

PERRY Herald

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THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2010

North Main Medical Center Opens



County Board of Supervisors Chairman Doug Berwanger and Wyoming County Community Hospital CEO Ron Krawiec cut the ribbon held by supervisors Joe Kushner of Eagle, far left, and Douglas Patti of Attica, far right.

HOSPITAL OPENS CONVENIENT OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION AND LAB SERVICES FACILITY

Wyoming County Community Health System held a ribbon-cutting to open its North Main Medical Building, located at 408 North Main Street in Warsaw. Grand opening ceremonies Wednesday, June 30 showcased the new, comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation and Laboratory Draw Services facility. Outpatient services at WCCHS represent the highest volume of services at the facility. Relocating these two high volume services to North Main Medical, which is adjacent to the hospital,

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Fatal Fall in Letchworth

An accidental fall at Letchworth State Park at around 9:30 PM, Saturday, July 3, 2010 claimed the life of 19-year-old Andrew G. Brinkman of Amherst. Brinkman was on a stone wall near the octagon picnic shelter before the footbridge trail to the Lower Falls area. He fell approximately 300 feet. He was in the park area with three friends. Emergency responders located his body at the edge of the river between the Lower Falls and Lee's landing. Brinkman was pronounced dead at the scene. Park police do not suspect drugs and alcohol use.

Brinkman had visited the park for the first time a few weeks ago and liked it so much he returned for a second visit last Saturday. Friends told his family that he was enjoying himself when he slipped and fell. The Buffalo native grew up in Cheektowaga graduating Amherst Central School in 2008. He was a student at Erie Community College where he was studying in the homeland security program. He had been employed as a security guard and was slated to start a new job this week at Mighty Taco. In addition to his parents, he is survived by a seven-year-old sister.

Assisting at the scene: the State Park Rope Rescue Team, an aviation unit of the State Police, Wyoming County-based fire and rescue services and Adventure Calls Rafting.-LS

A Bike Ride, Chalk Art Festival & Tastes of Summer

The 4th annual Tour de Per-RY Bicycle ride is this Saturday, July 10 along with the Perry Chalk Art Festival. The routes include a 9-mile route that takes riders through the village and along the east side of Silver Lake. The Loop the Lake route is a 16-mile swing down the west side of Silver Lake, through Castile and back to the Perry. For riders looking for a more challenging ride, there is the 42-mile Letchworth Loop that will travel through the rural countryside, sweep through Letchworth State Park and return to Main St Perry. All routes are supported with a rest, refreshment and bathroom site.

Also that day: the Taste of Perry, a 4-H agility dog performance, a church sponsored BBQ and The Perry Farmers Market. For additional information, go to www.tourdeperry.com or contact Jane at 585-237-6709 with questions.



Historic Warsaw Alive July 9-10

The Historic Warsaw Alive Committee and Warsaw Historical Society proudly present "Warsaw's Old Week" festival, a "Celebration of Community and Business, 1910-2010." The festival is Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10 in Warsaw along with the Community Sidewalk Sale, July 8-10.

Help the community by donating non-perishable items to the Warsaw Food Pantry next week. Collection containers will be at various locations in the Village.

The festival kicks off with a Zeches Cutest Baby Contest with eligible entries being photos taken of those born between 1911 and 1953 at the old Wyoming County Community Hospital on W. Buffalo Street, now home to Zeches Furniture.

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New Medical Center (Continued from Page 1)

enhances accessibility, convenience, and privacy for patients. Ample ground level parking and access to more efficient registration processes will save time and reduce frustration for customers.

"This transition marks a significant progression towards enhanced customer service and patient-centered care on our campus," said Ron Krawiec, CEO of WCCHS. Relocating Physical Therapy and Outpatient Laboratory Draw services to the North Main Medical Building will uphold WCCHS' standard of quality care while emphasizing excellence in customer service.

"I believe that shifting these outpatient services to the North Main Medical Building is the first, exciting step in our plans toward creating greater accessibility and convenience for our patients," said Laurie Reger, Director of Physician Services at WCCHS.

The North Main Medical Building is the first in a series of updates and modifications to WCCHS facilities.

WCCHS Board of Managers, along with the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors, are seeking final approval for the planned renovations to the hospital.

Radiology, Surgical Services, Emergency and Admissions will be reconfigured and provide more convenience and privacy to patients. Funding has been pre-approved for this project and awaits final approval.

County leaders last Wed., June 30, cut the ribbon to officially open the North Main Street Medical building. County Board of Supervisors Chairman Doug Berwanger addressed a crowd of people on hand for the first tours of the facility that will house multiple health services and physician offices.

Berwanger said hospital CEO Ron Krawiec was just two months into the post when he suggested the County purchase the building. The County Board had thought about it previously but Krawiec, said Berwanger, was the driving force behind the acquisition.

"In looking back, it was a great move," said Berwanger.

After the purchase was complete, the county Buildings and Grounds staff, led by Superintendent Dennis Halstead, renovated it. Halstead worked closely with County Hospital Superintendent Ted Fritz. Now completed, the site is called the North Main Medical Building. It houses several therapy services and a blood drawing laboratory. Its parking lot has a 97-vehicle capacity with Duncan Street access.

Berwanger credited County Budget Officer Janis Cook and USDA loan representative Dawn Curriss for their work on the financials. He acknowledged the presence of representatives for Congressman Chris Lee, NYS Senator Dale Volker and NYS Assemblyman Dan Burling.

"Wyoming County Board of Supervisors is firmly and strongly committed to maintain the County health system. We're committed to delivering the best possible health care to Wyoming County," Berwanger said.

Special recognition was paid to the hospital's Capital ONE Campaign Co-Chairs Jim VanArsdale and Russ and Janet Miller, also attending the medical center ribbon-cutting.

"They raised a lot of money and without that, we wouldn't be where we are today," said Berwanger.

Attica Supervisor Douglas Patti, chair of the County Public Works Committee, called it another historic day in Wyoming County. The County on July 2, 2008 purchased the deteriorating building for \$641,000 and paid \$27,000 in back taxes on it for a total purchase price of \$668,000. A "408 North Main" subcommittee formed and has met

monthly since then. Patti commended the work of Covington Supervisor/County Finance Committee Chairman Jerry Davis, Eagle Supervisor/Public Health Committee Chairman Joe Kushner, hospital superintendent Fritz, County Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Halstead and the committee's assistance from County Board Clerk Cheryl Ketchum and Budget Officer Janis Cook. Patti said the major work was completed by Halstead's staff making it timely, cost effective and of good quality. The total cost including purchase price was \$1.5 million. Patti said \$650,000 was saved by using the County workforce. That same workforce has moved on to its next renovation at the Department of Social Services complex.

The County will turn over 408 North Main Medical to the hospital, which has already leased office space to several physicians.

"[It's] the team effort that goes into projects like this that [show] Wyoming County is the best place to live and work," Patti concluded.

Hospital CEO Krawiec announced that the physical therapy and the hospital lab will open in a few weeks at 408 N. Main pending approval from the County Health Department.

Krawiec said a survey of outpatients conducted 3-4 years ago started the changes. Seventy percent of the responders cited a lack of parking. Now physical therapy, a repetitive service for which some patients come 2-3 times a week, will have a ground level entrance into 408 N. Main. So will lab patients. The hospital conducts 78,000 lab tests annually.

Many of the therapy suites have yet to be furnished so guides explained the various types of equipment that will be in place in coming weeks. Officials did not release the names and office hours for the tenants. An Alternative Therapy suite will offer craniosacral therapy, acupressure and hand therapy. Hydrotherapy will operate once equipment is installed.

15-20 employees will work at the center. Their lunchroom looks out onto a hillside of landscaped plantings installed by volunteers led by Barbara Wood.

"Everything we've done is in a manner to make it easily accessible," Krawiec concluded.

The new center is the County Arts Council's newest satellite gallery. ACWC Director Jackie Hoyt said facility users will enjoy a wide range of artwork that will be displayed on a 3-month rotating schedule.

Upstate Transplant Services donated all the food and drinks for the open house.-LS

