

Norton County has many health care options

OPTIONS, from Page 21

patients and takes walk-in appointments as time allows. Available are eye exams, glasses and contact lenses, along with treatment of eye diseases like glaucoma and macular degeneration.

Elderly Care/Retirement

- **Whispering Pines:** Whispering Pines, an assisted living-independent retirement facility, offers one- and two-bedroom apartments for individuals and couples. The facility is licensed through the state and Medicaid-approved. It offers 24-hour staff supervision, meals, cleaning services, common areas and laundry services. Each resident is screened for individual needs and may be placed in level one or level two care, depending on health and personal care needs.

- **Andbe Home:** The Andbe Home in Norton is a full-service skilled care facility with a total of 73 beds. The facility has 112 full- and part-time workers. Along with 24-hour care, the Andbe Home provides day and respite care and 20 independent living apartments. Residents have access to scheduled and spontaneous activities, meals, medication management and administration, outpatient physical therapy, speech therapy and a special care unit for patients who require one-on-one care. The home is full and typically operates at 98 per-

cent occupancy.

Mental/Developmental Health Care

- **Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas:** This organization provides in-home and employment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. It serves 18 counties, and operates two group homes in Norton. One houses six clients and the other five, and both are full. The organization also serves people in their own homes.

- **High Plains Mental Health** serves the 20 counties of northwest Kansas for mental health care. In 2010, it served more than 5,200 clients in 20 counties of northwest Kansas. The facility provides psychotherapy for children, adults, families and couples, along with case management. Though mental health is often covered under health insurance, uninsured or underinsured clients qualify for a sliding fee scale, depending on income and financial need. The main office is in Hays, but branch offices are located throughout the region, including one in Norton.

Public Health

- **Norton County Health Department:** The Norton County Health Department, supported partly by tax dollars, provides health and wellness services for county citizens, including immunizations, family planning and Women-Infants-Children services for families. Other services provided at the clinic are

blood-pressure checks, maternal and infant programs, hearing screening, disease prevention and testing. Some of the services are offered with need-based fees and others for a flat rate.

Addiction Treatment

- **Valley Hope:** With an office and treatment center located in Norton, Valley Hope offers in-patient treatment to help people overcome alcohol and drug addiction. It operates treatment facilities in seven states, based on the American Society of Addiction Medicine's placement criteria for admission, residency and discharge. Services include de-

toxication, residential, outpatient and continuing care and evaluations and assessments. Admissions are provide 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Hospice/End of Life Care

- **Hospice Services Inc.:** Based in Phillipsburg, Hospice Services provides end-of-life care for clients in 13 counties of northwest Kansas. With 17 clinical staff and many volunteers, the agency provides palliative care for 15 to 20 clients each year. Hospice Services is accepting new clients and new volunteers, and anyone interested in either side of the organization should call (800) 315-5122.



The Goodland Star-News
1205 Main, Goodland, KS
(785) 899-2338

Stop throwing away your money!
ADVERTISE WITH US!



The Country Advocate



COLBY FREE PRESS
155 W. Fifth, Colby, KS
(785) 462-3963

Bird City Times
Box 220, Bird City, KS
(785) 734-2659

The Country Advocate is DIRECTLY MAILED
to nearly 20,000 households in Northwest Kansas, Eastern Colorado and Southwestern Nebraska.

THE OBERLIN HERALD
170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, KS
(785) 475-2206

THE NORTON TELEGRAM
215 S. Kansas, Norton, KS
(785) 877-3361

The Saint Francis Herald
Box 1050, St. Francis, KS
(785) 332-3162

**We'll help you sell your stuff!
Call us today!**

L & C HOME HEALTH AGENCY, INC.


Lisa Bice, RN. - Administrator

Where Love & Care Come First

♥ Quality Skilled Nursing and Home Health Aide Services ♥ 24 Hour On-Call Service ♥ 24 Hour Answering Service ♥ Serving Thomas, Rawlins, Logan, Sheridan, Sherman, Gove, Decatur, Wallace & Graham Counties

♥ Medicare Certified, Private Insurance, Private Pay ♥

160 E. 2nd • Colby, (785)465-7444



"My family has faith in Good Samaritan Hospital."

Ernest Clark - Gibbon, Neb.

Ernest Clark, his daughter-in-law Michelle and his granddaughter Shelby

INSURANCE CENTRAL

"Insuring Generations"

Medicare Supplement Coverage



Len Coady
Licensed Agent
106 1/2 State St.
Norton KS 67654
785-874-5122 (O)
785-874-8500 (C)

**New to Medicare?
Give us a Call!**

Affordable Strength and Stability



Heart care you can believe in.



"I started to get a pain in my chest and knew right away what it was. I also knew how important it is to get care as fast as possible, so we decided to come to Good Samaritan Hospital because it has everything we need."

"I had a six-way bypass, and my care was great; I couldn't ask for anything better. I'd tell anyone who has heart trouble that I recommend Good Samaritan Hospital, any day of the week."

"I've got faith in Good Samaritan Hospital."

Ernest Clark, Open Heart Surgery

When cardiology experience matters, believe in Good Samaritan Hospital.

CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

Good Samaritan Hospital
Kearney, Nebraska www.gshs.org

The medical center, centered on you.

See more of Ernest's story at www.gshs.org/stories.



Operational since May, the Norton Medical Clinic was constructed as an addition to the Norton County Hospital building and replaced the former Doctors Clinic, which is being renovated to become a Norton campus for Colby Community College's nursing program.

The hospital also has had fewer inpatients over the past few years. Miller reported that at the end of the second quarter – Dec. 31 – inpatient days were down compared to the same time in 2010. Outpatient services increased, however, along with clinic visits.


Though just half through the fiscal year, Miller predicted that the next six months will be similar.

"We can go from five patients to 15 overnight," he said. "January will come out above average for revenue generated, so that may carry us through the rest of the year."

The challenges for rural hospitals like Norton County aren't likely to ease up in the near future, he said, especially with proposed budget cuts at the state and federal levels. Miller reported that Medicare, which supports care for the elderly, is expected to be cut by 2 percent next year and hospital leaders are expecting to lose \$840,000 in Medicare payments over the next 10 years.

Regardless of economic concerns, the administrator predicts a bright future for the hospital, especially as Norton County continues to build a relationship with Colby Community College. The school, in conjunction with Norton County, is renovating the former Doctor's Clinic to house the Norton branch of the college's nursing program. Expansion of the nursing program, Miller said, will help ensure the future of health care in the county.

"About 70 percent of our nursing staff have connections with Colby Community College," he said, "and the partnership will help



- **Beds** – 25 as Critical Access Hospital.
- **Revenue 2011** – \$6,973,000.
- **Profit** – \$236,052.
- **County money** – \$112,500.
- **Providers** – Four doctors, four midlevels.
- **Administrator** – Rich Miller.
- **Phone** – (785) 877-3305.

ensure access to quality health care."

Miller said hospital leaders are considering several agreements with hospitals in Hays and Kearney to expand services in Norton County, along with equipment purchases to help make sure citizens don't have to travel out of town for the care they need and have access to modern technology.

"We're going to continue to provide quality health care for everyone in the community and beyond," Miller said. "We can't just stop providing services because we are losing money. There are a lot of uncertainties in health care, and we'll keep doing what we do to the best of our ability."

Surgical Associates of Hays, P.A.

2501 East 13th, Suite 7 * Oak Park Medical Complex * Hays, KS



Michael B. Lasley, M.D.



Ross E. Stadalman, M.D.

Service Provided In: Hays, Hoxie, Jetmore, La Crosse, Oakley, Osborne, Plainville, Quinter, Ransom, Russell, Scott City and WaKeeney

PRACTICE LIMITED TO GENERAL SURGERY

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Colonoscopies | EGD's |
| Hernia Repairs | Breast Surgery |
| Gallbladder Surgery | Vasectomies |
| Carpal Tunnel | Laparoscopic Surgery |

- IV Port Insertion and Removal
- Biopsies & Excisions of Skin Cancer
- Laser Treatment for Skin Lesions
- Consultations and Second Opinions

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

*No referral necessary
Call for questions regarding surgery
or an appointment*

1-800-794-2691

"Surgical Associates of Hays, P.A. – Across from Hays High School"