

Construction highlights 2011 in Atwood

RAWLINS, from Page 31

was opened, raising capacity from 13 to 15 beds, and raising the standard from worn and outdated facilities to state of the art. The new wing includes six private rooms, and all rooms are available for either inpatient or swing-bed care. This makes them more valuable both to the residents and to the hospital, Withington said, as recovering patients can be switched from one type of care to another without having to be physically relocated.

There is also a special hospice room, furnished by families of hospice patients. It includes a sitting room with a kitchenette for families to use.

A few days after moving into the new patient wing, emergency services moved into a newly built department. The new emergency center has a larger, more-efficient two-bed trauma bay, with a two-bed overflow area.

Also included is a new decontamination room meeting recommendations of the Department of Homeland Security. It has an outside entrance and an indoor shower area for patients with any kind of contamination. Pesticides and farm chemicals are among the most frequent sources of contamination in this area.

New equipment has been a big part of the upgrades, including a large tank for oxygen storage and new patient monitoring equipment, in addition to furnishings for the new areas.

The Rawlins County Health Center serves about a 70-mile radius, including Trenton and Benkelman in Nebraska, and patients as far south in Kansas as Ulysses. Its consulting physicians include three cardiologists, Dr. Jeffrey Curtis, Dr. Frederick Miller; a podiatrist, Dr. James Reeves; and a hematologist-oncologist, Dr. Martin J. Rubinowitz. They also have a surgeon, Dr. Charles Frankum from Denver, who comes twice a month to do surgeries. Critical care patients are transferred to Kearney, Neb., Denver or Hays.

Along with the hospital and an independent living center in a separate building, the center has two clinics, one on site and one at 504 Ottawa in McDonald which is manned Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Amber



- **Beds** – 24 as Critical Access Hospital.
- **Revenue 2011** – \$4,897,462.
- **Loss 2011** – \$379,467 before capital grants and gifts.
- **County Money** – \$408,684.
- **Providers** – One full-time doctor, one part time, two full-time physician assistants, five consulting doctors.
- **Administrator** – Deanna Freeman.
- **Phone** – (785) 626-3211.

Withington manages the clinics, along with being in charge of public relations and physician recruitment. She said that recruitment for rural areas remains challenging, though she has had more positive responses in seeking out young doctors interested in rural medicine or missionary work.

Withington says that the Great Plains Health Alliance has been a valuable consultant, helping with training in records and business management.

She added that the general facelift of the Atwood community has done a lot to help it thrive.

“What makes or breaks a small hospital is the community,” she said, added that being in a healthy, developing community benefits the hospital.

The new emergency room at the Rawlins County Health Center opened officially on Jan. 30, and offers a substantial improvement over the previous facility. – Marian Ballard/Colby Free Press



VALLEY HOPE ALCOHOL/DRUG TREATMENT FACILITIES

•Residential and Day Treatment •Sub-Acute Detox
•Evaluations/Assessments •Group, Individual Counseling

**NORTON
VALLEY HOPE**

709 W. Holme (Hwy. 36), Norton, Kansas
PHONE (785) 877-5101

www.valleyhope.org
Call Today
1-800-544-5101

Prescriptions that keep our families healthy are rising in cost every year.

Save money at Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy!

Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy

Behind Goodland Regional Medical Center
Cesar Miller
202 Willow Road, Goodland • (785) 890-5111 • (800) 794-1372



Kim Weigel points out the differences between the new digital images on the left, compared to the blurry film images produced with the old equipment on the right. – Cristina Beringer/Colby Free Press

Mammogram machine getting lots of attention

Many technology upgrades have been undertaken at Family Center for Health Care in Colby, and one in particular has caught the attention of other area facilities.

It is a digital mammography machine purchased for the radiology department by the Citizen's Foundation in 2011 for \$250,000, and it's diagnosing like never before.

Registered mammography technologist Kim Weigel explained that the digital images produced by the new equipment are far superior to the old ones made with film. Not only are the images crisper and clearer, she said, but they are developed faster and result in a speedier and more accurate diagnosis.

"A lot of times, patients from other hospitals are even referred to us for a follow up appointment because our pictures are so much better," she said.

Pointing to an example of the old film, compared to what is produced by the new digital equipment, Weigel showed why it is important to get sharper images when diagnosing breast cancer.

Your source for comprehensive eye care

• State of the Art Technology • Quality Products • Trusted Professionals

VISION SOURCE™

COLBY • GOODLAND • BURLINGTON

**Jeff Morrison, O.D. • Mark Wahlmeier, O.D.
Danielle McAtee, O.D.**

1005 S. Range, Ste. 100, Colby, KS 785-462-8231
1002 Broadway, Goodland, KS 785-899-3654
498 15th St., Burlington, CO 719-346-8415

COLBY GLASS TINTING

AUTO COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

- Reduces Heat, Glare & Fading
- Cuts Air Conditioning & Heating Costs
- Improves Safety, Security, & Privacy
- Professional Installation
- Lifetime Warranty



ANDY & DIANE KARLIN - owners
785-462-8350 • 1200 W. 4th • Colby, KS 67701



- Spas • Pool Tables • Chemical • Swim Spas • Service

Rates #1 in Customer Satisfaction & Best Buy!

• FINANCING AVAILABLE •

If you own a garden hose, you can own a Four Winds Spa!

• WE SERVICE OUR SPAS •
www.FourWindsSpas.com

Do you hurt?
Want relief of tired, sore muscles, increase mobility and improve your health. Come and see us!

NORTHWEST KANSAS HEARING SERVICES, Inc.

Sandra Squibb, M.S. • Rick Deines, M.A. CCC-A
Doris Duden • Susan Wark • Ranell Lunsway

- AUDIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
- 30 DAY TRIAL
- HEARING AID EVALUATIONS
- ALL BRANDS REPAIRED
- DIGITAL PROCESSING AIDS
- FITTING & DISPENSING
- MEDICARE PROVIDER



785 W. Webster • Colby, KS
785-460-2957 • 1-800-500-0206