

Norton hospital gives best care

By Veronica Monier

The Norton Telegram

The Norton County Hospital says it wants to give its patients the best care possible.

Administrator Rich Miller said everything has been going as it should since the hospital's \$4.3 million renovation project wrapped up two years ago.

"Things are working out very well," he said. "The renovation has really served the purpose we hoped it would."

The project included revamping the laboratory, business and administrative offices, radiology department, visiting clinic rooms, the nurses' station, emergency room, patient rooms, pharmacy, health information management offices, the birthing room and nursery, and the telemedicine area and lobbies.

Now, Mr. Miller said, the hospital is planning a few smaller projects. He said they are looking at enlarging the physical therapy department, in the basement, and planning to update the Colby Community College nursing school area and the surgery department, both on the upper level. They plan a few renovations at the Doctor's Clinic to provide more privacy in the reception area, he said.

Over the past year, he said, the hospital has been continuing to add modules to the Dairyland Information System, which is helping to get rid of paper records. The latest installation, in the pharmacy, cost around \$70,000.

The medical staff, he said, is stable and the doctors recently obtained their re-certification. The hospital's four doctors are Roy Hartley, family practice; Glenda Maurer, family practice and obstetrics; Ruben Silan, family practice and surgery; and Jeff McKinley, family practice and obstetrics.

The hospital also employs Kay Garman, an

advanced registered nurse practitioner and certified nurse midwife.

Norton County Hospital has around 110 employees, Mr. Miller said. Recently, he said, the hospital hired a new director of nurses, Melissa Wachendorfer from Selden. They brought in Ryan Stover from Hays as the chief financial officer.

There have been some staff increases over the past year, the administrator said. The hospital used to use a nursing temp agency, but now has enough staff available to cover all the shifts.

Hospital services include obstetrics, or births and deliveries; emergency room; laboratory; x-ray; surgical; acute, skilled and intermediate in-patient care; out-patient observation; respiratory therapy; chemotherapy administration; a Meals-On-Wheels

program; diabetic instruction; cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training; the clinic; and visiting specialty clinics.

Seventeen visiting doctors do specialty clinics in areas that include pulmonary medicine, orthopedics, cardiology, oncology, ophthalmology, urology, neurosurgery, podiatry, and ear, nose and throat.

Mr. Miller said they are working on getting a couple of additional specialty clinics, one in pulmonary medicine and another orthopedic clinic.

The hospital closed its 2005 fiscal year in the black, he said, thanks in part to a big check from the government.

"We had a good year financially, mainly due to the disproportionate share payment," he said.

The hospital got the payment because it met the criteria set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, including low-risk obstetrics ser-

See HOSPITAL, Page 28



Norton County Hospital

- Beds — 24
- Profit 2005 — \$1,483,692
- Total Revenue 2005 — \$8,361,412
- County money — \$98,790
- Doctors — four physicians
- Phone — (785) 877-3351



REGISTERED NURSE KELLI TUXHORN worked up a patient chart at the Norton County Hospital. The hospital is now fully staffed and no longer needs to use agency nurses.
Photo by Veronica Monier/The Norton Telegram



LIFETIME EYE CARE

Monday — Wednesday — Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

105 S. Penn. - Oberlin, KS
785-475-1200

www.mccookeeyecare.com

McCOOK EYE CLINIC

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. — Monday - Wednesday
9 a.m. - 8 p.m. — Thursday
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. — Friday
Saturday by appointment

201 East C Street - McCook, NE

308-345-5800

1-800-759-1344



YOUR EYE DOCTORS FOR LIFE

Dr. Robert A. Stamm • Dr. Dirk M. Gray
OPTOMETRISTS

Quality Eyecare is Our Promise

At Lifetime Eyecare and McCook Eye Clinic we look forward to providing quality eyecare for Southwest Nebraska and Northwest Kansas. Our goal is to make it convenient for you and your family to enjoy the highest quality eye health care available. We can serve your family's total vision health needs. In the world of bargain eyecare, Dr. Stamm, Dr. Gray and their staff will take the time to discuss all of your eyecare needs. In addition to quality care, we offer:

- Comprehensive Vision and Eye Health Testing
- Refractive Surgery Consultation, Referral and Co-management
- Treatment and Management of Eye Diseases including Glaucoma
- Pediatric Care and a member of SEE TO LEARN
- Low Vision Care
- Guaranteed Contact Lens Success Program
- Share-The-Care Referral Program
- Experienced Staff for Adjustments and Repairs
- Two Year Frame and Lens Warranty
- Complete Dispensary Featuring the Latest in Eye Wear Fashion
- Convenient Hours

We have a large selection of gift ideas and unusual items.



We have
the biggest selection
of bicycle parts and repair
in this part of the county.

Ben Franklin

113 West "C" - McCook, NE 69001

308-345-3280 • 308-345-3263

Open
Mon.- Sat. • 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
except Thur. open till 8 p.m.



ON THE BALL? M.J. Meyer, with the Norton County Hospital physical therapy department, demonstrated how to use a gymnic ball, which helps increase a patient's mobility.
Photo by Veronica Monier/The Norton Telegram

Norton services first-class

By Carolyn Plotts

The Norton Telegram

Norton County offers its residents first-class medical services in the form of a remodeled hospital, clinic and visiting specialists.

There are two chiropractors, massage therapists, two pharmacies, a nursing home, a senior citizen apartment building, a retirement/assisted living center, three dentists, a county health department, an eye doctor, a patient transport service, a senior citizen center, a mental health clinic and a drug and alcohol treatment center.

Norton County Hospital

Norton County Hospital has 24 beds and updated laboratory. Services include surgery, respiratory therapy, ultrasound, mammography, emergency care and obstetrics.

An option now available to obstetrical patients is a birthing pool. A birthing pool is similar in size to a large hot tub. It allows a woman to give birth in warm, soothing water. Nurse practitioner and midwife, Kay Garman, was instrumental in bringing the birthing method to Norton County Hospital.

The hospital also provides physical therapy. Licensed therapists help patients recover from surgery, sports injuries and back pain. Part of their job is to educate their patients on posture and ergonomics, the study of the problems of people adjusting to their living and working environments.

The physical therapy department operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Patients must be referred by their physician.

The hospital's 24-hour-a-day phone number is 877-3351.

Visiting Physicians

Eighteen visiting physicians come to Norton County:

Hays Orthopedics (bone and spine), Gregory A. Woods; cardiology (heart), Ahmed Kutty and Daniel McGowen; oncology (cancer), George K. Bascom; ophthalmology (eye), Thomas L. McDonald and John C. Pokorn; ear, nose and throat, James A. Black and Chris W. Regier; urology, Darrell D. Werth, Wallace M. Curry, Carl T. Newman and Wallace M. Curry; cardiology (heart), Mohammed Janif; Kearney Orthopedics, David A. Wiebe and Chris Wilkinson; neurosurgery, E. Adeleke Badejo; podiatry (feet), James E. Reeves and Gregory Burns.

All visiting specialist clinics need to be scheduled through the hospital at (785) 877-3305.

Doctor's Clinic

The Doctor's Clinic, built in the mid 1960s, is south of the hospital at 711 N. Norton. The staff of five includes Dr. Glenda M. Maurer, family practice and obstetrics; Dr. Ruben D. Silan, general surgery and family practice; Dr.

See NORTON, Page 27

Active on Oxygen?



Explore your options

- Does your oxygen company provide you with the mobility and freedom you deserve?

- How about a nationwide travel assistance?

As a Medicare beneficiary, you have the right to choose your Home Medical Equipment Company. Call or stop by Lincare for addition information.

Lincare Inc.

Your home care equipment and respiratory specialist
1013 Main, Goodland, Kan.

785-899-6848

888-966-4565

EVERYTHING ... BUT FOOD & PHONE!

Rental Payment Includes:

- ☐ Maintenance
- ☐ Yard Care
- ☐ Garbage Pick-up
- ☐ Housekeeping
- ☐ Cable TV



V.I.P. TREATMENT!

- ☐ Very Important People
- ☐ Very Incredible Prairie
- ☐ Very Impressive Plaza
- ☐ Very Interesting Pricing
- ☐ Very Included Package

- ☐ Water Bill
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Real Estate Taxes
- ☐ Medic-Alert System
- ☐ Smoke Alarms

RC Rawlins County
HC Health Center

To Make A
Reservation:
785-626-3211

PRAIRIE PLAZA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Contact Becky at 785-626-3211 *Special Conditions May Apply*
906 Logan St., Atwood, Kansas 67730

Norton services first-class

NORTON, from Page 26

Jeffery McKinley, family practice and obstetrics; Dr. Roy W. Hartley, family practice; and Kay Garman, a nurse practitioner.

The clinic is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. For an appointment, call 877-3305, or toll-free, (800) 436-4101.

Emergency Medical Assistance

Norton is prepared for all emergencies with 13 emergency medical technicians and two first responders in town. In the outlying areas, Almena has five firefighters who have been trained to use the automatic external defibrillator, two emergency medical technicians and one first responder. Lenora has three emergency medical technicians.

The ambulance is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 911. Ruth Schillig is the director of the county ambulance department.

Norton County Health Department

The Norton County Health Department at 801 N. Norton, provides immunization clinics and health screenings. Call them weekdays at 877-5745.

Norton Senior Center

The Norton Senior Citizen Center at 208 W. Main offers a meal site as well as a social center for Norton's older residents. The county health department offers Vita-Band exercise classes twice a week and blood pressure clinics the third Thursday of each month. Romana Pabian, director of the center, also coordinates the Norton CARES volunteers to assist people with personal needs and transportation. The center dispatches the public transportation bus and serves as the remote access point for the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Call 877-5352.

Chiropractors

There are two offices that offer chiropractic treatments: Peterson Chiropractic and Acupuncture Clinic at 207 N. 1st, 877-2324, and Crow Chiropractic Care at 204 E. Washington, 877-2645.

Optometrist

Karen Aldridge, optometrist, operates Prairie Wind Eye Care at 114 N. Kansas, 877-5115.

Dentists

There are three dentists in Norton providing a full range of services, from orthodontics to cosmetic dentistry and dentures. Dr. Mark Klein's office is at 115 N. Kansas, 877-3433; Dr. Craig Krizek is practically next door at 109 N. Kansas, 877-2801; and Dr. Lamont Shirk is a few blocks south at 205 S. Kansas, 877-2821.

Massage Therapists

Norton offers several practitioners of massage therapy, including Beth Lee, 877-3046;

Jenny Tibbets of Master's Touch Massage; 877-4940; Camille Cox, of Body Works 877-7309; or call for an appointment at Pure Prairie Health Foods Store, 877-3601.

Pharmacies

There are two full-service pharmacies in Norton. Steve Vollertson has been filling prescriptions at Moffet Drug Store for 30 years. Relief pharmacists are Connie Goldsby and Woody May. Pamida Pharmacy employs pharmacist Denise Rife as manager, and Andrew Jones and Lee Phelps, relief pharmacists, plus Karen Peterson, certified technician.

Nursing Homes

The Andbe Home is an 80-bed full-care nursing home with a staff of 80 employees. The staff makes an effort to provide stimulating events and activities for the residents.

Retirement Center

Whispering Pines Retirement and Assisted Living Center, on the western edge of the city, has been in operation for almost three years. This facility provides one- or two-bedroom apartments with all the amenities, including meals. Whispering Pines offers both independent and assisted living. Nurses are on duty 24 hours a day. Call Cynthia Collins at 874-5500.

Norton Manor

Norton Manor, a three-floor apartment building at 213 Horace Greeley Ave., has 41 one- and two-bedroom units. It is an independent-living senior center offering social events, organized activities and group dinners for the 40-plus residents that call the manor "home".

Services for the Mentally Handicapped

Filling a special need is Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, which provides services and a sheltered environment for the mentally handicapped at two homes, one for men and one for women. Offices are at 1104 N. State, 877-5154.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center

Valley Hope Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center has received national recognition for addiction treatment. Started in Norton in 1967, Valley Hope has centers throughout the United States. Treatment focuses on individual recovery. Call 877-5111.

Mental Health Services

High Plains Mental Health Services for Northwest Kansas, created in 1964, has an office at 211 S. Norton Ave. High Plains is a comprehensive community mental health center.

The 20 counties in the service area are Cheyenne, Decatur, Ellis, Gove, Graham, Logan, Ness, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego and Wallace.

Call 877-5141 or the 24 hour, toll-free emergency number, (800) 432-0333.

Laryngitis: When you have laryngitis, be sure not to talk. The most important thing you can do is to give your voice a rest. Try to go a day or two without talking. Don't even whisper. Whispering causes you to bang your vocal cords together as strongly as if you were shouting. Something not to do is use ice.

Warm fluids are best. Cold drinks just aggravate the problem. Another thing is to be careful of what cough drops you use. Stick to honey, or fruit flavored drops instead of mint and mentholated ones. Also, you may want to try using a cold air humidifier.

Today's Best Country



Proud to be your
**Local
Radio
Station**

Today's Best Country

www.bestcountryaround.com

Hospitals join area networks

By Patty Decker

Colby Free Press

With the exception of Goodland and Oberlin, all the critical access hospitals in northwest Kansas are supported by Hays Medical Center.

Goodland Regional Medical Center works with a Denver hospital and Oberlin gets support from one in Nebraska.

“The Critical Access program allows smaller hospitals the flexibility to reconfigure their operations, particularly for acute inpatient care,” said Jodi Schmidt, network director for critical access and vice president and chief development officer at the Hays hospital.

Other advantages include cost-based reimbursement for Medicare services, encouraging development of rural health service networks and grants to states to help start programs to strengthen rural health care infrastructure.

For critical access facilities, moving patients to a larger hospital is a win-win proposition, Schmidt said.

“The greatest benefit in the relationship of a critical access hospital and its supporting hospital is that it’s in the best interest of the patient,” she said.

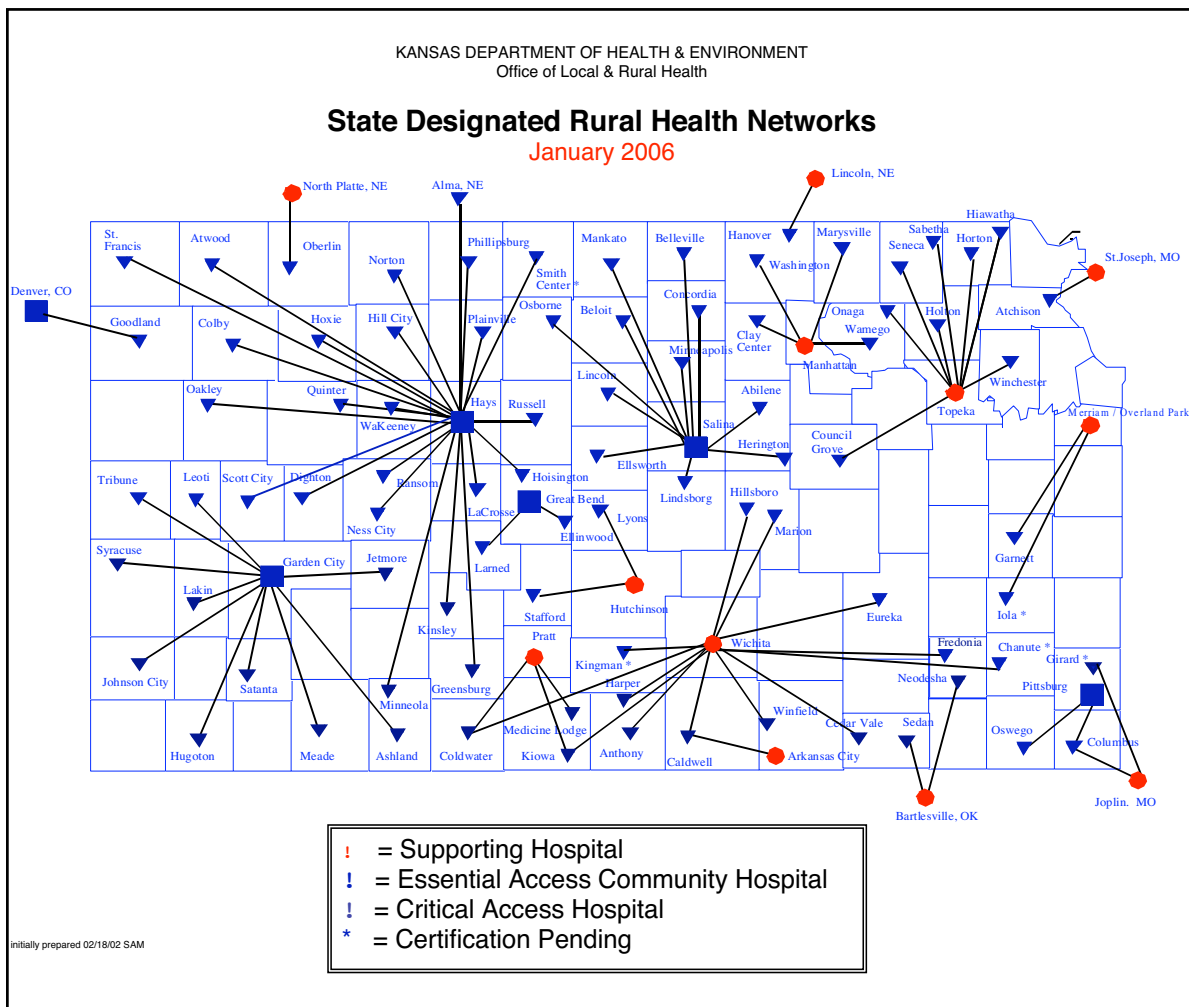
Schmidt cited an example of a patient who arrives at the emergency room of a critical access facility, such as Citizens Medical Center in Colby or Logan County Hospital in Oakley, complaining of chest pains.

The doctor there would see the patient and decide if it is a heart attack or other emergency, or some intestinal disorder, she said.

Based on the doctor’s evaluation, the solution might be the patient needs to see a cardiologist.

The supporting hospital and critical access hospital would then look at

See NETWORKS, Page 29



Good care at Norton hospital

HOSPITAL, from Page 25

services and some uninsured in the population.

The hospital, he said, had a total net increase of \$1,483,692 in 2005. The hospital had total patient revenue of \$8,211,923 and non-operating revenue of \$149,489. Total expenses were \$6,932,304 and contractual adjustments/charity care were \$136,805. The hospital received \$98,790 in county money from a 2 mill property tax levy.

For 2006, he said, the disproportionate share payment isn’t as big and so the hospital is showing a small loss. For the eight-month period ending in February, the hospital showed total patient revenue at \$6,500,500, other operating revenue at \$437,400; and non-operating revenue at \$181,775.

venue at \$181,775.

The hospital has had \$1,718,000 in contractual adjustments and charity care and \$5,014,312 in operating expenses for a net loss of \$107,744.

Mr. Miller said they are hoping to be back in a positive situation by year end.

“It’s very difficult to end up with a positive net income when you have increasing expenses with a higher cost in salaries and a higher number of uninsured,” he said. “With one of the lowest tax appropriations in the area, it’s difficult to always have a positive bottom line.”

“Things are going along fairly smoothly. Like any other business, we have challenges, but we’re grateful for all of the support we get from the community.”



Massage Therapy & Bodyworks

- Swedish □ Neuromuscular □ Deep Tissue
- Stress & Pain Management □ Increase Circulation
- Myofascial Release (MFR)

Open 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon-Fri ~ Sat by appt. only

785-332-2823 ~ (cell) 785-332-8200

315 S. Scott ~ St. Francis, KS



Open Your Heart To A Child Today



The Saint Francis Academy has kids of all ages who desperately need loving homes. **Become a Resource Parent Today.**

Resource Parents provide loving, stable, temporary foster homes or permanent adoptive homes.

Right now, Kansas kids need YOU!

Saint Francis offers free training, 24/7 professional support, respite/relief care, tax-free reimbursements, support groups and much more. To learn more about being a Resource Parent, please call 1-866-999-1599 (toll free) or visit our website at www.st-francis.org.

Sheridan trustees huddle to find right play

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Sheridan County Health Complex trustees had to huddle more than once last year to even get away from the line of scrimmage in the game of health care.

Last year's \$410,000 loss, said John Harris, an accountant with Baird, Kurtz and Dobson of Wichita, was because until last month, the facility's "team" didn't include a full-time doctor. The hospital last had a doctor in late 2004, and the June 2005 hiring and firing of a doctor raised questions about closing the "stadium."

"Hopefully, 2006 will prove you can make a go of it," Harris said during an audit report at

the board's annual meeting March 20.

Joe Stratton, the complex's administrator, said Dr. John France's arrival in February is expected to turn the facility around financially. France moved "the ball" from a zero inpatient status in February to having both in- and out-patient services return in March.

"The overall status of the complex is one in which we are in a stability plan," Stratton said. "Our growth will be extremely calculated for 2006 and 2007, but will occur over the course of time."

Stratton said all 110 employees are refocus-

See SHERIDAN, Page 30

Hospitals join area networks

NETWORK, from Page 28

the quickest way to transport the patient to the larger facility.

The goal is to get the patient to an acute care hospital as soon as possible and to send them back just as quick, she said.

Even though Hays Medical Center is the supporting hospital for facilities in Colby, Norton, Atwood, Hoxie, Oakley, St. Francis and others, she said, doctors at critical access care facilities are not limited to using one facility. (See map.)

"For example," Schmidt said, "we are not equipped to handle burn patients, and in that situation a patient would have to go elsewhere."

Being able to move patients to larger hospitals bridges a gap in services, she said.

"A critical access hospital has a whole host of services," Schmidt said, "and while some of those services differ, each has emergency room, primary care, lab and X-ray capabilities."

"Not every hospital can have 90 specialists, like Hays has, which visit the critical access facilities every other week or once a month."

Another advantage of patients transferring to a larger hospital is that the doctors at the hometown hospital and the larger hospital keep in touch.

"Within 24 hours after a patient is sent to Hays," she said, "we report back to the local

hospital on the person's condition."

The same is true when the patient is ready to go home.

"We want patients to go home as soon as they have an opportunity to do so," she said, "whether that requires swing bed, home health or other arrangements."

Coordination is important, she added. The smaller hospitals are there to provide a patient's primary care and as critical access hospitals are given the recognition they need for Medicare reimbursement.

Rural hospitals were losing money on Medicare patients when they were acute care facilities, she said. The change to critical access status with a supporting hospital nearby was a solution that would ensure the small hospital would survive and the patients would be given quality care all the way around.

The nature of the relationship with hospitals in St. Francis, Oakley, Atwood, Colby and others, she said, is that the supporting hospital has to accept any patients as long as it can provide the service.

"If the Colby hospital were to fill up, it could choose to refer patients to Oakley or its supporting hospital in Hays," she said.

Bottom line on the advantage of sending people to bigger hospitals like Hays and elsewhere, Schmidt said, is that "we are the safety net."



ROBERTA SHIPLEY prepared a meal in Sheridan County Health Complex's dietary department.

WARD DRUG STORE

THE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER



- Free Prescription Delivery & Mail Outs
- Free Tax & Insurance Records
- Free Blood Pressure Checks
- Diabetic Supplies
- Copy/Fax Services

Medicare Billing for:

- Inhalation Solutions • Diabetic supplies
- Durable Medical Equipment

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 6:00 • Saturday 8:30 - 3:00



1-800-698-5757

Local: 785-475-2285

Nights & Emergency

785-475-3947

142. S. Penn • Oberlin, KS



Kurt Vollertsen



Saluting the Dedication of Area Health Care Providers

Providing gentle care for ALL Ages

- Preventative Maintenance
- Fillings □ Crowns □ Bridges
- Root Canals

DR. MELVIN AND BARB DUNN

300 N. College • St. Francis • 785-332-2062



Sheridan trustees huddle to find right financial answers

SHERIDAN, from Page 29

ing their efforts on what they are meant to do at the complex's hospital, clinic, long-term care facility and assisted living wing.

"Our refocus is to improve upon the quality care and treatment we provide to those we serve," Stratton said. "We believe we do that very well."

Stratton started day-to-day "coaching" of the complex in August. He said following France's arrival, creating a new logo, signs and slogan for the hospital was among the major improvements.

"The slogan, 'The road to wellness in northwestern Kansas' is a new identity," Stratton said.

Other improvements in Sheridan County's health care system include an expected spring opening of a new clinic in Selden.

That clinic will be staffed each Wednesday by France or nurse practitioner Kaylee Watkins. The clinic will be inside the new senior and community center in downtown Selden.

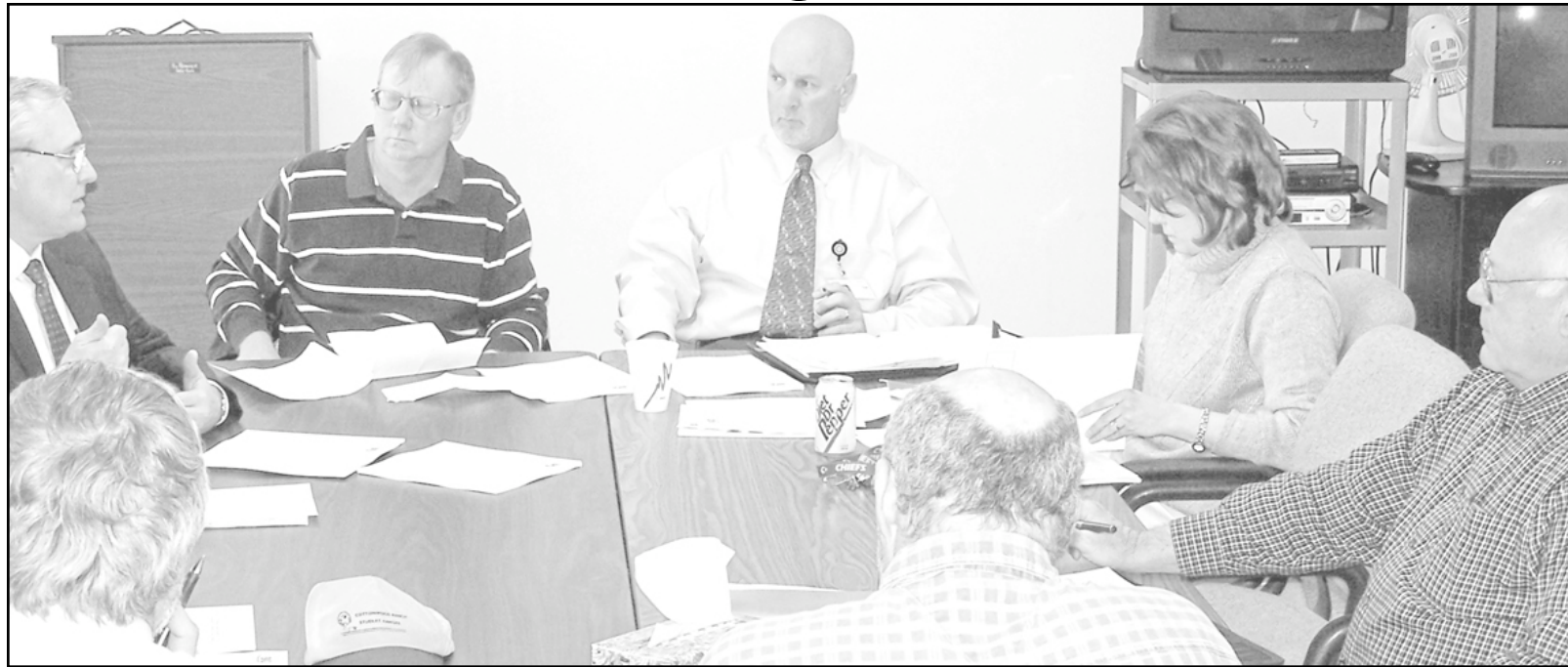
Keeping the ball in play are trustees Richard Krannawetter, Randy Farber, Charles Schwartz, Mary Karnes, Allen Neal, Craig Cooper, Ross Carder.

They make sure residents and patients have access to state-of-art equipment.

In 2005 they purchased new electrocardiogram and stress-test equipment, which is used by Kearney, Neb., Cardiologist Dr. Ahmed Kutty when he provides a specialty clinic the first Tuesday of every month in Hoxie.

General surgery specialty clinics are staffed weekly by Hays surgeons Drs. Ross Stadalman, Charles Schultz and Michael Lasley. They provide examinations, consultation and outpatient procedures with a focus on colon health.

Stratton said the complex, at 826 18th Street in Hoxie, uses a "sys-



SHERIDAN COUNTY HEALTH COMPLEX board member Richard Krannawitter (second from left), Administrator Joe Stratton, financial officer ReChelle Kennedy, and members Charlie Schwartz, Craig Cooper and Randy Farber met for their annual financial meeting on

March 20 and listened to John Harris, (upper left) an accountant with Baird Kurtz and Dobsen of Wichita, talk about the financial status of the complex.

Photos by Jan Katz Ackerman/Colby Free Press

tems approach" play book for its operation.

"The relationship of the hospital, long-term care, assisted living and clinic is an approach wherein they support one another with personnel and expertise," he said.

He said residents in the long-term care unit and assisted-living wing are allowed to receive direct medical and physical therapy services in-house and then move through a continuum of care as necessary.

"Our system is truly one of the best designs for a community in rural American you can find," Stratton said.

"It is very complete and intact. We should be proud of the visions of others who came before us."

While proud of the complex's operation and structure, Stratton knows along with trustees and employees

he's in a tough game, made tougher by the long year without a quarterback.

"The long-term picture of the complex is good," Stratton said. "However, at present, we are struggling as many patients in the county have decided to seek health-care services elsewhere.

"We are trying hard to encourage them to return to the usage within this facility."

Goal post now in sight, Stratton said, each day the staff works diligently to improve the overall operation and quality of care, and while 2005 was a poor year, they are already seeing overall improvements in 2006.

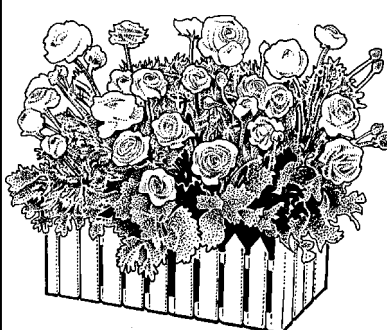
"In short," he said, "better things are in store for all of us at the complex and Sheridan County," he said



The Road to Wellness in Northwest Kansas

SHERIDAN COUNTY HEALTH COMPLEX

Beds — 18
2005 loss — \$410,811
2005 total revenue — \$4.4 million
Number of doctors — one county-employed doctor and one county-employed nurse practitioner, one private practice doctor
County money — \$325,000
Phone — (785) 675-3281



Miracle-Gro premium potting soil \$5²⁹

All purpose
potting soil
\$1⁵⁹

Premium
cypress mulch
\$3²⁹

Stanley Hardware

149 S. Penn — Oberlin — 785-475-2331



Our Full Service Pharmacy Offers:

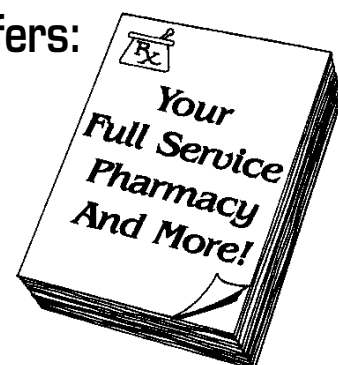
- Professional Patient Counseling
- Free Mail and In-Town Delivery
- Convenient Location
- Free Coffee or Coke While You Wait

FOR ALL YOUR PRESCRIPTION NEEDS

Now at Moffet Drug — Boyd's Bears
Village Candles — Gifts for All Ages

MOFFET DRUG

102 S. State — Phone (785) 877-2721 — Norton, Kansas



Hoxie supports two health care businesses

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Hoxie has two multi-generation health care establishments in its downtown business district.

One is Mahanna Pharmacy.
“It was first owned by my grandfather Raymond,” David Mahanna said.

The store opened in 1923, and the second owners were the late Robert and Kathleen Mahanna. Their son and his wife, Raymie, work to keep the tradition alive. At 833 Main, the pharmacy is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

A second-generation clinic located at 600 Main Street is operated by Drs. Karl and John Rand Neuenschwander. The men’s father, Dr. John Rapp Neuenschwander, opened the clinic in 1975.

Dr. Karl Neuenschwander, a dentist, and his brother, Dr. John Rand Neuenschwander, a medical doctor, have office hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday. Specialty clinics are provided to orthodontic patients by a Hoxie native, Dr. Mark Leiker of Great Bend, and Drs. John Haugen and Bradley J. Hoppens of McCook, Neb.

A chiropractor and eye doctor are also in private practice.

Dr. R.H. Thorpe has been a chiropractor in Hoxie since 1972. His clinic is at 1132 Oak Ave. and his office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Serving as Thorpe’s assistant is his wife, Marti, who jokingly calls the doctor “semiretired.”

Dr. Joshua Gooden of Oakley serves as Hoxie’s optometrist at 804 Main Street. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and each Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5

p.m. Gooden owns clinics in Oakley and Scott City as well as Hoxie.

“Eye care changes rapidly,” Gooden said. “There’s more technology coming out all the time, and all my offices are linked electronically.”

Gooden said technology advancements allow him to keep abreast of patients from “anywhere in the world.” He also said it allows him to detect eye diseases, sometimes as early as eight years earlier.

Melanie Cooper is Sheridan County’s public health nurse. Using an office located adjacent to the sheriff’s office at 940 8th Street, Cooper serves residents who might otherwise be overlooked.

Cooper said she, along with an office manager and a counselor who provides breast-feeding education to new mothers, saw more than 2,500 patients in 2005.

“The encounters included Women, Infant and Children education with clients and all other services,” Cooper said.

Services her offices provides includes immunization, blood pressure, preschool and daycare physicals, breast exams, breast pump rental, drug and alcohol testing, lead screening, pregnancy test, shots with a patient’s own medications and suture removal. In addition, the public health office does testing for tuberculosis, urinalysis, vision, blood glucose, hearing, hemoglobin and cholesterol.

“At the health department, we work to educate our clients regarding a wide variety of needs and services,” Cooper said. “Every day is different. We do a lot of behind-the-scenes service for the community in regards to disease surveillance and emergency preparedness planning.”

The public health office is open each Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Leanna Sloan hung up the phone after helping a patient at Hoxie Medical Clinic.

LIVING INDEPENDENTLY IN NORTHWEST KANSAS

2401 E., 13th St.

Hays, Kansas

785-625-6942 / 800-569-5926



LINKING CONSUMER CHOICES WITH

OPTIONS IN INDEPENDENT LIVING

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * Information & Referral | * Head Injury Services |
| * Skills Training | * Physical Disability Services |
| * Advocacy | * ADA Consultation |
| * Peer Support | * Braille Services |
| * Independent Living Assistant (HCBS) | * Durable Medical Equipment Loan |

Satellite offices located at:

505G N. Franklin, Colby	785-462-7600	800-736-9418
415 N. Pomeroy, Hill City	785-421-5774	877-463-5774
118 W. Main, Ste. 3, Osborne	785-346-5865	877-316-5863
1105 Main, Ste. D, Great Bend	620-792-6600	800-208-7114

Time to Apply

“Ultimate” Crabgrass Preventer with Fertilizer

Ask your local supplier for Ultimate’s full line of products

Also look for your local Black Gold Dog Food dealer

Premium High Quality Dog Food at a competitive price



Ultimate Fertilizer Co.

Oberlin, KS 67749

1-800-536-2720 / 785-475-2121



Cheyenne County Continues to Offer Special Services

Cheyenne County Hospital

“The Shining Star of Rural Health Care”

The Cheyenne County Hospital is a Medicare Certified Rural Primary Care Hospital offering a wide range of primary and preventive health care services including:

Our Services Include the Following:

24 hour Emergency Room

Diagnostic Services

Imaging
CT Scans (CAT)
Ultrasound-Sonography
Mammography
X-Rays
DEXA scans (Osteoporosis)
MRI
Nuclear Medicine

Outpatient Surgery

Physical Therapy

Specialized Services

Cardiology - Dr. Warren (Twice a month)
Ophthalmology - Dr. Uyemura (Once a month)
Podiatrist - Dr. Reeves (Once a month)
Oncology - Dr. Rubinowitz (Once a month)
Mammography - Once a month
Ultrasounds - Once a week
Osteoporosis - This is done In-House now at the hospital.

Swing Bed Program

Laboratory

Anesthesia

Kim Zwegardt, CRNA is with her own company of Moonlight Anesthesia which is based out of St. Francis. She works at several area hospitals in Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska. Kim provides services on surgery days with Dr. Frankum. She also does epidurals each month.

IVP's

Chemo therapy

Cardiac rehab

Family Practice

Cheyenne County Clinic

785-332-2682/888-278-0234

Bird City Clinic

785-734-2306



The **Endless Pool** is a counter-current swimming and water exercise machine that is small enough to fit inside a home or business. The Pool has a adjustable current that allows the patient to swim or exercise in place. The current is broad and deep, and is suitable to every swimming ability and fitness need. The temperature can be set precisely based on preferences and needs.

CHEYENNE CO. HEALTH DEPT.

**Monday - Bird City Clinic - 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
785-734-2200**

**Tuesday & Thursday - St. Francis - 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Basement of the Cheyenne County Clinic
785-332-2381**

*Healthy Start program *Kan-Be Healthy *Free-to-Know *Kansas Farmworker program
*Immunization program *Child Health & Adult Health *Screen testing *Lead Screening
*Child seat loan program

Cheyenne County Hospital
785-332-2104
www.cheyennecountyhospital.com



Mary Beth Miller, MD



Patrick Delano, PA-C



Nadja Button, PA-C



David Reed, MD/OB