

Hospital numbers discussed

By Dana Paxton
dpaxton@nwkansas.com
Hospital board members and staff, Rich Miller, Ryan Stover, Reva Benien, Rita Speer and Carolyn Applegate met with the Norton County Commissioners last Monday. Topics included hospital status report and financials.

Ryan Stover, the Chief Financial Officer for the Norton County Hospital, gave the status report. He said that for patient days there were 985 acute, 971 skilled and 803 intermediate for a total of 2,786 in 2013 year to date, that was up from the 2,609 in 2012 but down from the 2,892 in 2011. There have been 563 admissions so far this year, up from the 546 last year. As for observation, there have been 5,576 hours this year compared to the 5,799 last year. Of these, 54 were admitted to acute care, 12 transferred and 161 discharged.

Births so far include 35 female births and 29 male. In 2012 there were 26 female and 27 male. "This is a good increase," Stover stated.

Due to Dr. Silan retiring, surgeries have gone down to 176, 18 inpatient and 158 outpatient. There were 183 in 2013. They

are currently looking for a new surgeon.

As for the outpatient procedures, "It is strong," Stover said, "With 52,369 procedures done. That was a 35 percent growth from last year mainly involving physical therapy and labs and the clinic has had a total of 16,869 visits." Inpatient procedures stand at 11,293 at this time. Once again mainly physical therapy and lab.

On to the financials, Stover reported that the year to date actuals as of April 3, 2013 for patient revenue stands at \$12,723,567, that is a little over a \$500,000 increase from the same time last year. In the deductions from revenue it is at \$3,755,493, down around \$17,000 from last year. The operating expenses this fiscal year have increased from \$8,894,209 in 2013 to \$9,257,609 this year. This leaves the Norton County Hospital with a current net income of \$339,000. Stover said, "This could be changed and we are currently looking at our collections policies."

"With the new health care reform, deductibles will change to approximately \$6,300 per person, Hospital Administrator, Richard Miller said, We have become the banker to those who

can't pay and we charge no interest. It isn't uncommon for us to write off \$55,000 to \$60,000 a month due to those who can't and won't pay. We need to tighten up on repayments, it is imperative when implementing changes to help us meet the challenges we face. We need to impress on people to be better about repayments to the hospital."

The 2014 budget will be in place this month, Miller reported. "It's a challenge we face every year and I don't remember a more critical time," Miller said. He went on to say that the hospital would be asking for an increase mill levy from the county this year to keep up.

Miller reported that Doctor Glenda Mauer and Doctor Jeff McKinley will both be gone at the same time in June and since they take care of the obstetrics cases, two other doctors, both OBGYN's, will be coming in to insure that any obstetric cases and or emergencies will be covered in their absence. "It is a positive thing that we get so many OB cases from other areas so we want to continue providing the service while our regular OB doctors are gone," Miller said.

Nuttin' like fishin' ...



Gabriela Padilla from Beaver City tries her hand at fishing during the OK Kids Day held on Saturday at the Prairie Dog State Park. A total of 17 fish were caught during the day with the largest saugie being 17.75 inches and the largest bass was 14.5 inches, both just under the legal limit.

Some more astonishing numbers were those that came from the trap shoot. A total of 9 cases of blue rocks were shot and there are 120 rocks per case along with 5 cases of shotgun shells with 250 per case.

All guns, ammo, blue rocks, fishing poles, bait, bows and arrows were provided for all the participants throughout the day. All anyone had to do was show up for a great day of outdoor family fun.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Safety tips for children that are left home alone this summer

Schools are letting kids out for summer break, and for many families this means a significant change in their daily schedule. Many times these changes leave parents in a situation where they must make a decision about leaving their child at home alone for some period of time. In a report, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that nearly 7 million school-age children are routinely left home alone.

"Developmentally, children are generally ready to be home alone around the age of 12 or 13," says Cherie Sage, State Director of Safe Kids Kansas. "However, children develop at different rates, so use your own discretion to determine your child's maturity level and capabilities." For example, if you have an impulsive 13-year-old who is a big risk taker, you might be hesitant to leave him or her alone. On the other hand, a thoughtful 11-year-old who has a good track record of following household rules might

be ready. Most states, including Kansas, don't have regulations or laws about when a child is considered old enough to stay at home alone or babysit another child.

Each year, more than 3 million kids ages 14 and under get hurt at home - and more than 2,000 children die from unintentional injuries in the home. Fire, suffocation, drowning, choking, firearm and poisoning are among the top leading causes of unintentional home injury death for this age group. "Teach your children about hazards around the home, and make sure they know what to do in an emergency," says Sage. "The first time your kids stay home alone, it should be for a short time and you should be nearby."

Safe Kids Kansas recommends these precautions:

Carry a cell phone and keep it turned on. Make sure your children know where you will be and what time you will return. In addition to your cell phone

number, post emergency numbers (police, fire, EMS, doctor and the poison control hotline, 800-222-1222) and a friend or neighbor's number by every phone in the home. Teach your child their home address so they can tell emergency personnel where to dispatch assistance, if necessary.

Prepare a snack or meal in advance - preferably one that does not need to be heated. If your children will need to cook, remind them never to leave an oven or stove unattended while cooking and to turn it off when they are finished.

Make sure potentially poisonous or hazardous household items are locked up out of reach - especially medications, matches, lighters, weapons and cleaning products.

Review your family's emergency plans and make sure your children know what to do if the smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector goes off. Practice two escape routes from each

room. Review and practice plans for other types of emergencies, such as severe weather. Ensure they know where to go for emergency shelter.

Show your children where you keep your first aid kit and how to use basic first aid supplies.

For more information on home safety, call 785-296-1223 of 785-296-0351 or visit www.safekids.org.

Safe Kids Kansas, Inc. is a nonprofit Coalition of over 70 statewide organizations and businesses dedicated to preventing accidental injuries to Kansas children ages 0-14. Local coalitions and chapters cover Allen, Butler, Cowley, Dickinson, Doniphan, Douglas, Elk, Ellis, Finney, Geary, Harvey, Johnson, Kiowa, Labette, Marion, Marshall, McPherson, Meade, Mitchell, Montgomery, Pottawatomie, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Smith, and Sumner counties, as well as the

city of Emporia and the Metro Kansas City Area (Wyandotte county and several Missouri counties.) Safe Kids Kansas is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury. The lead agency for Safe Kids Kansas is the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request. For more information about obtaining an alternative format, you may contact Safe Kids Kansas at 785-296-1223, or csage@kdheks.gov. Both speech/hear-

ing disabled and hearing Kansans can access the Kansas Relay Center by calling toll-free 1-800-766-3777. Callers should inform the relay operator of the number they wish to call and the type of call they are making direct, credit card, collect, person-to-person, etc.

Visit us at www.safekidskansas.org and on Facebook.



Renovations

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a surgeon on staff full-time. Mr. Miller said that to go with the plan of only doing the upper level renovation the cost would stand at approximately \$4.5 million with no addition. If the addition were included the cost would jump to approximately \$6 million. The addition would be in the so called pit area on the

east side of the hospital and extend out approximately 21 feet.

In the past, the Murray Company has been used for renovations but they will be advertising for a construction manager for this renovation with in the next two months allowing anyone to submit a bid. Once the construction manager has been selected they will meet with the architect

to come up with a guaranteed maximum price. The board will then make a decision whether or not to go forward with the project.

"We need to be cautious, we don't have the money to do it, Miller said. "The USDA has some funds available, but still, cuts will have to be made in the six million total somehow."

SPPA

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quilt show, flea market, arts and crafts vendors, food stand, small engine display, saw mill, threshing, corn shelling, cars, trucks, tractors, windmill display and entertainment by Larry Henderson and LeeAnn Shearer.

First formed in Feb. 14, 1982, the Sunflower Pioneer Power Association (SPPA) in a non-profit historical organization

dedicated to preserving and enjoying the history of farming through the appreciation of antique equipment and machinery. The Association once held the Power Shows in Norton, but relocated to Almena where they now own a total of seven-plus acres of land on the north edge of town.

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361
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SANDER FURNITURE'S
FATHER'S DAY EVENT
FRIDAY, JUNE 7 - 8 A.M.-9 P.M.
SATURDAY, JUNE 8 - 9 A.M.-6 P.M.
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No Matter if You are Looking for Dad's Gift or Great Prices for New Furniture and Mattresses, This Weekend Event is the One to Attend!!
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We Are Dedicated to: Bringing Nice Things to You!
WEST HIGHWAY 36
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RED CROSS CERTIFIED SWIMMING LESSONS
Enrollment will be at the Park Shelter west of the Pool
Thursday, June 6, 8:00 a.m. until Noon;
Friday, June 7, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.;
and Saturday, June 8, from 10-11 a.m.
Session 1: June 17-28 (All Levels); Session 2: July 8-19 (Levels I-IV);
Session 2: July 8-12 (Levels IV-VI); Baby Lessons: July 8-11
NO PHONE ENROLLMENTS
Must be 4 years of age or older. Each session is \$15.00. \$5.00 fee for late enrollments.

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