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Wyoming Medical Center

1233 East 2nd Casper, Wyoming 82601

Highlights is published monthly by the Wyoming Medical Center Community Development Office. Article submissions for the **August** issue are due **July 21**.

If you have questions, comments or need more information, call 577-2388.

Editor — Mike Phillips

employee *b*irthdays

Reminder: All Wyoming Medical Center employees may take a 20-percent discount at the Auxiliary Cottage Gift Shop during the month of their birthday. The discount may be used on any (one) day during that month. Most items apply.

July 1 Robin Demmon Mary Lynne Shickich	July 5 Ellen Manning Helen Schmidt Deborah Williams	July 10 Rose Branson Lori Gutierrez	July 15 Keith Hartnett Karie Kaplan Amanda May Wanda Snow Vonda Ward	July 19 Linda Clamp Carmella Fernandez	July 23 Julie Cann-Taylor Felicia Polzer Christine Rogers Dustin Windle Sheila Wylie	July 27 Diane Brandon Gale Bryden Doreen Lynch Nora Parton
July 2 Celisa Maciech Pam Ramsey Lettie Seamount Peggy Wagoner Jeanne Wernsmann	July 7 Karen Alm Christa Booth Stephanie Culp Linda Johnson Toni Platt	July 11 Joelle Anthony Errol Goins Nichole Lamotte Melany Miracle Susan Oland Deborah Salazar	July 16 Kathy Fanto Susie Lack Cheryl Metzger	July 20 Carrie Farran Stoni Hollinger Karen Langendorfer Nichole Shoemaker Bernadine Snyder	July 24 Janell Appel Patricia Lawrence Jennifer Moline Sharon Peterson	July 28 Michelle Derby Karla Hagen Phyllis Higgins Monica Schulte
July 3 Michelle Gaither Lia Haskett Deloris Parker Judith Rader Brenna Steed Rachelle Wright	July 8 Melinda Huckfeldt Robert Manz Sylvester Saunders Marni Siebke	July 12 Samantha Anderson Robin Kesecker Toni Senstock	July 17 Robert Axworthy Stephine Becker Jenny Farmer Sally Fox Angela Johnson Jennifer Milner Cheryl Vig Amy Walker	July 21 Joy Bishop Heidi Cook-Nutt Stacey Elliott Connie Harn Michele Holder Sandy Sienkiewicz Ann Sipp Doug Soper Kenna Steele Karla Underwood	July 25 Daoreuang Lerma Robert Militello	July 29 Robyn Derrico Helen Eckenrode Lisa Potter Michelle Schrader
July 4 Lee Anne Chase Donald Coulter Kayla Walker	July 9 Jennifer Gurkin Jennifer Haddenham Jahna Kaufman Danna Miller Shawna Miller Thelma Stibley Patricia Valdez	July 13 Pam Evert Laurie Whitney	July 18 Julie Alm Mike Lamb	July 22 Devonn Conn Susan Starkey	July 26 Mary Jo Daniels Lawanda Ellis Andrea Flores Lacey Joens Tawna Zauner	July 30 Donna Lemon Heather Street
		July 14 Diana Dickerson Daniel Hand Mary Ivory				July 31 Dawn Howard Lorelea Kumor Rondalynn Mull Jennifer Schmidt

h ighlights

 Monthly employee
newsletter

July 2006

 Now on the Internet at www.wyomingmedicalcenter.com/empsvcs/

Wyoming Medical Center hopes to break ground on its new three-story parking structure this fall, contingent on approval from the Casper City Council.

The hospital will present the plans to the city's Planning Commission in August, and appear before the City Council soon after. If all goes well, work on the structure could begin in late September, according to Chief Planning Officer Mary Lynne Shickich.

"We are proposing to vacate the Washington Street block between Second Street and Third," Shickich said. "We have made much progress though have much work to do beforehand, with the key task being approval by the Planning Commission of our site plan."

In addition to the Planning Commission, approval will require a traffic study to determine the impact of the structure around the hospital and the adjacent neighborhoods, a public hearing, and three readings before the city council. Shickich said the hospital will present its entire building project —

continued on page 7



**Prime
Parking**

*Hospital hopes to begin working
on new parking structure this fall.*

LETTER FROM THE CEO

The timing could not be better

During this month's employee forums, I spent a good deal of time reviewing our strategic plan and where our hospital is headed over the next five years. The plan is ambitious with each goal related to one of our five pillars of excellence: people, service, quality, growth and financial strength.



While distinct, all of the five-year goals are inter-related and begin in large part with our first pillar: people. With this section of the plan, we will look for ways to strengthen our bond with our employees and our physicians.

For example, our goal with staff is to reduce employee turnover during the next five years by 20 percent. Two tangible ways that we will accomplish this in the coming year is to consider measuring our employee satisfaction scores every three months rather than just once a year. This heightened feedback will give us a better idea of what is happening in the hospital and if there are issues that need to be addressed. We also accomplish this through daily rounding and quarterly employee forums, though the survey is an especially effective tool because it provides the employee with a confidential voice.

continued on page 7

New doctors come to town

Wyoming Medical Center is welcoming 15 new physicians to town this summer filling holes in several needed specialty areas.

"We're excited to have been able to bring these new doctors to the community," said Chris Lorenzen, Director of the Community Development Office.

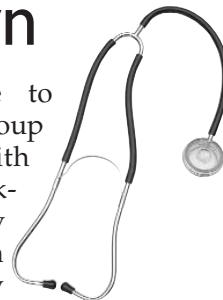
He said several of the physicians will help the hospital expand its growing list of product lines including neurosciences and diabetes care. In addition, the hospital was able to recruit two doctors to assist with Wyoming Medical Center's new hospitalist program.

"We were able to bring in a strong group of physicians with impressive backgrounds largely because we have a growing community and a growing hospital," Lorenzen said. "Many of the new physicians also said they were impressed with the collegial atmosphere of our medical staff at the hospital."

New physicians this summer include:

- David Baxter, MD, anesthesiology,

continued on page 7



SERVICE AWARDS FOR JULY

25 YEARS

Val Cady, *Quality and Regulatory*

20 YEARS

Mark Bower, *Human Resources*
Ed Renemans, *Administration*

15 YEARS

Karen Stortz, *Nutrition Services*
Brett Yarger, *Information Services*
Angie Chapman, *Nutrition Services*
Sally Fox, *Nursing Administration*
Deborah Beadle, *Diabetes Education*

10 YEARS

Rollie Sanftner, *Transport*
Tamara Hawk, *Rehab*

5 YEARS

Nimfa Bennett, *Nutrition Services*
Teresa Brainard, *ICU*
Kelly Kirkwood, *Float Pool*
Juana Giralt, *Finance*
Heather Homan, *Medical*
Barbara Brenner, *Float Pool*
Ronald Maxwell, *Pharmacy*

A 57 TAKES HOSPITAL EVENT

Blistering round at golf tourney

The fivesome of Marv Bastow, Steve Slocum, Sherri Sack, Ken Sack and John Hancock averaged nearly a birdie on every hole to win the 2006 Wyoming Medical Center Golf Tournament.

The five-person team scorched the Casper Municipal Golf Course June 24 with a 14-under-par score of 57 to win the event. In all, 14 teams competed that day.

Eighty golfers took part in the 18-hole scramble format tournament, which featured the chance to win a car for hitting a hole-in-one on Park Course Number Two. In addition, each hole featured hole prizes for the longest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin.

The team of Shawn Ficken, Chris Cohagen, Tom Cunningham, Danny Canales, and Lane Smothers turned in a 13-under-par score of 58 to finish second.

The employee tournament was organized by P.J. Lippert. Hole and door prizes included golf balls, restaurant gift certificates, rounds of golf, apparel items and cash. Casper Municipal Golf Course, Paradise Valley Golf Course and Glenrock Golf Course all contributed rounds of golf with carts. Western Vista Federal Credit



Ken Sack, Sherri Sack, Steve Slocum and Marv Bastow teamed with John Hancock (not pictured) to snare the 2006 hospital golf tournament.

Union and Wyoming Medical Center also contributed many dozens of golf balls, Lippert said.

"Three Crowns Golf Course contributed the grand prize of a four-person golf team entry into the course's charity fundraiser tournament in September," he said. "My heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who participated in the tourney and to everyone who helped me specifically with any aspect of the event." ❖

Hospital readies for another record-setting campaign

The hospital will again attempt to enter the record books as it kicks off this year's United Way of Natrona County campaign

Wyoming Medical Center raised more than \$67,000 last year, which was nearly double what it had raised during its best effort in the past. In addition, 55 hospital employees gave at the Platte Society level (\$500 or more), which by far is the highest number ever.

"Last year, we set a goal of \$50,000 which was a huge jump from the previous year when we raised nearly \$26,000," said Mark Bower

who assisted with last year's campaign and sits on the United Way board of directors.

Bower said one big reason that the hospital was able to easily beat past fundraising totals was greater involvement throughout the facility. For example, the steering committee set up a 100-percent-ask goal, meaning that every employee would be approached and asked to give. In addition, each department provided a United Way representative to coordinate unit efforts.

Creative giving options also helped, such as allowing

employees to give hours from their personal leave time bank. In all, more than 400 employees gave to the cause.

More than 90 percent of the money raised last year went to 26 local human service agencies that support seniors, youth, families in crisis and the impoverished, such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army and Meals on Wheels. The overall county goal of \$1 million was also surpassed, another record.

The upcoming hospital campaign will run from Aug. 1 to Sept. 15. Radiology Director Dan Steele will head this year's campaign cabinet.

Employees who would like to assist with the campaign or turn in a pledge sheet can contact Steele at ext. 2429. ❖

New doctors ...from 1

Association of Central Wyoming Anesthesiologists;

- Terry Donaldson, MD, internal medicine, Sage Medical Group;
- Eugene DuQuette, DO, emergency medicine, Emergency Medicine Physicians;
- Sherill Fox, MD, family practice, Western Medical Associates;
- Richard Jaouen, MD, plastic surgeon, Wyoming Medical Center;
- Nathan Ker, MD, hospitalist, Wyoming Medical Center;
- Jeremy Morse, MD, family practice, Western Medical Associates;
- Cope Norcross, MD, ENT, Wyoming Otolaryngology;

- Ghazi Ghanem, MD, infectious disease, Rocky Mountain Infectious Diseases;

- Babak Pazooki, MD, endocrinologist, Wyoming Medical Center;
- Christopher Snyder, MD, occupational health, Wyoming Medical Center, and, internal medicine, Community Health Center;
- Soraya Sharfei, MD, hospitalist, Wyoming Medical Center;
- Brian Veauthier, MD, family practice, UW Family Practice Residency Program;
- Brian Wieder, MD, neurosurgeon, Wyoming Brain and Spine Associates; and
- Aaron Wright, MD, radiology, Casper Medical Imaging. ❖

Parking ...from page 1

both the parking structure and the South Tower addition — so that the city officials have a better feel for future growth plans.

"The new structure will increase the availability of parking at the hospital and allow us to begin work on a south tower located on the site of current parking structure," Shickich said.

The new parking will provide approximately 530 parking spaces for patients, visitors and hospital staff. With three levels and three bays, the new structure will offer two entrances and exits, one pair on Jackson Street and another on Second.

Shickich said much of the work on the structure can begin quickly since most of the land is already vacant parking areas.

Only two buildings — the hospital's former outcomes management building and the former radiologist office building — will need to be demolished.

The hospital's parking structure will be a pre-cast building, similar to what was built at Denver International Airport. Depending on the weather, the structure will open to the public in the late spring or early summer of 2007. ❖

THE SOUTH TOWER

Once the new parking structure is done, the former structure on the south side of the hospital will then be torn down to begin work on a new south tower.

Chief Planning Officer Mary Lynne Shickich has just wrapped up meetings with the different user groups for the new tower, which will house new patient units, a new birthing suite and several additional operating rooms. She plans to meet with individual directors this month to further hone the plan.

CEO letter

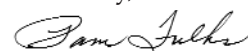
...from page 1

The second method is the implementation of the first phase of our new employee wellness program which will help our staff lead healthier lives in a variety of ways. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *Highlights*. I believe you will find this to be very exciting.

People also means our physicians, and over the next five years, we hope to have a more fully integrated partnership with our medical staff. In the coming year, some of the steps we will take include a plan to allow physicians to partner with the hospital in offering services. We will hire a new Vice President of External Services who will manage the practices of hospital-employed physicians and coordinate our joint ventures. This person will also develop other opportunities for physicians to work more closely with us and see what office services we could make available to physician practices. Finally, we will establish mechanisms that formalize physician-nurse collaboration, which will obviously support our quality goal.

I am stressing the people pillar goals because they will largely determine how well we attain our other five-year goals. Whether it is increasing our Press Ganey scores to the 90th percentile on an annual basis, completing the first phase of our master facility plan or growing our business each year by two percent based on adjusted discharges, everything begins with our employees and our physicians. Nothing could be more important.

Sincerely,



Pam Fulks
CEO and President, Wyoming Medical Center

DAISY software ...from page 4

people across the world, and received e-mails from England, Canada and Germany from people who appreciate the ease of use and free access," he said.

Kearney recently converted the classic novel *Anne of Green Gables* — now located on the public domain — to use with his software. The novel, which is a favorite in many countries, has led to thank yous from India and Japan.

Next up, Kearney hopes to improve how his software interfaces with the Linux system, while developing a way for the software to read optional content in books so readers can hear the sidebars, captions and footnotes.

"We're also trying to improve how it handles pictures and photos," he said.

But not on Friday mornings. That's when he speaks to the world. ❖



The following table charts Wyoming Medical Center's healthy vital signs.

	May 06	April 06	May 05
Discharges	706	771	825
Patient Days	3,146	3,229	3,514
Average Length of Stay	4.5 days	4.2 days	4.3 days
Births	91	86	98
WMC Surgery Cases	422	410	452
WMC Surgery Minutes	43,695	39,248	48,905
Occupational Health Visits	2,153	1,632	2,067
Emergency Room Visits	2,914	2,792	2,952
Ambulance Runs	406	442	440
Wyoming Life Flight	75	43	48

NEW EMPLOYEES

Tom Neibauer, *Telemetry*
Ashley Beckstead, *Laboratory*
Eric Willcox, *Pharmacy*
Trina Dull Knife, *Housekeeping*
Alex Milberger, *Engineering*
Tonya Gold, *Nutrition Services*
Stacey Elliott, *Neuro*
Brehan Hartley, *Intensive Care Unit*
Jeanne Briddle, *Radiology*
Mike Fowler, *Acute Therapy*
Nadine Baladez, *Intensive Care Unit*
Lacey Joens, *Emergency Room*
Laura Burke, *Engineering*
Jenny Armstrong, *Medical*
Emily Borghi, *Telemetry*
Koni Sickel, *Medical*
Alyssa Sparks, *Laboratory*
Christine Rogers, *Medical*
Melodi Brown, *Telemetry*
Michael Simoneaux, *Float Pool*
Erika Bower, *Outpatient Services*
Katie Fargen, *Radiology*
Teresa Brainard, *Intensive Care Unit*
Kate Kalinowski, *Telemetry*
Susan Edmonds, *Medical*
Hayley Powers, *Telemetry*
Tanya Carlson, *Float Pool*
LaWanda Ellis, *Transitional Care Unit*
Valerie Guthrie, *Neuro*
Kim Waterman, *Medical*
Melissa Garwood, *Surgical*
Monica Christensen, *ICU*
Amee Jaskowak, *Operating Room*
Jamie Galles, *Telemetry*
Sable Walton, *Housekeeping*
Carla Archbold, *Telemetry*
Sara Urban, *Radiology*
Cristen Larson, *Surgical*
Tracy Larson, *Surgical*
Carrie Standlee, *Emergency Room*
Hollie Johnson, *Emergency Room*
Kristen Olsen, *Neuro*
Cathy Kimmel, *Operating Room*
Michelle Osborn, *GI Lab*
Linda Melloh, *Surgical*
Mike Metcalf, *Float Pool*
Monica Janssen, *Neuro*
Stephanie Houck, *Operating Room*
Sheri Click, *Neuro*
Amanda Pheasant, *Surgical*
Nicole Nicholson, *Emergency Room*
Janelle Kinner, *Telemetry*
Deana Morss, *Neuro*
Kim Karsi, *Operating Room*

MORE THAN 500 MILES EACH

Therapists lead at the midway

Two occupational therapists had logged more than one million steps upon passing the halfway mark in the first annual Walk Across Wyoming program.

As of July 10, Joelle Anthony of Therapies had taken 1,078,070 steps as part of the eight-week fitness program co-sponsored by Wyoming Medical Center and the Casper-Star-Tribune. She was followed close behind by Sandy Hoppe of Therapies with 1,012,410 steps.

The duo join 64 other hospital employees and 3,000 Wyoming residents who enrolled to take a virtual walk across Wyoming.

The walk runs from June 5 to July 30, allowing participants to take a virtual journey across Wyoming starting at Devil's Tower and finishing in Evanston.

"You can actually walk in the

comfort of your own home or neighborhood," said Michele Holder of the Community Development Office, "though each week, you're given a distance to walk that will eventually equal a trip across the state."

For example, the first week, walkers travelled the same distance as from Devil's Tower to Wright.

Those who complete the walk will travel nearly 250 miles, or the same as taking half a million steps. For Anthony and Hoppe, they've already covered the terrain twice, walking more than 500 miles.

To help with the math, each walker received a portable pedometer, which tracks the number of steps taken each day. Walkers post their miles on www.casperstartribune.net/walkacrosswy/.

TWO IPODS, THREE FRENCH HENS...

Once the fitness program ends, prizes will be awarded to the top hospital walkers: an iPod Nano for the top two, an arm radio for third through fifth and a goodie bag for sixth through 10th.

"The walk is designed to engage our employees and the citizens of Wyoming in a more active and healthy lifestyle," Holder said.

The other top WMC walkers and their steps as of July 10 are: Allison Bower, 960,048; Alaina Reeves, 887,948; Merry James, 805,755; Doug Higgins, 771,501; Helen Anderson, 765,366; Jennifer Parmely, 564,348; Katrina Lorenzen, 524,918; and Sean Peverley, 511,987. ❖

Flight crew buys new night glasses

The Wyoming Life Flight crew was able to purchase new night vision goggles thanks to sizable donations from three local organizations.

The goggles will be used at night when the crew responds to a roadside accident or a heart attack victim who lives in an isolated locale in Wyoming.

THE THREE BENEFACTORS

- The McMurry Foundation was established in 1998 to have a significant and beneficial impact on Wyoming communities. Areas of emphasis include education, religion, children and advocacy for children, health and human services, the arts and humanities and favorable business environments.
- The Blue Envelope Health Fund was established in 1958 and funds projects that relate to one of its four divisions: cancer, heart, mental health and wellness. Blue Envelope was instrumental in helping establish the Wyoming Life Flight program.
- The Wyoming Medical Center Foundation was established in 1976 to visibly improve the health of the community with financial and educational support in partnership with Wyoming Medical Center.

"The entire crew will wear them at night as we land and take off, allowing us to better see unmarked hazards on the ground such as power poles, large boulders or road signs," said Chief Flight Nurse Keith Roumell. "These goggles will increase our vision and ensure that we are able to travel more safely at night."

In addition, the goggles will allow Life Flight to meet new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements and maintain its flight coverage areas. Without the goggles, the coverage areas would have been lessened.

Six pairs of goggles were bought for a total bill of \$127,000. The purchase was made following a \$61,000 donation by the McMurry Foundation, a \$30,000 donation by the Blue Envelope Health Fund and a \$20,000 gift from the Wyoming Medical Center Foundation. The remaining \$16,000 came from money donated by the public, Roumell said.

"I'd like to thank all three organizations for their support this year and for all that they've done in the past for Wyoming Life Flight and Wyoming Medical Center," Roumell said. "All three continue to improve the well-being of this community." ❖



One of Many Benefits

A monthly update from Human Resources on various employee benefits and services.

TOO HARD TO GET PARTS FOR AUDIX

New voice mail program offered

Employees can access an instruction manual on-line to use the hospital's new voice mail program.

The former Audix system was replaced early this month with a newer system that provides a greater number of features. In addition, the new system is more reliable and easier for the hospital to maintain, according to Chief Information Officer Don Claunch.

Claunch said it was becoming increasingly difficult to purchase parts for Audix.

Employees will still have a short period of time to access voice mail saved on the Audix system.

Employees who have questions or can't retrieve a manual should contact Barb Smith via e-mail or by calling the Help Desk at ext. 4357. ❖

Our staff accomplished much this year

As we begin a new fiscal year, Dick Williams and I would like to take this opportunity to share our deepest gratitude to the Human Resources, Risk Management, Center For Learning and Performance, Employee Health and Training Center folks.

This past year has been a very challenging opportunity for this Team. They have pulled together with the philosophy of bringing all employee-related services under one structure. Many times over the past year this quest has felt a bit overwhelming and still they trudged forward with strong dedication and commitment to Wyoming Medical Center, its employees, and our community. They have silently supported Service Excellence through the Press Ganey survey mailings for over a year and have often committed lunch and pre-work hours to ensure that the mailings happen on a regular and consistent basis. Many times the efforts of these folks go unnoticed or are unappreciated. So, with great pride we say thanks to them — through their work, many new programs and employee services are being developed and their best is yet to come!

A Few of our 2006 FY Accomplishments

- Successfully coordinated with management the hiring of 77 new employees during June of 2006 only
- Skills lab modifications
- Pharmacy co-pay program
- Approved employee wellness plan
- Funding saliva drug testing
- Optical option for employees
- Successful critical care conference
- Great service awards banquet
- The perfect attendance rewards program
- Successful training center survey
- Successful benefit plan audit
- Donna Wright Competency Model
- Annual house-wide education revamp
- Crucial Conversations training
- Employee Health move to HR
- Established Employee Health medical director position
- Blend of Risk and HR (new sentinel process)
- Meyers Briggs Testing and Staff Education
- TB Testing Program Change
- Championed "It Happens Here"
- Staff member participated in National Patient Safety Initiative
- Instituted the ECHO Critical Care Program
- Increased BSN Recruitment
- Created unique strategies to recruit and retain job market analysis for all positions

Our Team (In no specific order)

- Mike Walker — Senior HR Rep
- Lisa Johnson — HR Assistant
- Donna Hoffman — Compensation/ Compliance Analyst
- Lori Smith — HR Assistant
- Cindy Schaeffer — Payroll Specialist
- Shawna Willcox — Benefits Specialist
- Linda Toohey — Learning and Performance Coordinator
- Carol Leslie — Risk Assistant
- Russ Christiansen — Clinical Educator
- Dawn Howard — Clinical Educator
- Terri Strickland-O'dell — Patient Relations Representative
- Rose Braz — Risk Manager
- Mindy Walden — Clinical Educator
- Jennifer Longo — HR Assistant
- d'Ann Miller — Employee Health Nurse Practitioner
- Kelly Jones — HR Assistant
- Wendy Witt — Employee Health Nurse
- Mark Bower — HR Representative

Walkers sought for annual cancer relay

Walkers are needed to represent Wyoming Medical Center in the annual Relay for Life fundraiser next month.

The day-long event is sponsored by the American Cancer Society and will start Friday, Aug. 4, at 4 p.m. at the Kelly Walsh track. It will conclude the following day at 2 p.m.

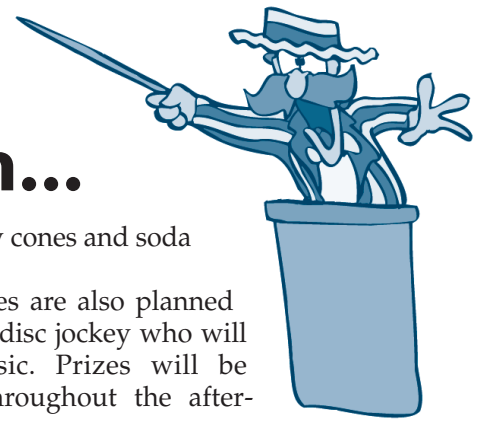
Team members will circle the track for 22 hours to raise funds for Relay for Life. A tent city is set up near the track to allow the different teams to interact or catch a quick nap. Refreshments are provided throughout the event.

Now in its 21st year as a national American Cancer Society project, Relay for Life raises funds for cancer research, education, advocacy and service.

The hospital has historically been one of the leading fundraising teams during the event. To learn more, contact team coordinator Felicia Polzer at ext. 2491. ❖

ANNUAL PICNIC TO FEATURE CARNIVAL THEME

Step right up and win...



WATER SAFETY AT ALCOVA

Safe Kids of Central Wyoming will host a water safety day at Alcova on Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To learn more, call ext. 2294. Safe Kids is a program of the Wyoming Medical Center Foundation.

EXPANDED HOURS AT MASTERSON

Masterson Place's office is now open 24 hours each day to better serve Wyoming Medical Center patients and families. The facility can be reached at 577-5933.

NOTABLE QUOTE

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony."
— Mahatma Gandhi

For one memorable day, the carnival will come to Wyoming Medical Center.

The annual staff picnic will return to Conwell Park on Friday, Aug. 18, complete with carnival burgers, barkers and ball tosses.

"We are trying a carnival theme this year," said Janet Smith who chairs the Service Excellence Committee which is organizing the event. "We'll have all kinds of interactive booths much like a carnival including dunking booths, ball tosses, and fun games."

Unlike past picnics in which there was one main food tent, this year's event will feature different concession stands throughout the park offering sub sandwiches, wraps, hamburgers and hot dogs, ket-

tle corn, snow cones and soda pop.

Kids games are also planned along with a disc jockey who will provide music. Prizes will be given out throughout the afternoon.

The free picnic will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is open to all employees and their families as well as the medical staff, volunteers and hospital retirees.

Volunteers are needed during the day of the event to work the different booths and concession stations. To assist with the picnic, call Janet Smith at ext. 2269. ❖

Hospital project leads to international affiliation

It started last year with a few lines of code and a simple desire to help visually impaired patients better understand their hospital documents and paperwork.

Today, hospital webmaster Greg Kearney sits on an international board that conducts a conference call each Friday hailing from Stockholm, Sweden. For about 30 minutes, the callers from numerous continents discuss ways to improve technology for the blind and people with print-related disabilities so they can enjoy the simple pleasure of the printed word.

Kearney, who works in Information Services, initially developed the code to go with a low-cost audio player and a CD and turn the text of vital documents such as advance directives or confidentiality releases into a synthetic human voice. The free service was offered last fall to patients who are blind, dyslexic or have cerebral palsy. There are also those who can't read or are too sick at that moment to read.

But like any software designer, Kearney said he wasn't happy with the final product. He began tinkering, adding additional uses and tools. He expanded the software's capabilities, turning the entire Bible into a CD version, then the Koran.

"I wanted to see what the software could do," said Kearney.

Eventually, he posted the software on line, allowing anyone in the world to use it for free. A per-

son could upload a document or a poem or a short story onto the hospital web site and the software would convert it to an audio file, all at no cost.

That's when DAISY Consortium called Kearney. DAISY, which is an acronym of Digital Accessible Information System, offers the international standard for producing accessible and navigable multimedia documents. The organization makes digital talking books, digital text books, or a combination of synchronized audio and text books. In addition, vendors sell a software program similar to what Kearney developed for \$4,000 per license.

"The vendors weren't happy with me," he said, "but DAISY wanted to know how we could work more closely together."

This included appointing Kearney to the DAISY International Technology Board and providing access to other software designs who could add their creativity to the product. For example, Kearney has recently worked with a Swiss designer who developed a version of his software that is compatible with Windows.

"I have been in touch with
continued on page 7



Greg Kearney

EASY ACCESS

To convert a document or a piece of prose, access the hospital's web site at www.wmcnet.org/dtbnmaker/. Instructions are available. Users will have only 24 hours to pick up their audio copy due to memory limitations on the server.

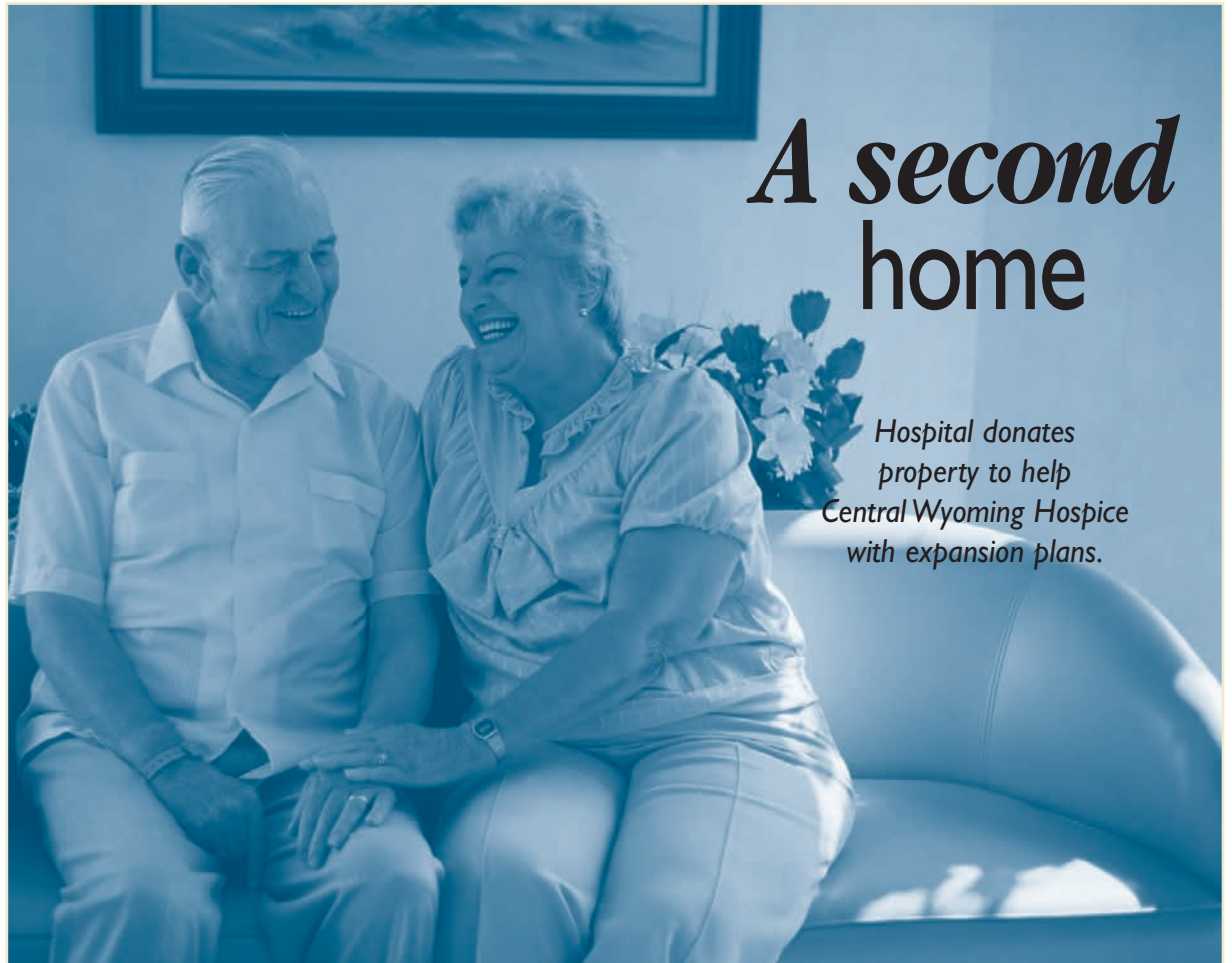
Wyoming Medical Center donated one of its properties this month to help with Central Wyoming Hospice's expansion plans.

Central Wyoming Hospice, which is located a block from the hospital, plans to break ground on a second 10-bed facility in the next 18 months.

"This will double our number of beds and help alleviate our waiting list," said Central Wyoming Hospice Executive Director Marilyn Connor. "We will start a capital campaign this fall to pay for the expansion."

Part of the construction will take place on former Wyoming Medical Center property at 1443 E. Third, which housed the Community Cancer Resource Center. Once the property is handed over, the resource center will move under the wings of the Wyoming Medical Center Foundation (*see sidebar*) and be located in the Women's Services Building on C Street.

The new facility will be separate from Hospice's current center, a decision that was



A second home

Hospital donates property to help Central Wyoming Hospice with expansion plans.

made after Connor and some of her board members toured numerous Hospice centers across Colorado.

"We found that once you add more than 10 beds to your facility, you become institutionalized and lose your home-

like feel," she said. "Even though the two buildings will be next to one another, it is important to keep the two facilities separate to maintain the integrity of our program."

Connor said the new facility will not only assist with local residents needing Hospice services, but also it will help Wyoming Medical Center's discharge planners, who have not always been able to send patients to Hospice because it was full.

"We have a long history with Wyoming Medical Center and have always maintained a good working relationship with the hospital," Connor said. "We are very pleased that they were willing to help us with the expansion of our campus and thank them for their continued support."

To learn more about the expansion plans or ways to help, call Central Wyoming Hospice at 577-4832. ❖

LORENZEN TO LEAD ANGELS PROGRAM

Beginning this month, the Wyoming Medical Center Foundation will oversee the work of the Cancer Resource Center's Angels Program.

Angel Coordinator Katrina Lorenzen will offer the program in the Women's Services Building on C Street and continue to provide local cancer patients with a variety of services.

"The Angels program is made up of more than 200 volunteers who make the lives of cancer patients and their families a little easier as they go through diagnosis, treatment and recovery," Lorenzen said. "The Angels provide assistance to newly diagnosed cancer patients who might need someone to help with mentoring, preparing food, running errands, or help with chores."

In addition, the Angels specialized boutique is staffed with friendly professionals who volunteer their time to assist with special beauty needs such as free make-up, skin products, wigs and wig products and prosthesis fitting. Each Angel is a cancer survivor or

someone whose lives have been touched by cancer. Foundation Director Shawn Bassham said the move to the Foundation is part of its mission statement to expand its community health programs and reach more people in Natrona County.

"It is a good fit for us and our long-term goals," she said. Lorenzen worked for the American Cancer Society prior to her hiring, spending much time in the Cancer Resource Center. Janet Smith, who previously oversaw the center, recently took the service line coordinator position for the Community Development Office.

The Angels Program is a joint effort of the hospital and the American Cancer Society.



Katrina Lorenzen