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# Goodland expands treatment options

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News  
slcorcoran@nwkansas.com

Big changes are in store for area cancer patients and veterans; telemedicine, the opportunity to be seen by a doctor from afar, is growing; and Goodland Regional Medical Center is right in the thick of things.

The center became a founding member of the Midwest Cancer Alliance the last week of January, was behind the push for a regional Veterans Administration Clinic and has been fine tuning a telemedicine program which offers patients the opportunity to be diagnosed by, talk with and be treated by specialists via a system of television monitors, video cameras, speakers, microphones, hardware and software.

The telemedicine program, which began with child psychology services, has expanded to include radiology and will include adult psychology. It also is improving service for patients through the University of Kansas Cancer Center, allowing them to consult with doctors from Kansas City without leaving Goodland.

Telemedicine will be a key factor in the hospital working with and benefitting from the cancer alliance, said Administrator Jay Jolly.

The alliance is still pretty new, Jolly said; for the first year, they are assessing what the oncology program needs. KU has had people out here talking to patients, doctors and staff,



- **Beds** 25 as critical access hospital.
- **Revenue 2007** \$10.8 million
- **Profit 2007** \$362,988
- **County money** \$456,152 from property taxes. (By resolution every three years, the hospital can levy up to 6 mills. Presently at 5.26 mills.)
- **Doctors** Three physicians, one nurse practitioner, two physician assistants and 47 consulting physicians.
- **Phone** (785) 890-3625.

he said, to find out what people need and what the priorities should be.

They are doing this with other partners, Jolly said, and are getting feedback from all to improve their program and services to patients throughout Kansas.

A potential benefit of the alliance, he said, is that it could give patients in our area more options for treatments. As they gather information, he said, one of the decisions to be made is when and under what conditions doctors would offer a treatment that is still in clinical trials out here.

"That's something we've never had any way to offer before," he said.

Goodland may soon be offering treatments that are still in the research stage, Jolly said, an important development in treating a disease like cancer. Patients could get these treatments somewhere else, he added, but they'd have to travel.

Treatment for cancer patients is already starting to change, he said, with patients working with doctors from KU, both in person — Dr. Gary Doolittle comes out here once a month — and through telemedicine.

Doolittle is the professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at KU Medical Center, said Janna Eisenbart, nurse practitioner and oncology nurse at the Goodland hospital, and works with outreach clinics in Hays and Horton as well as Goodland. He can call from anywhere that has telemedicine capabilities, she said, to see a patient here, and when he is with a patient, that person is his only concern and he'll answer all their questions.

Doolittle uses his name as an ice breaker, said Tina Goodwin, director of marketing for the hospital, but after working with him a few

months, the hospital's staff has stopped thinking about the unusual name and comparisons to Eddie Murphy in the movie.

Patients have more choices, Jolly said, since they can work with their own doctors and with oncology nurses and specialists from KU. It provides a system of care for cancer patients, he said, rather than just consultations with individual doctors.

"We're part of the KU cancer program," Jolly said, "which has been developed so there is consistency. For example, if a patient needs radiation, I don't see us offering that any time soon, but they would be in the same system of care if they went to Kansas City. Information and resources are connected."

Shared knowledge between the cancer center and the partner hospitals will work its way into the system, he said, so all the hospitals will have access. It will be connected through the National Cancer Institute, giving all the hospitals access to information on the most promising treatments even while they are still in clinical trials.

Besides Goodland, partner hospitals are in Hutchinson, Pittsburg and Topeka.

The Goodland hospital has been working with telemedicine the past two years, Jolly said, and hopes to develop that technology further. Child psychology services have been provided

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**NURSE PRACTITIONER AND ONCOLOGY NURSE** Janna Eisenbart at Goodland Regional Medical Center, showed where you would put your hand on the Elmo Projector Scanner. When items such as documents, X-rays or even hands, arms and other parts of the body are placed on its screen, their image is projected to the physician via the Internet-television. She said the scanner is mostly used for examining skin or sending X-rays to doctors through the hospital's telemedicine system. The television screen with the camera on top allows patients to talk with a doctor at another hospital.

— Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

# Wide breadth of services available

Medical services available in Goodland cover a breadth of fields, including a hospital, clinics, pharmacies, exercise and long-term care facilities.

Goodland Regional Medical Center, 220 W. Second, is an acute-care hospital with a specialty clinic featuring more than 30 visiting doctors in 20 fields. The specialists, who come from Denver, Colorado Springs and Hays, include bone, heart, general surgery, eye, lung, allergy, skin, endocrine, digestive tract, nerve, foot, cancer and ear, nose and throat doctors.

The hospital has a dietician, Sarah Linton; occupational therapist, Larissa Coon (who is serving in Iraq); social worker, Mindy Greene; and a speech therapist, Lisa Paxton, on staff. A radiologist from Professional Radiology Services, based in Dodge City, reads X-rays.

To make an appointment with a visiting doctor, call (785) 890-6030.

The hospital operates the Sherman County ambulance service as Northwest Kansas Emergency Medical

Services and transports patients by air with Eagle Med, located at Renner Field, the Goodland municipal airport.

The Goodland Family Health Center, operated by the hospital, has three family practitioners, Dr. David Younger, Dr. Travis Daise and Dr. Mo Shafei, an internist. Jacque Jorgensen, a nurse practitioner, works in the clinic, along with two physician assistants, Lisa Hartnett and Gregg Mercier. They see walk-in patients and help cover the emergency room.

Fred Waters of McDonald offers substance abuse care. Jack Lucas provides physical therapy out of the hospital.

Two nurse practitioners, Sondra Krayca and Janna Eisenbart, have their offices at Pioneer Health, 910 Main.

Dr. Kenneth D. Austin, 110 W. Sixth, has a private practice and nurse practitioner Tom Hellerud is associated with him.

**See SHERMAN, Page 43**

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# Norton County provides first-class medical services

## NORTON SERVICES, from Page 23

tion, and visiting physicians.

The hospital has a physical therapy department. 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, adjusting to their living and working environments.

Physical therapy patients must be referred by their doctor.

The hospital's 24-hour-a-day phone number is (785) 877-3351.

### Visiting Physicians

Sixteen specialty physicians come to Norton County:

Hays Orthopedics (bone and spine) — Gregory A. Woods; Kearney Cardiology (heart) — Ahmed Kutty, Daniel McGowen; and Sean Denney; Oncology (cancer) — George K. Bascom; Ophthalmology (eye) — Thomas L. McDonald and John C. Pokorny; Ear, Nose and Throat — James Black; Urology — Darrell D. Werth; and Kevin McDonald; Hays Cardiology (heart) — Christine Fisher; Kearney Orthopedics — David A. Wiebe; and Chris Wilkinson; Neurosurgery (brain and nerves) — E. Adeleke Badejo; Podiatry (feet) — James E. Reeves and Gregory Burns.

All visiting specialists need to be scheduled through the hospital at 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 Glenda M. Maurer, M.D., family practice and obstetrics; Ruben D. Silan, M.D., general surgery and family practice; Jeffery McKinley,

D.O., family practice and obstetrics; Patricia McCartney, nurse practitioner; and Kristen Vogel and Julie Siefers, physician assistants.

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. An evening clinic is offered Mondays until 8 p.m. For an appointment, call 877-3305, or toll-free, (800) 436-4101.

### Emergency Assistance

Norton is prepared for all emergencies with emergency medical technicians and first responders located throughout the county. The service is looking for a paramedic to fill out its ranks.

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

### 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. Romana Pabian, director of the center, coordinates the Norton CARES volunteers to help 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, the state welfare agency. Call 877-5352.

### Chiropractors

Two offices offer chiropractic treatment: Peterson Chiropractic and Acupuncture Clinic at

207 N. First, 877-2324, and Crow Chiropractic Care at 204 E. Washington, 877-2645.

### Optometrist

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

### Dentists

There are three dentists in Norton providing 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 located a few blocks south at 205 S. Kansas, 877-2821.

### Massage Therapists

Norton offers several practitioners of massage therapy, including Beth Lee, 877-3046; Camille Cox, of Body Works 877-7309 or 874-4371; and Kathy Beckman, 874-4018.

### Pharmacies

There are two full-service pharmacies in Norton. Steve Vollertson has been filling prescriptions at Moffet Drug Store for over 30 years. Relief pharmacist is Woody May. Pamida Pharmacy employs pharmacist Denise Rife as manager, and Karen Peterson, certified head technician.

### Nursing Homes/Retirement Centers

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

Whispering Pines Retirement and Assisted

Living Center, on the west edge of town, 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. Nursing staff is on duty 24 hours a day. Call Cynthia Collins at 874-5500.

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

### Services for Mentally Handicapped

Filling a specialized need in the Norton community is Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas. The agency provides services and a sheltered environment for the mentally handicapped. Two homes are provided — one for men and one for women. Offices are at 1104 N. State, 877-5154.

### Drug and Alcohol Treatment

Valley Hope Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center gets national recognition in the area of 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 in Norton at 211 S. Norton Ave. High Plains is a comprehensive community mental health center.

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

## Norton Hospital committed to best care

## NORTON, from Page 23

He said both inpatient and outpatient services are higher.

Mr. Miller said they are using cash to pay for the lower level remodeling without putting additional burden on the taxpayers.

The hospital has plans to remodel the Colby Community College outreach area and the surgical area, he said, but because the surgical renovation will be expensive, the staff and the board are taking it one step at a time. They are

also looking at renovating the clinic.

Members of the board are Dennis Gilhousen, president; Von Fahrenbruch, vice-president; Jennie Goldsby, secretary; Warren White, treasurer; and Steve Berry, Reva Benien and R.A. Peterson.

The hospital has bought several pieces of new equipment, including patient-monitoring equipment, defibrillators and monitors for the patient care areas, cardiac rehabilitation monitoring equipment, digital technology equipment in the radiology department, transcription/dictation equipment and obstetrics equipment.

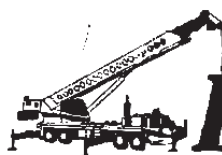
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