

55PLUS
 Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center
 1110 N 10th St.
 Beatrice, NE 68310
 www.beatricecommunityhospital.com

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55PLUS NEWS

is a service of Beatrice Community Hospital
 in conjunction with BryanLGH Medical Center

22nd Edition

July 2010

Upcoming Events

Subject to Change

June 17-18

Salt Museum
 Hutchinson, Kansas

July 21-25

Gage County Fair

July 21-27

Yellowstone & Jackson Hole

August - TBA

Summer Social

October 20

New Theater Restaurant
 Kansas City

December

Singing Christmas Tree
 Grand Island

December - TBA

Holiday Social

Featured Articles

- **A Word From The Coordinator**
- **Health Care Reform Legislation**
- **BCHHC Awarded Accreditation**
- **Employee Spotlight**
- **Red, White and Blue Cake**

Deb Whaley

SHIPP Volunteer

223-7227

A Word From The Coordinator

Excitement continues to build as we watch the dirt work get under way at the site for our new hospital north of Beatrice. Concrete and steel work should start any day. Hopefully the really bad winter we had last year is enough and we're due for a milder one this year so the workers can keep working throughout the winter.

The month of May produced a lot of experiences for the Whaley family. Many



of you know our son, Chris, accepted a position with his company in Hong Kong...yep, not a misspelling. I really mean Hong Kong. He's a computer "geek." Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think we'd have a family member living in Hong Kong. They sold off all their stuff and moved the first part of May. It happened so quickly. Thanks to modern technology we've been able to talk frequently and see them on Skype. I guess hubby and I will be making a trip to Hong

Kong...did I really say that?

I'm not through with the experiences in May. Our third grandchild, a boy, was born two weeks early to our daughter and son-in-law. What a special blessing it was for me to be there for the event. One just can't question the "miracle of life" once you've seen it happen. Mom and baby are doing well...daddy and brother too. Some of you told me how fabulous grandparenting was, but didn't believe it until I experienced it. I have been totally shocked.

Our new employee spotlight for this edition came from the south. She has been a real joy to get to know. Since she's a southerner, her accent really tickles me.

We're going to Yellowstone in July. We have a good group going...as always! Pictures will be coming. You'll get an invite soon to the Summer Social at Valentino's and then the New Theatre in Kansas City in October. The show we're going to see is *The Sunshine Boys* starring Howard Hesseman from the TV show *WKRP in Cincinnati*.

Deb Whaley
 BCHHC 55PLUS Coordinator

Mark Your Calendars...

This year's Gage County Fair & Expo will be July 21-25 at the Gage County Fairgrounds in Beatrice. Stop by the hospital booth and pick up a cold bottle of water.

The 2011 Health Expo has been scheduled for Saturday, April 9, at the Southeast Community College Truman Center. This year's event attracted 445 participants.

Castle On The Hill Day Trip



Forty people traveled to Glenwood, Iowa, on a 55PLUS day trip to tour and have lunch at the Castle on The Hill. The group also toured Prairie Crossing Vineyard and Winery, and Prairie Fired Pottery.



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Health Care Reform Legislation Closes Medicare Part D Coverage Gap

New health care reform legislation helps reduce out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for the more than three million Medicare Part D enrollees who fall into the Medicare Part D coverage gap, or “doughnut hole,” each year.

Current doughnut hole costs for Part D enrollees substantial

Currently, Part D enrollees are responsible for 100 percent of their prescription drug costs in the doughnut hole. In 2010, the size of the doughnut hole is \$3,610.

Doughnut hole will close by 2020

- In 2010, Medicare Part D enrollees who enter the doughnut hole will receive a one time rebate of \$250.
- On Jan. 1, 2011, the doughnut hole will begin to close through a combination of Part D enrollee contributions, Medicare contributions, and drug manufacturer contributions. By 2020, Part D enrollees will be responsible for just 25 percent of their prescription drug costs in the doughnut hole.
- Part D enrollees who receive the low-income subsidy are not eligible for the \$250 rebate or discounts in the doughnut hole, because the federal government already covers their costs.
- Between 2014 and 2019, the legislation will adjust the indexing of the out-of-pocket threshold (i.e., the point at which enrollees enter catastrophic coverage) to help slow its growth.

Enrollee costs for brand-name drugs to drop sharply in the doughnut hole

- Starting in 2011, brand-name drug manufacturers will provide a 50 percent discount on brand-name and biologic drugs for enrollees who are in the doughnut hole.
- Starting in 2013, the Medicare program will begin providing an additional discount on brand-name and biologic drugs for enrollees who are in the doughnut hole. This discount will gradually increase until it reaches 25 percent in 2020.
- In 2020, the combination of enrollee contributions (25 percent), Medicare contributions (25 percent), and drug manufacture contributions (50 percent) will effectively close the doughnut hole.

Enrollees’ generic drug costs to drop gradually in the doughnut hole

- In 2011, the Medicare program will begin providing a discount on generic prescription drugs for enrollees who are in the doughnut hole. This discount will gradually increase until it reaches 75 percent in 2020.
- In 2020, the combination of enrollee contributions (25 percent) and Medicare contributions (75 percent) will effectively close the doughnut hole.

AARP Public Policy Institute

BCHHC Awarded Accreditation From The Joint Commission

Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval.

The Joint Commission is a national accrediting organization for hospitals, and BCHHC earned the Gold Seal of Approval by demonstrating compliance with federal regulatory standards for health care quality and safety.

“We believe The Joint Commission accreditation process is valuable because it is a way for us to demonstrate our commitment to patient safety and quality care,” said Tom Sommers, chief executive officer of BCHHC. “Seeking this accreditation is voluntary and we do it because we want our patients to know we are following safe practices and meeting national standards of care.”

To earn the Gold Seal of Approval, The Joint Commission conducts an unannounced on-site evaluation of the hospital and reviews and inspects all aspects of the Critical Access Hospital, the clinical laboratories, and home

health, personal nursing care and hospice services.

Accreditation is an ongoing process, said Linda Ament, compliance and regulations officer for BCHHC, and assists the hospital in monitoring, updating and improving its procedures and policies on an ongoing basis.

“The value of this survey is that it lets us know what we are doing well and assists us in identifying areas of service that need improvement,” she said.

BCHHC is one of only four critical access hospitals in Nebraska to become accredited by the The Joint Commission, joining Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance, Community Hospital in McCook and Phelps Memorial Health Center in Holdrege in earning the Gold Seal of Approval.

For more information, go online to The Joint Commission Web site at <http://www.jointcommission.org>.

Employee Spotlight

Director of Patient Accounts

Clarissa Suiter is our featured hospital employee for this publication. As noted, she is the new Director of Patient Accounts (also known as the Business Office). She came to Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center in November 2009. She likes the size of Beatrice, its people, and its proximity to Lincoln.

Clarissa and her two sons came to Beatrice from Greenville, Ky., but she is from West Memphis, Ark., where people from all over



go to experience anything that is barbecued. Her oldest son graduated from high school this year and her younger son will start middle school in the fall.

Clarissa received her Bachelor of Science degree in math. She was asked how it has been in Beatrice as a minority and she replied that just by being a math major, she

has always been in some sort of minority. Clarissa used to be a professional seamstress, so sewing is still her hobby.

Since being at BCHHC she has been impressed with the professionalism of the staff at the hospital as well as their adherence to what matters in knowing their jobs. There have been a lot of changes for those in her department and she has been impressed with the teamwork her staff has exhibited.

She would like all hospital patients to know that the Business Office is their advocate, and encourages anyone who doesn’t understand something or has questions, particularly with Medicare, to respond in a timely matter and ask those questions. She said her office is available to help.

Clarissa also wanted to remind seniors that the hospital does not contract with any Medicare Advantage Plan. Before signing up with a Medicare Advantage Plan, she encourages everyone to call their physician, to see if they contract with the plan that is being considered.

We welcome Clarissa to BCHHC!



Site work has begun on the new replacement hospital construction site in north Beatrice along U.S. Highway 77. Crews have been busy clearing off old buildings and moving dirt to level the ground. With cooperation from the weatherman, work will continue with concrete and steel work.

Red, White and Blue Cake

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 can cherry pie filling | 2 sticks butter, melted |
| 1 cup fresh blueberries | 1 cup nuts, chopped |
| 1 box white cake mix | |

Directions:

In a 9-by-12-inch greased pan, layer the ingredients in the order listed. Bake at 325 degrees F for 45 minutes.

Note:

You do not need to mix up the cake mix. Add the dry mix in the order the ingredients are listed. The melted margarine will dissolve the dry mixture.

*Jennifer Sirek
BCHHC Nutritional Services Director*

Cafeteria Open Longer Hours

Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center Cafeteria hours:

Hot Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Hot Lunch: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hot Supper: 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Along with the new hours comes a new supper menu as well. The cafeteria is open to the public.

Bring this coupon in for

20%

off any item in the

Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center

Gift Shop

Excludes cards and candy
Expires October 1, 2010