

# Hospital hopes to open dialysis by summer

**By Tom Betz**  
*nt.betz@nwkansas.com*

Plans for a dialysis unit at Goodland Regional Medical Center are picking up steam the hospital board heard on Monday.

Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly told the board the dialysis unit designs should be ready in about a week and will be put out for bid.

He said once the bid process is completed construction should begin quickly with a planned date to have the unit open by July.

The hospital has been working on the plans for about a year after the DaVita dialysis clinic in Burlington closed.

Jolly told the board in November the hospital team estimated the total expenses at \$424,000 with the in-

come of \$286,500 that leaves a loss of \$137,527 for the first year.

He said the capital costs would be \$27,000 for minor equipment the cost of the dialysis machines and the water system plus about \$65,000 for remodeling. He said the total would be about \$195,000.

The Northwest Kansas Hospital Foundation has agreed to help the hospital with this effort as they see it as a needed service. Jolly said the foundation has agreed to help with \$80,000 to \$100,000 to help get the dialysis operation going.

Jolly said he and Board Chairman Brenda McCants attended a hospital advocacy day in Topeka and to get the framework of the governor's budget. He said the focus in Topeka is to get a handle on the \$550 million

shortfall.

He said some highway trust fund money will be used to fill in for medicaid and Medicare this year.

He said a group is working on how to cut costs in medicaid, but was not sure what the plan is. He said the program has some major problems. The state kicks in 30 cents and the feds kick in 70 cents. He said the program will probably be OK for this year.

McCants said she was on a work-force board for the Kansas Hospital Association to look at community needs. She said the group is to work out how the hospitals and the state are going to make things work with funding cuts.

"We have to develop some plans of what the options should be," she

said. "The association has a lot of work groups to look at different problems and solutions."

Jolly said all the states are looking at their Medicare and what might be coming down. He said one of the things the cuts are causing is for hospitals to look at what services they may have to cut. He said Greeley County in Tribune will end obstetrics services at the end of January. He said it is not just small hospitals making these decisions, but that St. Anthony Central in Denver will stop obstetrics services and push all these to St. Anthony North where the service will continue to be offered.

"Everybody is struggling with the decisions," he said.

He said the Kansas Cancer Alliance wants to grow the system and

more places to hold trials. He said the group will apply for National Cancer Institute designation in the fall.

He said the Alliance wants to do quarterly meetings with the program members.

Dale Shields, hospital human services director and member of the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation, said the foundation has paid the \$15,000 for the membership in the Kansas Cancer Alliance.

Shields said the foundation spent time last week working on the fund raising feasibility study. He said about 40 people were interviewed in the community, and another group of about 50 surveys were mailed out. He said the foundation wants

to hold a joint meeting possibly on Friday, Feb. 11, to share results of the study.

He said most everything was done when Frank Albert, who is leading the feasibility study left on Friday.

He said the date of the joint meeting may depend on when the information is compiled and waiting on the mail-in surveys. He said the meeting would probably be held at lunchtime beginning about 11:30 and going to 1 p.m. to give them time to review the results.

The hospital board approved a schedule of meeting dates for the year with the next meeting scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28.

# Woman asks for more time to fix up house

**By Tom Betz**  
*nt.betz@nwkansas.com*

City commissioners reviewed five unfit structures on Monday, giving a woman at least 90 more days to fix up one, while the other four will be put out to bid for demolition.

Shirley A. Barnhart was at the meeting to ask for more time on her house at 520 W. 16th Street. She said she wants to keep the house. She said it has been vacant for a long time, but they use it for storage.

Brian James, city fire chief and building inspector, said of the five letters he sent out, one came back, and he had a police officer deliver the letter to Barnhart.

"The commission gave them 90 days," James said. "I have not heard anything from any of these people in the past 90 days. As you said to the gentleman last time, they need to keep the city in the loop. I sent out letters about this meeting."

The other four houses are 214 N. Main, owned by Thomas Trandel; 1016 Cherry Ave. owned by Valentino and Kristi Pena; 1505 Montana Ave., a trailer owned by Kerrenda K. Shaver; 1714 Montana Ave., owned by Jamie Villarreal (the letter came back on this one); and Barnhart's at 520 W. 16th.

Mrs. Barnhart told the commissioners she was willing to make improvements within reason, but

that she could not put a roof on in the middle of winter.

She said she had checked into having the house burned down quite a while ago, but was told it was too close to wires.

A city electrical employee said the wires have been moved.

James said he looked at the house and felt the closeness to the houses on either side made burning the house down a problem. He said the city could not guarantee there would not be damage to the houses on each side of Barnhart's. He said it would be a lot easier if the house was out in the open.

City Manager Doug Gerber thanked Mrs. Barnhart for coming

to the meeting. He said he had a concern about the house being used for storage. He said the city wants to see homes used for residents, and the storage might have some zoning problems with that.

Gerber admitted having houses used for storage was something of a personal concern, and he was hoping to find ways to get people away from doing this with an old house.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked what Barnhart was willing to do to fix up the house.

She said she could put shingles on it and clean up the yard. She said the house does not leak, but admitted the house has been broken into several times.

Dechant told her the city was at the point where the property was going to be put out for bids to be demolished. He asked if she had been getting the letters from the city.

Mrs. Barnhart said she had not gotten any letters until the one delivered by a Goodland police officer.

Chief James said Barnhart's home is at 1611 Montana Ave., and he has sent her certified letters that have not been picked up and that is why he used a police officer to deliver the last one.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said if Mrs. Barnhart is willing to put some money into the house he felt it was worth giving her another 90 days. He said she should come in

and sit down with Chief James and set up a plan. He said it sounds like she is willing to do some fixing up.

Dechant asked Mrs. Barnhart if she could get the work done if the city gave her another 90 days.

She said she would do her best to get it done.

Dechant said she would need to meet with Chief James this week.

She said she would do that.

The commissioners agreed to give Barnhart 90 days to fix the house at 520 W. 16th, and told Gerber and James to put the other four out for bids to be demolished.

# Animals picked up in the county go to pound

**By Tom Betz**  
*nt.betz@nwkansas.com*

A few animals have been picked up in the county and taken to the vet, but the Sherman County commissioners would prefer the animals to be taken to the city-county dog pound.

Kathy Schermerhorn, contract operator of the city-county pound and owner of Paw Wash, was at the meeting to talk about some problems with county animals at the pound.

She said in the past it was unusual for anyone to claim a dog picked up out in the county, but recently she

has had two dogs claimed.

She said she charged them \$20 and had them make out a check to the Sherman County Treasurer.

She said people can claim their animals seven days a week. She said when she picked up a county dog she charges \$25. When the city picks up a dog they have a system of charges.

She said Bob Juleson charges a fee for pickup. He charges 50 cents a mile plus \$20 per animal.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said a problem in the past is when animals were picked up on the highway and brought in and dropped off

at the pound, or brought from town, the question was who was going to pay the bill.

Schermerhorn asked if citizens are allowed to pick up stray animals and bring them to the pound.

She said the city has a policy to live-trap cats. She said the pound recently got a cat from the Paxton Addition out in the county.

Strnad said Sheriff Kevin Butts has been making the call on whether an animal is accepted.

Schermerhorn said she had a cat brought in with a broken leg. "What do we tell people?"

Strnad said she feels people have

the right to bring the animals to the pound.

Commissioner Larry Enfield agreed, saying the county taxes go to help pay for the pound.

Schermerhorn said it is best if the people bring the animals to the pound first, and she can decide if they need to be treated by the vet.

Strnad said if the animal is obviously injured, the people can take it to the vet, and the vet will let Kathy know it has been brought in for treatment.

Schermerhorn said she is there to take any animal. If it is brought into the city it should be considered

a county animal and brought to the pound.

Strnad said there is a difference between being brought to the pound, and being rescued by the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter.

Schermerhorn said the animal shelter has pens at her place, but they are separate from the city-county pound.

She said sometimes a fireman or state trooper makes a decision to have an animal picked up, and those are taken to the pound.

She said it has happened that someone who was arrested for driving under influence had a dog

and the animal was brought to the pound.

Enfield said for those working a wreck it is their call where the animal should go.

Strnad made a motion that all animals found in the county be taken to the pound and the director of the pound will work with the vet to determine the treatment of the animal.

Enfield seconded and Commissioner Max Linin joined to make the vote unanimous.

# Kansas consumers warned about credit collection agency

Kansas consumers should be on the alert for a possible scam involving a debt collection organization said the Kansas Attorney General's office.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said Tuesday his office has received numerous calls from Kansans across the state who have been contacted by an organization calling itself National Credit Solutions and purporting to be a debt collection agency. Most of the consumers who have been contacted have been contacted either by mail or by telephone. National Credit Solutions says it is contacting the consumers

to collect a late fee owed by the consumer to Hollywood Video.

The organization tells the consumer the late fee was never paid and Hollywood Video has turned the account over to National Credit Solutions for collection, and increasing the amount due. The organization then tells the consumer the amount must be paid immediately or it will be reported on the consumer's credit report. National Credit Solutions often will attempt to bargain with the consumer to get them to pay on the spot, accepting less than the amount to ensure payment.

However, most of the consumers

who are contacted do not owe any late fee to Hollywood Video.

"This appears to be a scam," Attorney General Derek Schmidt said. "Consumers should not pay or give any information to this organization over the telephone. Instead, they should gather whatever information they can about the alleged debt and the caller and then report that to our office. We're here to help."

Consumers receiving calls or mail from National Credit Solutions attempting to collect a false debt should report the situation to the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-432-2310 or

online at [www.ksag.org](http://www.ksag.org).

Consider these tips when dealing with debt collection agencies:

Know your rights as a consumer. Research the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act so you know your rights as a consumer if a collection agency contacts you. Know they have specific guidelines they must follow to ensure they are not using abusive, unfair, or deceptive practices to collect from consumers. Download the FDCPA for your reference at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre27.pdf>

Do not pay a debt unless you are

absolutely sure it is your legitimate debt.

Don't let anyone rush you into making a decision. Take your time to ask questions, and gather information about the claim. Scam artists typically will not take the time to provide additional information when asked.

Check your credit report on a regular basis, to avoid inaccurate information and discrepancies.

The nationwide consumer reporting companies can provide a free copy of your credit report every 12 months. Go to [www.ftc.gov/credit](http://www.ftc.gov/credit) for additional information on credit reporting.

The Federal Trade Commission is responsible for enforcing the FDCPA and the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Use all their resources available to build your knowledge of these acts and many more.

**corrections**

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record.

**Teeters Abstract in new location!**



The Goodland Star-News, The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and The Goodland Ambassadors would like to welcome Teeters Abstract & Title Co. to its new location!

Annette Fairbanks has moved her office, Teeters Abstract & Title Co., to 1011 Main Avenue.

Purchased in 1998 from Gracia Maricle, Annette continues to provide the same tradition of professionalism and accuracy established over the past 124 years.

Teeters provides abstract work, title insurance plus closing and escrow services.

Teeters Abstract is located at 1011 Main Avenue, Goodland, and supports our community effort to keep Main Street alive.

Stop in today and let Annette help you with all your abstract and title needs!

**EXPERIENCE THE NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME ON OUR HIGH DEFINITION SCREEN!**

January 28-February 3  
**Little Fockers (PG-13)**  
 PG-13: Mature sexual humor throughout; language; some drug content.  
[www.goodlandnet.com/movies](http://www.goodlandnet.com/movies)

Bring this Ad to the theatre for \$1 OFF on a large popcorn & 2 med. drinks. EXP. 12/31/11

**Nightly 7 PM**  
**Sunday Matinee 1:30 PM**  
 Movie bucks make great gifts!

**Sherman**  
 1203 Main - Phone 899-6103

**RICHARDSON'S HOMESTEAD REALTY AND AUCTION**

**ANNUAL SPRING EQUIPMENT & VEHICLE CONSIGNMENT AUCTION**

**Saturday, March 19 at the Homestead Auction Lot, E. Hwy. 24**

Call with consignments early to be advertised on flyer.  
 To consign items call Terry Richardson 785-899-2328 or 899-8094 or consign on-line at [goodlandhomestead.com](http://goodlandhomestead.com).

TERRY RICHARDSON  
 OWNER/BROKER/AUCTIONEER  
[auctions@goodlandhomestead.com](mailto:auctions@goodlandhomestead.com)  
 785-899-2328 or 800-974-2426  
[www.goodlandhomestead.com](http://www.goodlandhomestead.com)

1023 MAIN - GOODLAND, KS - 67735

**PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF SHERMAN COUNTY**

The Office of Sherman County Emergency Management along with E-Fm Consulting, LLC will be conducting the final public meeting for discussion and input on the Sherman County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The County and incorporated areas are developing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans per the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and guidance of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

This meeting will be conducted as a public forum for presentation of the final draft plan. Public comments and suggestions are encouraged. The draft plan is available for review from January, 20 through February, 3rd, 2011. The committee will then review public comment (if any) and finalizes the Mitigation Plan.

The final steps to the planning process include the following:

1. The local draft mitigation plan will be submitted to the State for review.
2. The State Mitigation Officer will approve and forward the plan to the Regional FEMA office.
3. The Regional FEMA Agency will review the plan and approve (or return with comments for revision and re-submittal)

A. When the plan is approved each jurisdiction shall adopt the plan by resolution.

The current draft plan can be viewed at the Sherman County Clerk's Office, and the Public Library in Goodland, KS.

**TIME: 6:00 PM**  
**WHEN: February 2, 2011**  
**WHERE: Goodland City Commission Room**  
**204 W. 11th Street**  
**Goodland, Kansas, 67735**

For more information contact Ryan Murray at 785-332-2560 or E-Fm Consulting at 785-312-9150

**Classifieds work! 899-2338**