodore J. Clarke, M.D.	March 3
Orthopedist	Tim Birney, M.D.	March 10
Orthopedist	Stuart J. Kennedy, M.D.	March 31
Orthopedist	James Holmes, M.D.	March 24
Orthopedist	Edward Parks, M.D.	March 17
Pediatrician	Raymond Ketting, M.D.	March 25
Pediatric Cardiologist	Warren Toews, M.D.	April 2
Psychiatrist	John C. Faul, M.D.	March 5, 7 & 14
Podiatrist	Erik Ouder Kirk, D.P.M.	March 12 & 19
Pulmonologist	Ken Weisiger, M.D.	March 13
Pulmonologist	Tim Clark, M.D.	March 19
Radiologists	Professional Radiology Services	Monday thru Thursday
Rheumatologist	Karl Chambers, M.D.	March 27
Speech Pathology	Vicki Transue, M.S.	Monday thru Friday
Substance Abuse Dir	Fred Waters, CADC III	Monday and Tuesday
Urologist	Darrell D. Werth, M.D.	April 8
Urologist	Carl T. Newman, M.D.	March 4
Urologist	Kevin R. McDonald, M.D.	March 11

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