

## Health sector fifth largest income, sales producer

As the fifth largest producer of total income and sales in the state, the Kansas health sector is a powerful economic force. The contributions of the health care systems to the state's economy are often overlooked, including the number of people employed, the impact of hospital and health system purchases and the impact of employees' spending and tax payments.

A November 2010 report entitled "The Importance of the Health Care Sector to the Kansas Economy," produced by researchers at the Office of Local Government, K-State Research and Extension, estimated the "gross" impacts associated with the health care sector on economic activity in the State of Kansas. The report identified three general areas of health care's importance to the

state's economy: 1) health care attracts and retains business and industry; 2) health care attracts and retains retirees; and 3) health care creates jobs in the local economy.

"Hospitals and health services truly represent an economic anchor in our state," said Tom Bell, president and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association. "This report documents the relative importance of the health care sector to the Kansas economy. While the estimates of economic impact are substantial, they are only a partial accounting of the benefits that health care in general, and community hospitals in particular, provide to the state. Kansas community hospitals help to not only stabilize the population base, but also invigorate their communities and contribute significantly to

the quality of life."

According to the report, Kansas hospitals employ 62,446 people or 3.4 percent of all job holders in the state, with a total payroll over \$3.2 billion. The report calculated economic multipliers and estimated that hospitals account for another 41,839 jobs throughout all businesses and industries in the state.

Furthermore, the entire health sector in Kansas employs 184,483 people or 10 percent of all job holders in the state. This puts Kansas ahead of the national average of 9.1 percent of all job holders in the United States working in health care services. The total employment impact of the health services sector in Kansas resulted in an estimated 283,584 jobs in the Kansas economy.

The study found that Kansas hospitals generate more than \$3.2 billion in direct total income to the Kansas economy each year. For every one dollar of income generated in the hospital sector, another \$0.47 was generated in other business and industry. Thus, the hospital sector had an estimated total impact on income throughout all business and industry of nearly \$4.8 billion.

Funds spent to buy goods and services flow from hospitals to businesses and then ripple throughout the economy. The impact of hospitals on area retail sales generates more than \$1.7 billion in the Kansas economy each year. Additionally, it is estimated that the hospital sector generates more than \$108 million in sales tax for the state, which is largely used to fund state programs.

"While these raw numbers indicate the importance of community hospitals and health services to the Kansas economy, they also make it clear that the challenges faced by our state cannot be met by those directly responsible for health care administration alone," said Bell. "These challenges require a community-wide response involving government, business and civic leaders. They also require supportive state- and federal-level policies and programs that don't take for granted the access to care provided by the community hospital."

This study was part of a statewide initiative called the Kansas Rural Health Works program. The initiative also generates a county-by-county-level analysis of the economic impacts and potential

of the local health care sector on the economies of each county in Kansas. This full statewide report and links to new county reports can be found on the KHA Web site at: [www.kha-net.org](http://www.kha-net.org).

The Kansas Hospital Association is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. KHA membership includes 204 member facilities, of which 127 are full-service community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA maintains its vision of "an organization of hospitals working together to improve access, quality and the affordability of health care for all Kansans."



Brenda Chatfield, Northwest Tech Vice President of Academic Affairs and Brian Messer, Ottawa University Campus Executive & Vice President for Online Education (right) sign an agreement to allow students in respiratory therapy to go for a bachelor's degree.

Photo by Tiffani Overstreet/Northwest Tech

## Tech college signs agreement with Ottawa University

Northwest Tech has completed an agreement with Ottawa University to allow students in Respiratory Therapy and Medical Assistant program to earn a bachelor's degree.

"We have been working with Ottawa University for approximately one year to articulate a program to allow our students in the Respiratory Therapy and Medical Assistant programs to continue seamlessly to earn a bachelor's degree if they choose," said Brenda Chatfield, Northwest Tech vice president of Academic Affairs.

"The agreement allows a general transfer agreement for the other remaining programs at Northwest Tech," said Brian Messer, campus executive and associate vice president for Online Education for

Ottawa University. "We are excited about this partnership."

The articulation agreement will allow students to receive their degrees online, which will be of great benefit to those students needing to work full-time upon graduation from Northwest Tech Chatfield said.

"It gives Ottawa and Northwest Tech an opportunity to help students succeed and complement the education they have already received," said Messer.

Ottawa University was established in 1865 and is a strong, liberal arts university. Ottawa is a private, nonprofit, faith-based university offering busy adults the opportunity to earn a bachelor's and master's degree.

"We continue to look for ways we can enhance the learning options and opportunities for our students," said Dr. Ed Mills, president of Northwest Tech, "whether they are a traditional or non-traditional student- all students are important to us."

Northwest Tech continues to build upon the current programs and will be working with Ottawa University in developing additional programs in the future Dr. Mills said.

For more information on this new program, contact the Northwest Tech Admissions Office at 1-800-316-4127. For more information on Northwest Tech happenings, go to [www.nwktc.edu](http://www.nwktc.edu).

## Weather observer earns 10-year service award

The National Weather Service at Goodland gave a 10 year Service Award to Richard Hayden of Goodland on Friday, Jan. 21.

Hayden has been observing the temperature and precipitation for Goodland, since 2001, which amounts to over 3600 weather observations.

There are approxi-

mately 11,000 Cooperative Weather Observers in the United States. These awards are presented after 10 years of service and then every five years thereafter.

The precipitation data are found in "Climatological Data," which is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Climatology records are compiled using information from weather observing sites supervised by the National Weather Service and received at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

Michael Lammers, Observing Program Leader of the National Weather Service in Goodland, gave the award. Joy Hayden of the weather service was also there.



Hayden

## Goodland graduate earns director of the year award

Lora Gilbert, daughter of Dale and Elaine Ellison, Goodland High School graduate and senior director of food and nutrition services for the Orange County Public Schools of Florida, received the Golden School Foodservice Director of the Year Award from Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence at the School Nutrition Association's Child Nutrition Industry at Seattle on January 20.

Gilbert sought out talent with diverse career backgrounds including Disney, Universal, large hospitals and the food industry to create a results-oriented management team, according to foodservice management. Her staff provides measur-

able results to track effectiveness in order to meet participation goals, demonstrate compliance and stay on budget. Under Gilbert's leadership team, reimbursable meals have increased by 51 percent in seven years. The goal of 40 percent of revenue spent on labor and food has been met over the last four years. Additional revenue has been generated by Gilbert's staff who have worked hard

to combine the goals of the school board with the state and federal government requirements to meet nutritional requirements for all students in Orange County Public Schools. Under her leadership food services increased revenue by providing nutrition services to

community summer programs, recreational programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA locations, the Rescue Mission and many church groups.

She has been published in the Journal of American Dietetic Association twice and has earned several awards for her commitment to excellence in child nutrition, including the Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence Silver Rising Star Award in 2006.

Gilbert says, "Student satisfaction is the key to our success." No product is added to the menu without testing and approval from students.

The Orange County schools serve more than 26 million meals and snacks for the nation's 10th largest school district.



Gilbert

## Orchestra to give pop concert

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will be performing this concert at Colby Community College in the Frahm Theatre at 2:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Saturday, Feb. 13. Jan Wolf will be conducting this concert and she has picked some beautiful music.

The orchestra will delight you with beautiful music from around the world such as "Moldau," "Dances with Wolves," "Finlandia," selections from Brahms, "Concerto in A Minor for Two Violins" (soloists Kendra and Josiah Akers) and much more.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children and senior citizens. Punch and cookies will be served at intermission. The orchestra is made up of musicians from around the tri-state area including Birkley Barnes on clarinet and Dr. David Younger on strings of Goodland

## Lottery winners get Chief's tickets

Two people from Goodland won prizes in the Kansas City Chiefs 2011 season scratch tickets in second-chance drawings held at Lottery headquarters in Topeka.

Jamie Baker and Debra Fix-

sen each won a pair of upper level single game tickets with pre-game sideline passes, Red Reserved parking, a 2011 Chiefs yearbook, a hat and \$300 cash. The packages were worth \$1,070. There were 14

other winners in this third round of prizes.

Also given out was a grand prize worth \$30,100 and three secondary prizes.

## matters of record

### District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court.

**November 23:** Matthew A. Torrence, speeding, \$162.50.

**November 24:** Mohan P. Atluri, unlawful parking, \$168.50.

Michael L. Jeffery, no seat belt, \$5.00.

Michael R. Wayne, no registration provided, 100; no liability insurance, \$300.00; speeding,

\$288.50.

Ashley L. Moran, speeding, \$174.50.

**November 25:** Richard S. Smith, speeding, \$168.50.

Curtis W. Tolliver, no seat belt, \$5.00.

**November 26:** Jennie L. Bro-

## 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 and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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**Yogi Bear 3D (PG)**  
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### LAND FOR SALE

**Arapahoe County, CO**  
**CRP Parcels:**  
1280± acres.....\$479,000  
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640± acres.....\$366,550  
320± acres.....\$206,500  
478± acres.....\$255,000  
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**Sherman County Kansas**  
40 acres with home, shop & other buildings. S. of Ruleton \$130,000  
**Lincoln County Colorado**  
3729± acres grass. 25 miles south of Punkin Center. \$1,062,765  
**Burlington, Colorado**  
6 Lots 17th & Rose \$145,000  
4 Lots 17th & Rose \$60,000

**The Land Office LLC**  
[www.thelandofficellc.com](http://www.thelandofficellc.com)

## You're Invited To Join the FUN!!

**Saturday, Feb. 5th: 8 p.m.**  
Karaoke Night

**Sunday, Feb. 6th: NFL Championship Game:**  
Kickoff 3 p.m.: Snacks, Buffet, Prizes

**Saturday, Feb. 12th: Valentines Couples**  
Dinner & Dance. 6 p.m.-Call for reservations.  
\$47/couple-Surf & Turf

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