Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver from any cause. Hepatitis commonly results from a virus, particularly one of five hepatitis viruses—A, B, C, D, or E. Less commonly, hepatitis results from other viral infections, such as infectious mononucleosis, yellow fever, and cytomegalovirus infection.

The major nonviral causes of hepatitis are alcohol and drugs. Hepatitis can be acute (lasting less than six months) or chronic; it occurs commonly throughout the world. Hepatitis A virus spreads primarily from the raw shellfish is sometimes responsible.

Healthy Happenings

### County Health Department

stool of one person to the mouth of another. Such transmission is usually the result of poor hygiene.

Waterborne and food borne epidemics are common, especially in developing countries. Eating contaminated

Isolated cases, usually arising from among injecting drug users who share person-to-person contact, are also common. Most hepatitis A infections cause no symptoms and go unrecognized. Hepatitis B virus is less easily transmitted than hepatitis A virus. One way it can be transmitted is through contaminated blood or blood products. However, because of precautions taken to ensure a safe blood supply, blood transfusions rarely are responsible for the transmission of the hepatitis B Virus in the United States.

Transmission commonly occurs

at 7:30 p.m. at the Colby United

Methodist Church. Guests are always

homosexual.

creased for patients undergoing kidney dialysis or in cancer units and for hospital personnel who have contact with blood. Also at risk are people in closed environments (such as prisons and institutions for the mentally ill), where close personal contact exists. Hepatitis B can be transmitted by healthy people who are chronic carriers of the virus.

needles, as well as between sexual

partners, both heterosexual and male

hepatitis B can transmit the virus to

her baby during birth. The risk of ex-

posure to the hepatitis B virus is in-

A pregnant woman infected with

Whether insect bites can transmit this virus isn't clear. Many cases of hepatitis B have no known source. In areas of the world such as the Far East and parts of Africa, hepatitis B virus is responsible for many cases of chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

Hepatitis C virus causes at least 80 percent of the hepatitis cases arising from blood transfusions, plus many scattered cases of acute hepatitis. It is most commonly transmitted by injecting drug users who share needles. Sexual transmission is uncommon. Hepatitis C virus is responsible for many cases of chronic hepatitis and some cases of cirrhosis and liver can-

alcoholic liver disease often have hepatitis C as well; the combination of diseases sometimes produces a greater loss of liver function that would result from either disease alone. A small pro-

portion of healthy people appear to be chronic carriers of hepatitis C. Hepatitis D virus occurs only as a coinfection with hepatitis B virus, and it makes the hepatitis B infection more severe. Drug addicts are at a relatively

Hepatitis E virus causes occasional epidemics similar to those caused by hepatitis A virus. So far, these epidemics have occurred only in underdevel-

# Chorus observing 10th anniversary of charter

Chorus Publicist Hi-Plains Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines International is celebrating its 10th anniversary of being

The chapter organized in May 1990 and received its charter in September

Members have enjoyed performing for the young and the young-at-heart.

Northwest Kansas has supported our fund raisers and invited us to perform at various functions.

Don Kready is director and Peggy Barton is president.

There are 26 members with 3 from Brewster; 3 from Hoxie; 2 from Grinnell; 3 from Goodland; 3 from Selden; 3 from Rexford; and 9 from

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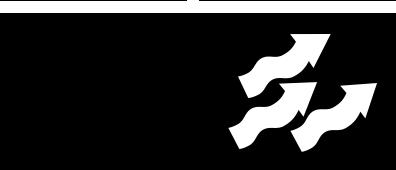
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