

Spring 2005

Volume 2, Issue 1



HODGEMAN COUNTY HEALTH CENTER

Hospital Rural Health Clinic Long Term Care

YOUR HEALTH IS IMPORTANT TO US!

***NEWS FROM HODGEMAN COUNTY HEALTH CENTER
AND THE HODGEMAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION***

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We're For The BIRDS!



The Long Term Care Unit now has an Aviary!

Details and more photos inside.

Improvements at the Hospital and Long Term Care!



Nurses' Bay Renovation,
Emergency Room Relocation,
and more....

Details and more photos inside.

We're for the BIRDS!



Our Long Term Care Unit has purchased an Aviary!

The Aviary is an enclosed, natural habitat for birds, which will allow residents to watch the birds. The colors, sounds, and motions of the birds are almost as they would be outdoors.

Images of birds are among the earliest memories we have of nature. Many of us await the arrival of spring, watching for robins and cardinals. During the summer, we are aware of them nesting in our trees, and we are reminded of baby birds beginning of life. In the fall, we watch, fascinated, as birds fly in formation heading south for the winter.

Research has shown that contact with all types of animals helps the healing/living process. For people who are limited physically, watching the birds is an activity they can enjoy. Research has also shown that residents with Alzheimer's are drawn to the Aviary and are less likely to wander. Bird watching can calm down hyperactive residents as well.

The Aviary is enclosed in an oak cabinet, which stands on its own as a beautiful piece of furniture. It houses a collection of twelve birds: mating pairs of Diamond Doves, Shafftails, and Blue Cap Waxbills, three Society Finches (which have never existed in the wild), and one male Canary (he won't sing if he has a mate).

The adult birds will breed and raise their own young in the Aviary. Our staff will be involved in only a minimal amount of care for the system. There is a contract for full maintenance on a quarterly basis with a company to provide professional support for the Aviary.



Photos: Upper Left and Above: Residents gather to watch the birds in the new Aviary. Lower Left: Audine Charles pointing out the different species of birds to a resident. Other photos on the front and back covers.

The cost of the Aviary was about \$4,000.00, with a quarterly maintenance fee to be budgeted as well.

The Aviary was delivered and installed on May 5th. It has already become a favorite of the residents and staff alike. We hope the community will share our excitement as we continue to pursue our goal to improve the quality of life for our residents!

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HOSPITAL AND LONG TERM CARE UNIT

THESE ARE SOME OF THE CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE
HODGEMAN COUNTY HEALTH CENTER!

The **Emergency Room** has been relocated to the former Obstetrical area of the hospital.

“The emergency room was too far away from the nurses’ bay. It was hard to maintain adequate care for hospital patients and ER patients at the same time,” stated Nicki Klein, R.N., D.O.N.

The new ER has been completed and is in use. The project was possible due to a generous posthumous donation by Jed E. Erskin memorial to the Hodgeman Community Foundation in honor of his mentor, Dr. R. Alan Snodgrass.

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The renovations to the **Nurses’ Bay** were recently completed! The area behind the bay is for charting, staff meetings, and other nursing and medical provider needs. The staff is enjoying the additional room for their work area.

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The Health Center recently updated its **oxygen delivery system** by adding large bulk storage tanks to the back of the building. The bulk tanks will reduce the need for several different sizes of smaller tanks that had to be changed manually. The new system is also more efficient and expected to lower costs to the hospital.

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An inside set of **automatic, handicapped-accessible front doors** has been installed in the front of the hospital. This reduces the air flow entering the building when the outer doors are opened in extremely cold or hot weather. The front office staff has noticed a significant difference with these new doors, and the temperature in the office area and halls of the hospital is more stable due to this improvement.

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The **long term care center east wing roof** was replaced last fall. The old roof was leaking, and had not been replaced for several years.

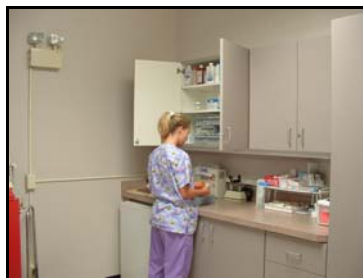
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Looking to the future, the Hodgeman County Commissioners authorized an architectural/engineering study that has been completed. This study will identify future hospital and long term care physical plant needs, current engineering problems that must be upgraded, and include the development of a space plan for further growth of the hospital. With additional specialty and Outpatient Services planned by Hodgeman County Health Center, we hope to make better space available for these types of services.

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*Left: The Remodeled Nurses’ Bay
Below: The Area Behind the Nurses’ Bay
Right: The Relocated ER is Now in Use*





O'SHEA CLINIC OFFERS CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES

Drs. Brennan Uehling (left) and James Phillips (right) have teamed up to provide chiropractic care to some areas in Southwest Kansas.

Dr. Phillips will primarily be in Jetmore; he sees patients at the O'Shea Memorial Clinic on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. He and Dr. Uehling also have offices in Dighton, Ness City, and Dodge City.

Both have been involved in the development of HCHC's Wellness Center. The services of Dr. Phillips have been well-used by the residents of Hodgeman County. Hodgeman County Health Center is pleased to associate with both of these outstanding chiropractic physicians.



NEW Three-Stack Weight Machine

HCHC's Wellness Center

Hours

Mornings: M-W-F: 5am-7am

Sat: 8am-10am

Afternoons: M-Th: 4pm-7pm

Membership Rates

Individual: \$20/mo

Family: \$35/mo



Other Fitness Equipment

Located in the Physical Therapy Department of HCHC, the Wellness Center is designed to promote health & wellness to the surrounding communities. State-of-the-art equipment is available, and several services will be offered by staff professionals: initial instruction on stretching & warm-up, figuring target heart rate, and evaluation of proper exercise programs for individuals. A community walking program is being planned for later this year.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE HEALTH CENTER IN THE COMMUNITY

An economic study was completed in February 2004 by the Kansas Rural Health Options Project in cooperation with the Office of Local Government and K-State Research and Extension. This report demonstrated the importance of both the Hodgeman County Health Center and its medical providers to the economic welfare of Hodgeman County.

The Hodgeman County Health Center and its medical providers impacted the local economy by over four million dollars during the year 2000. The employment and income levels in the health care sector have a significant impact on employment and income throughout other industries in Hodgeman County. For each job created in the hospital sector, there is another 27% increase in jobs through all the businesses in Hodgeman County. Also, for each dollar of income generated in the hospital sector, there is another 16% increase in income from other businesses throughout the county.

Retail sales are also boosted in the county due to health care. In fact, in the year 2000, there was an increase of over \$800,000.00 in retail sales generated from the health care sector.

The strategic planning committee at the Hodgeman County Health Center has been studying this information for the past few months. Knowing the impact that the hospital has on the community will help us to plan for current services and future growth. There is a need at the hospital to look at the physical plant needs and to look ahead for the implementation of strategies to provide for better health care in our community.

The Hodgeman County Health Center, the largest employer in Hodgeman County, provides a significant economic boost to the area. Therefore, keeping a progressive health care system will benefit our patients and county residents as well.

There are a few “newer” faces at HCHC!



Phil Lowe, HCHC Administrator

Hospital Administrator Says He’s Enjoying Jetmore!

Phil Lowe, hospital administrator since June 2004, says he’s enjoying being in Jetmore.

“The people in the community have been very friendly. The hospital employees, board members, and medical providers are all great to work with.” Lowe also feels that HCHC has a lot of potential.

“It’s struggling like most rural hospitals do, but becoming a Critical Access Hospital has changed the way HCHC is reimbursed. It should help the hospital slowly recover from difficult times.”

Lowe added that it takes several months for the new type of reimbursement to make a noticeable change. Several things will be done in the meantime to help improve the financial condition of the hospital. One of these things is strategic planning.

The hospital management has been involved in strategic planning for a few months, and the community leaders have also been invited to participate. The hospital is the largest employer in the community and is vital to the future economic welfare of the area.

Lowe wants to thank everyone for the warm welcome he received when he moved to our community.

HCHC Welcomes Our “New” Surgical and Pharmaceutical Nurse

As many of you know, Julie Schroeder, R.N., is not new to the area; however, she joined the hospital staff to help build our surgery program.

Surgical procedures are done on an almost weekly basis at the hospital. Dr. Merlin Kirby, General Surgeon, practices in Great Bend but has done surgery here in Jetmore for many years. Dr. Snodgrass also performs surgery at HCHC.



Julie Schroeder, R.N.

Julie came to us with several years of operating room experience. She is known for her big smile and positive attitude, and has been a great addition to our staff. Julie also supervises the Pharmacy Department at HCHC.

The Hodgeman County Health Center is looking at bringing other specialists to the area, such as Gynecology, Podiatry, Urology, and Orthopedics. (We now offer Chiropractic Services; see the article on page 4.) We would like to build the hospital’s surgery program to make it more convenient for local residents to receive these types of services without the added burden of having to leave the county.

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Hodgeman County Health Center currently offers general surgery services. We hope to expand the scope of these services in the future.



Dr. Snodgrass, shown here at the Nurses’ Bay writing notes after a procedure, works with physicians and medical practitioners associated with HCHC.

HODGEMAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NEWS

The Hodgeman Community Foundation has had a busy season. Last fall saw two fundraising events, followed up by an auction this spring. Dr. Alan Snodgrass, foundation president, is pleased with the results of these efforts.

"Our fall fundraisers brought in \$1,000.00 and the auction was another good opportunity to raise funds," Snodgrass stated. "We will continue to work for the benefit of our entire county."

The 2nd Annual Family Fun Day was held in Hanston at the High School on October 9th, 2004. The junior high students and their parents put on fierce competitive performances, having a great time in the process. The 8th grade boys experienced an upset during the football game when the fathers were able to win over the sons for the first time in the history of this flag football contest. The 7th & 8th grade girls held their ground, but in the end were unable to overcome the determined mothers in the volleyball games. All those in attendance enjoyed the fun and the delicious soup supper. This event raised \$416.44 to help the Hodgeman Community Foundation continue its support of the Wellness Center at the Hodgeman County Health Center.

A raffle drawing for a Kansas City Chiefs football game with motel accommodations in Kansas City was also organized by the Foundation. This fundraiser was a tremendous success, raising \$603.00. We hope that Dr. Lou Scott enjoyed the weekend package that he won.

The charity auction held by the Foundation and the Jetmore/Hanston Lion's Club on April 23, 2005 was another success. The funds that were raised will be of benefit to all of Hodgeman County. We would like to thank Lon's Auction Service for the donation of their time for this event. We would especially like to thank all the generous donors for their cooperation in giving their bits and pieces for the sale.

The Hodgeman Community Foundation has recently donated funds towards the purchase of the Aviary for the Long Term Care Center and the county strategic planning effort.



The NEW Three-Stack Weight Machine has been added to the Wellness Center through a grant to the HCF.

Hodgeman Community Foundation

Board Members

Dr. Alan Snodgrass, President
Kyle Beckwith, Vice-President
Nancy Ferguson, Secretary
Robert Crabill, Treasurer
Charles "Gus" Guthrie
Dan Gibbons
Jim Hingle

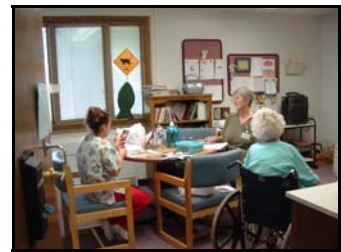
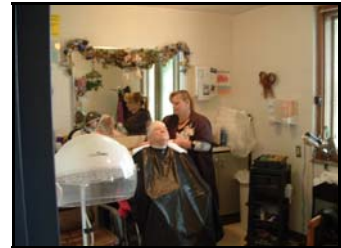
Faye Lupfer, Foundation Director



HCF contributed to the LTCU Aviary which has mating pairs of birds. See the article on Page 2 for more about the Aviary.

The Hodgeman Community Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality and variety of services and facilities available in Hodgeman County by providing funding assistance for new and on-going projects throughout the community. The Foundation is seeking to fulfill its mission by raising funds through donations, grants, and activities. Donations, endowments, and other donation opportunities may now be earmarked for specific community concerns. All donations made to the Hodgeman Community Foundation are tax deductible. If you have any questions regarding donations or setting up memorial funds, please contact Dr. Alan Snodgrass at 357-8354 or Faye Lupfer at 357-8361.

OUR STAFF AT WORK



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**NEW HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBERS
APPOINTED**

The Hodgeman County Commissioners recently appointed Pat Burke and Richard Soren to serve as hospital board members. Mr. Burke's term will expire in November 2006, and Mr. Soren will serve until November 2008. Thanks to all the board members for the many hours they give to oversee our community's great medical facility.

HCHC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

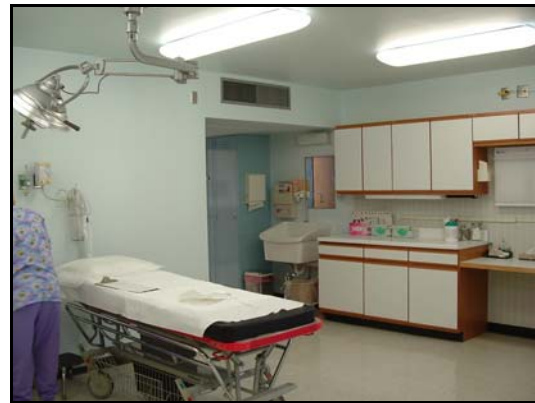
David Burkhart, Board President
Betty Bamberger, Board Vice-President
Dan Gibbons
Pat Burke
Richard Soren

**HODGEMAN COUNTY HEALTH CENTER
MISSION STATEMENT:**

*To provide quality health care in a caring environment,
wherein the healing of the whole person can take place through treatment
which manifests a deep respect for human life.*



The New LTC Aviary (pg 2)



The Remodeled Emergency Room (pg 3)

This publication is published as a community service by the Hodgeman County Health Center and the Hodgeman Community Foundation for people in the Hodgeman County region served by the Hodgeman County Health Center. If you have any questions regarding the information described here, or for more information on the Health Center or the Wellness Center, please contact the Health Center at 620-357-8361. For more information regarding the Hodgeman Community Foundation, please contact HCF director Faye Lupfer at 620-357-8361 or by email at faye@hchconline.org .