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A Few Words from Matt:

“Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better.”

King Whitney Jr.

“The need for change bulldozed a road down the center of my mind.”

Maya Angelou

Sometimes life goes along with your plans. And sometimes it doesn't. The economic situation in the country and state has brought about a great deal of the latter here of late for many people.

So, it saddens me to say that the new building project has been suspended for a year. The Board of Directors, at their regularly scheduled meeting which was held on January 22nd, voted in favor of my recommendation to suspend the project, and to re-evaluate it in January of 2010. I made this recommendation because of the changing economic situation Labette Center will be in for the next several years. As I write this, the *best* scenario for our state funding means an approximate \$91,000 reduction in the money we receive from the state to provide services to those who cannot afford to pay for their care. Other scenarios are being debated that would make the reduction to us even larger.

I struggled with what to recommend to the board. Part of me wanted to charge ahead in a “damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead” Type A personality kind of way. Truth be told, I don't naturally welcome life causing me to look at my plans. But the State's budget reality started the “bulldozer” from the quote above for my mind. Ultimately I landed on this; we are here to serve the people and communities of Labette County, just like our mission statement says. I value that too much, and value the kind of staff it takes to do that too much, to put all of that at risk by not changing “the plan.” I believe building a new facility this year would have done just that.

So, I and we will do our best to fulfill the hope and confidence of the first quote above. We'll strive to make some things better. Some of that can and will be improvements to the buildings we're in. Some of that will be processes we use as a business. Some of that will be improvements in ways we act out our mission. Let these things feed your hope and confidence that things WILL get better.

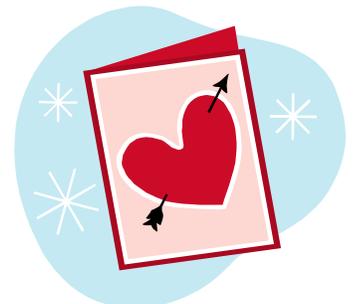
Matt

Annual Dinner at the Country Club Goes Well

Once again the Annual Dinner took place at Parsons Golf Club and Restaurant. There was a very good turnout for this year's dinner, with approximately 105 in attendance. With the growth of the center, so comes the growth of attendees at the dinner. This year's was noted by some to have the largest turnout to date. Thank you to all who attended.

New BCBS Cards

Between January 1st and December 31st, 2009 there will be new BCBS cards distributed to employees. The new cards have been designed so that they are easier to read and understand. This makes it easier for both members and providers to more quickly find the information they are looking for. Each of the 39 independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans collaborated on the new design, which in turn means that over 100 million BCBS members across the country will be carrying the same card. Be on the look out for your new card.



New Employees

Brittini Murphy has joined the LCMHS staff. She began work on January 15th, 2009 as a Navigators Aid. Welcome Brittini!!



Brittini Murphy

Tara Fleck has joined the LCMHS staff. Tara is a Master Level Psychologist and began working at the center on January 20th, 2009. She graduated with her Bachelors of Science in Psychology and a minor in Justice Studies in 2006. She then went on to receive her Masters of Science in Psychology, with an emphasis in Clinical Psychology, in 2008. She did her practicum and internship at the Stephens Unit in Joplin, MO and has worked with mostly adults and older adults. We Welcome Tara to the team!!!



Tara Fleck



Wedding Announcement

Michael Allen Purcell
And
Natasha Lynn Robinson

Invite you to share
in the celebration of love
as they exchange their marriage vows
On Saturday, the 21st of February, 2009
At 3:00 pm at the
Assembly of God Church
1323 West 4th Oswego, KS

Appetizers and Cake Reception following

(Natasha is a Receptionist in the Front Office)

Monthly Trivia

January Answer

Hattie Caraway, of Arkansas was the first woman to be *elected* to the US Senate in 1932. She had been appointed to fill her husbands seat after his death, then ran on her own in 1932 and won. She was then re-elected in 1938 and served until 1945.

However there was another woman who sat in the Senate previous to Hattie Caraway. Rebecca Felton of Georgia, was official the 1st woman to *sit by appointment* in the US Senate. She was appointed on November 21st, 1922 to fill a vacancy. The 87 year old woman served for 24 hours.

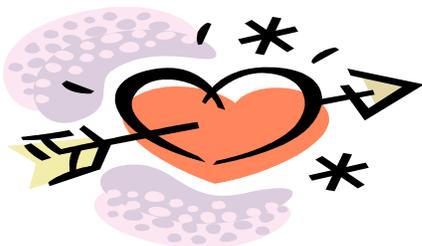
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(I accepted either answer for the January Trivia Question.)

The winner was:
Asha Patel

Trivia Question of the Month:

What sport sparked a war between El Salvador and Honduras, after an unpopular referee's call in 1969?



Anniversaries

Anita Vail Children's Case Manager	2 yrs	Feb. 1st
Trinnette Craddock TCM	6 yrs	Feb. 1st
Debra Williams Supportive Employment/Apt. Manager	5 yrs	Feb. 16th
Susan Lynch Attendant Care	12 yrs	Feb. 21st

February Birthdays

Alice Priest Attendant Care	Feb. 1st
Fran Clay Receptionist - Night Shift	Feb. 9th
Beverly Ruttgen Receptionist - Oswego Office	Feb. 17th

February is

American Heart Month
International Boost Self Esteem Month
National Cherry Pie Month
National Laugh-Friendly Month
Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month
Youth Leadership Month
Boy Scout Anniversary Week Feb. 3-9
International Hoof Care Week Feb. 3-9
Jell-O Week Feb. 8-14
International Friendship Week Feb. 17-23
National Pancake Week Feb. 22-28
G.I. Joe Day Feb. 1
Spunky Ol' Broads Day Feb. 1
Ground Hog Day Feb. 2
Wear Red Day Feb 6
National Gum Drop Day Feb. 15
World Day for Social Justice Feb. 20

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Moon Phases for February

First Quarter Feb. 2nd
Full Moon Feb. 9th
Last Quarter Feb. 16th
New Moon Feb. 24th



The full moon on Feb. 9th is called the "Snow Moon" by Native Americans of New England and the Great Lakes because this time of the year they experienced heavy snow fall. It is also call the "Hunger Moon" because of the meager hunting during this time of the year.

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Kansas History in February

1 - [1887] - A "weigh social" was held at Sabetha. A man paid a third of a cent per pound of a woman's weight for the privilege of eating supper with her.

13 - [1905] - Cold weather over Kansas reached 22 to 30 degrees below zero. Temperatures had not risen above freezing for six weeks. Trains were delayed by heavy snows. Losses in livestock would be heaviest since 1886.

18 - [1891] - The bill for complete woman suffrage was reconsidered and passed the House, 69 to 34. the day before it had been defeated by three votes.

21 - [1921] - Kansans were buying automobiles at the rate of 300 a day.

24 - [1906] - Fire started by a meteor destroyed the house, barn and granary of Joshua Taylor, southwest of Abilene.

26 - [1867] - The gopher bill was changed by the Senate into a grasshopper bill, giving a bounty for all scalps of grasshoppers furnished with the ears.

American History in February

Feb. 1st, 1790 - The US Supreme Court met for the first time
Feb. 1st, 1958 - The first US Satellite was launched
Feb. 1st, 2003 - Space Shuttle Columbia exploded on reentry killing all seven astronauts.

Feb. 6th, 1788 - Massachusetts was admitted as the 6th state

Feb. 7th, 1964 - The Beatles arrived in United States for their first visit

Feb. 13th, 1935 - The Lindbergh baby killer was found guilty of kidnapping and murder.

Feb. 14th, 1779 - Captain Cook was killed in Hawaii

Feb. 14th, 1929 - Valentine's Day Massacre occurred in Chicago when seven gangsters were killed by Al Capone.

Feb. 17th, 1909 - Geronimo died

Feb. 24th, 1868 - Andrew Johnson was impeached.

Feb. 25th, 1862 - Greenbacks, America's first paper money not redeemable in gold or silver, was issued by Abraham Lincoln

Feb. 25th, 1913 - The 16th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified creating the income tax.

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Super Bowl Sunday!!!!

Sunday February 1st, 2009 was Super Bowl XLIII. The competition between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Arizona Cardinals took place at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, with kick off at approximately 6:28 pm. EST (7:28 pm Central). Bruce Springsteen put on the musical performance at half time of the game.

And what a game it was! Packed full of excitement and remarkable plays, it was a game to keep you on the seat of your chair! In the end the Steelers were victorious with a 27 to 23 score. But the Cardinals had a heck of a game and have every reason to hold their heads high. This win gave the Steelers their sixth Super Bowl trophy, which gives them more wins than any other team in the league. Head coach, Mike Tomlin, became the youngest coach to win a Super Bowl and Santonio Holmes was awarded MVP.

Our Vision ~ Provide the highest quality of comprehensive services to empower the people and communities of Labette County. We envision fulfilling and meaningful lives for those we serve.

Our Mission ~ Create hope and opportunities for life change by providing education, support, consultation and therapeutic behavioral health services to the people and communities of Labette County.

