

# Discount drug programs can save money

DRUGS, from Page 1

another, she said, adding that how much a customer saves depends on which program they are in as well as which medications they buy.

The Medical Arts Pharmacy is the only one in Goodland that accepts Community Rx Kansas. Pharmacies that participate in the Prescription Network of Kansas or the Right Choice Pharmacy network participate in the program.

Medical Arts is in Prescription Network of Kansas, said Peter Stern, executive director of the prescription network. Other northwest Kansas pharmacies in the network are Dillon's Pharmacy and Palace Drug Store, both in Colby; Ward Drug Store and Addleman Drug Store in Oberlin; and Moffet Drug in Norton.

A flyer available at the health department lists the requirements and how to enroll in the Community Rx Kansas program. Medical Arts Pharmacy has packets of information on it. Anyone who might qualify can pick up information at the pharmacy, said owner Cesar Miller. They can make an appointment with him if they need help filling out the form or understanding the program.

Miller said he hasn't put much emphasis on the new program yet because he has been busy signing seniors up for Medicare Part D prescrip-

## Sheriff saves money on prisoners' drugs

SHERIFF, from Page 1

A doctor comes to see the prisoner, Siruta said, they fax the prescription to Diamond, and the medicine is delivered by Federal Express the next day. The medicine comes in "blister" packs, Butts said, and Diamond buys back the unused pills. It costs \$1 to process the return, he said, but the county gets credit for the medicine.

"It has worked out very well for us," he said. The program hasn't eliminated buying medicine from Goodland pharmacies, Butts said; if a prisoner needs medicine right away or on a weekend, Dia-

mond works with local pharmacies. The county still gets the medicine at a discount.

The deadline to fax a prescription for next-day delivery is 1 p.m., Siruta said, so if a prescription comes in after that, enough is bought in Goodland to get by until the shipment from Diamond arrives.

The county saves about 40 percent, she said; how much they save each month depends on how many prisoners there are. Right now, she said, most of the prescriptions are for prisoners held for other counties. Sherman County will be reimbursed for those.

The Diamond Pharmaceuticals program is just for inmates, Siruta said.

tion plans., but he expects to shift his focus to Community Rx soon.

"It sounds like a neat program," he said.

There is a \$10-per-year fee for each household. Income guidelines are \$19,140 per year or less for one person, \$25,660 per year for two, \$32,180 per year for three and go up to \$64,780 per year for eight.

Households will be able to buy drugs discounted up to 80 percent at 286 participating pharmacies statewide, Gov. Sebelius said in a press release; the first \$10 annual fee will be waived for those who enroll before Jan. 31.

It's for people who don't qualify for Medicare or Medicaid, said Miller, those who are low income but are not considered poor.

The program was established with \$200,000 allocated by the 2005 Legislature, the governor said, with the ongoing discount costs shouldered by participating pharmacies.

The state put out a request for proposals, Stern said, and companies bid to administer the program. The prescription network and Right Choice won contracts, he said.

The state money went to the eligibility/enrollment process, Stern said, but no state money pays for the cost of drugs. The pharmacies are giving discount prices, he said, and won't do so well on some of the drugs but may make money on others.

Customers will pay either \$13, \$18 or \$30 for up to a 90-day supply of generic drugs, he said. The

price depends on the drug, he said, and those prices are a ceiling. If the pharmacy happens to have a lower price on the drug, the customer will pay the lower price.

There are no name-brand drugs in the program, he said, but most people in these income brackets wouldn't be able to afford those anyway. The pharmacies are taking generic drugs and discounting them, he said, making them more affordable.

Drugs eligible for the discount include treatments for high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, symptoms of menopause, migraines, diabetes, depression, asthma, acid reflux, nausea and vomiting and pain.

Community Rx is designed to be

## Volunteers to train for teams

TEAM, from Page 1

"We need to have more people trained to be able to train team members locally," McKee said. "There is a training-the-trainer session coming up March 8-9, and the state will pay for the rooms if people are willing to go.

"The training is for a full day, and includes training in fire suppression, first aid, search and rescue, triage and setting up a treatment area. There is a lot of hands-on training packed into this day."

She said the training is held at Haysville, near Wichita, and people interested in going should let her know in the next two weeks.

Rogers said he has taken the training and feels it would help in situations such as the snow storm because it would provide a group of volunteers who have had some training.

Roberta Bretz of the Sherman County Red Cross said there is similar training for a disaster team available through her organization.

Rogers suggested representatives from the Methodist Church and possibly from some of the organizations like Lions, Kiwanis or Rotary might be interested in the session.

Talking about the power problems the snowstorm caused prompted discussion about how to get a generator for the radio station.

David Floyd and Scott Mentzer of the National Weather Service said it would be possible to let people know some things over the weather radio system if the radio stations are off the air.

Rogers said it will be important for the planning committee to find ways to let the people know what to expect. He said that is part of what the committee will be considering in the next year. He said he would be meeting with several civic groups and organizations.

# Beautification committee plans April citywide cleanup

CLEANUP, from Page 1

agreed it would be better to do the citywide cleanup all on one day. City Manager Wayne Hill, who was at the meeting, said he was sure the city would help as much as possible.

Saturday, April 8, was the suggested date for the citywide cleanup, and then Saturday, April 22, would be the day for the road cleanup.

Tentative plans for the cleanup day would be to have the people meet at the tech college Student Union at 8:30 a.m. to organize the teams and assign sections of the city. The cleanup would be from 9 a.m. to noon, and hopefully they can use the open half block across from Rasure Lumber to bring the items collected to be separated and stacked.

Redlin suggested asking the county to have the transfer station accept loads from the cleanup until at least 2:30 p.m. He said last year, the last load went out to the transfer station about that time.

Last year, Alex West offered to handle the metal collected, and Clouse suggested he be asked to participate this year.

Simon suggested having the city

crew pick up areas with large amounts of tree limbs and have them hauled directly to the transfer station rather than having the teams haul them to the staging area, where they would have to be unloaded and then reloaded into the trucks.

Whitmore and Clouse will attend a city commission meeting in February to ask for help and a proclamation to make April "Goodland

Clean-Up Month." The two will attend a county commission meeting to request county support and ask the tipping fees be waived for that day.

Clouse said a letter and flyer with details about the cleanup will be mailed to all businesses, churches and civic groups in early March. He said the Chamber cannot pay for the postage on this, about \$150, and is looking for a contributor.

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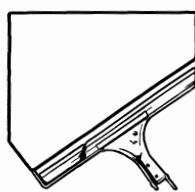
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