May is National Osteoporosis Month

May is Osteoporosis Awareness month. According to the National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF) one in two women and one in four men aged 50 and older will break a bone due to osteoporosis.

Breaking a bone is a serious complication of osteoporosis. Fractures are most likely to occur at the hip, arm, spine or wrist.

A bone density test, or DXA, is an excellent test to determine if you are at high risk for developing osteoporosis and when you should begin screening tests.

Risk factors include smoking, inactive life style, steroid medications, excessive alcohol use, and not enough calcium and vitamin D in your diet.

The uncontrolled risk factors include increasing age, being a post-menopausal female, family history of osteoporosis, low body weight and history of broken bones or height loss. Most women 65 or over should be tested and many men over 70 should be considered for a DXA screening. Anyone over 50 who has fallen from a standing height with a resultant fracture should be evaluated.

Bone loss can increase your chances for a fracture as you age which can be very costly. According to the NOF, 54 million Americans have low bone density or osteoporosis that leads to more than 800,000 emergency room visits and more than 2.6 million doctor visits annually.

Fortunately, osteoporosis can be detected and effectively treated. Effective treatment with good nutrition and appropriate medications can reduce the risk of fractures by at least half.

If you’d like to schedule an appointment with our specialist, Dr. Kelly Krohn, call St. Aloisius Clinic at 701-324-5131.

Dry Needling Offered

Beginning April 15, Dry Needling is being offered through the St. Aloisius Physical Therapy Department. One of the most reported conditions to seek medical attention are musculoskeletal complaints, and dry needling offers an alternative and additional treatment modality to treat such conditions.

Dry Needling is used in the treatment of myofascial trigger points (MTrPs). MTrPs are hypersensitive “knots” within a taut band of skeletal muscle. The primary goal of dry needling, and ongoing research is beginning to demonstrate, is to desensitize supersensitive structures and to restore motion and function, as well as to possibly induce a healing response.

A tiny monofilament needle is used, similar to the needles that are used during acupuncture. Specific conditions that could benefit from Dry Needling include, but are not limited to:

- muscle tightness
- presence of scar tissue
- tendinopathies
- whiplash
- back pain
- fibromyalgia
- tennis elbow
- plantar fasciitis
- joint problems.

Dry Needling is used as part of an overall plan that may include exercise, manual therapy, and/or education. Call 701-324-5119 with any questions or to secure an appointment.
I believe spring has arrived in Harvey… maybe. It appears the snow geese are traveling south and the robins have arrived, however, we received yet another snow storm in the middle of April. Go figure! That said, there is more exciting times and news for the future at St. Aloisius Medical Center.

To begin, our ancillary departments are increasing their services to our customers and patients. The Radiology Department has received and installed a new 3D mammography unit. St. Aloisius continues to keep up with the most state-of-the-art equipment such as our new 3D mammography unit and it is our intent to have ALL our patients stay in Harvey for this service instead of having to travel to receive this service elsewhere.

Our Physical Therapy Department is also growing with personnel and services. We recently hired an additional physical therapist that will be joining our team. Amanda Sansaver has currently completed her internship as a student and will be ready to join our team in May. In addition, our PT director traveled to Minnesota for training to perform “Dry Needling”. Brenda Finley has currently started this service line and is already developing a following of several patients who are requesting this type of service.

Our new clinic is also functioning very strong. St. Aloisius has decided to start providing additional services starting with Saturday clinics. In April, St. Aloisius Medical Center began providing Saturday clinics open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will provide care on a first come first serve basis for non-emergent care. The Saturday clinic was a result of requests from many people in the communities we serve.

In addition to the increase in service hours to our clinic, there will be more providers added to our team. I’m proud to announce that Dr. Michael Page will be performing colonoscopies and soon we will be developing a vein clinic here at St. Aloisius. Dr. Page will be starting his practice here at St. Aloisius in May with one day per month.

In addition, I’m extremely proud to announce that Deb Buxa, FNP and Lisa Neumiller, FNP will be partnering with St. Aloisius and will be joining our team of providers starting in June of 2019. Deb and Lisa will bring a wealth of knowledge and understanding to the patients/customers we serve and will continue to see their existing patients without a glitch in service. Their offices will be located at St. Aloisius Medical Center.

We will soon be providing medical services in our clinic in Fessenden two to three days per week as well and will make an official announcement when that date gets closer.

Finally, I’m very excited to announce that our journey in having St. Aloisius Medical Center become a top 100 Critical Access Hospital in the U.S. is becoming more of a reality than a dream. I believe by the end of summer our scores will launch us into that category. By becoming a top 100 Critical Access Hospital, it will recognize the excellent quality of work being performed on a daily basis by every discipline here at St. Aloisius!

Again and always I want to thank EVERYONE for their continued support towards our ministry!

God Bless.
Mike Zwicker, CEO
3-D Mammography in Harvey

St. Aloisius is excited to announce the implementation of a new Hologic Dimensions 3D Mammography unit! We have just recently finished the installation process and April 16-17th we will be training with our applications specialist. We will begin seeing patients on April 17th, with Mammography services continuing Monday through Friday 7:30am-4:30pm. We have 3 registered mammography technologists.

Having a 3D system in Harvey will be a valuable upgrade to our Radiology Department. The standard of care has moved from the 2D images to 3D imaging and we are excited to offer that so our patients don’t have to drive to the larger facilities, or book in advance due to a limited number of these 3D machines throughout our state. We can usually get patients in the same day or better yet, at YOUR convenience.

The biggest difference between the 2D and 3D images is that with 3D the tubehead moves during the exam, or “arcs” above the patient, which is how the images are captured. We still use the compression paddle to gently compress the breast tissue, so that remains the same.

The actual images themselves are where the biggest difference is seen. 3D provides better visualization, making it easier to identify masses, distortions or asymmetric densities in the breast, and as mentioned earlier, it detects more invasive breast cancers than 2D mammography alone. It also provides greater accuracy, up to 65% increase in invasive cancer detection, while also decreasing the chance of being called back for additional images by up to 40%, which creates less anxiety for our patients.

American Cancer Society guidelines have recently changed. Recommendations for women with average risk, ages 40-44, should have their baseline mammogram and ages 45-54 should have a yearly mammogram. Women 55 and older can continue yearly screening or can switch to every other year provided their risk factors have not changed. This is something that should be discussed with your provider. Most insurance companies will continue to cover annual 3D exams as well as Medicare/Medicaid at no cost to you as part of the preventative screening practices.

We look forward to better serving our communities and we are continually advancing our equipment and technology to offer our patients the highest quality of care.

To schedule an appointment, please call the Radiology Department at 701-324-5107.

BP NUMBER is . . .

...IS THAT GOOD?

A Nurse’s Perspective

Blood Pressure (BP) number is so important to understand. WHY? Because your life may depend on it.

During the opportunity I have to check people’s BP, I have the honor of educating them about their BP reading. Most people want to hear the information and often share, “I know what I need to do”.

We have so much research that tells us the need for fresh air and ‘play’ in our lives. Play can be defined as the “Joy” of an activity: sharing time with a friend, taking a walk, take a breath and breathe, really breathe. We know our mental and physical health benefits with taking time for ourselves. I challenge you to take 5 minutes a day for YOU.

Our nation is the wealthiest in the world but unfortunately the statistics say we are unhealthy. So I ask you, rather than discussing how expensive healthcare is, can we discuss how each of us can choose to focus on ‘how can we prevent health problems”.

I have seen amazing healthcare advancements in 37 years, but I’ve also watched families struggle to make decisions when their family member could no longer voice their wishes during a health crisis, such as a stroke caused by uncontrolled high BP.

Talk to each other and make sure you share with your family members about your wishes for healthcare directives. Also, the answer to my original question, “Is that good?” Know your BP number and what it means and listen to your healthcare provider. They want you to be healthy and have a long healthy life, because “YOU MATTER”.

Beth Huseth, RN

Pictured with the new St. Aloisius 3D Mammography Unit are Radiology Technicians Colleen LaFontaine, Danica Grossman and Krystal Wiesz, with their trainer from Hologic, Mahshied Sadreameli, Clinical Applications Specialist (center front).
“Healthy People, Happy People”

St. Aloisius 36th Health, Fitness & Safety Fair

“Healthy People, Happy People” is the theme of this year’s 36th annual Health, Fitness and Safety fair sponsored by St. Aloisius Medical Center in Harvey, ND. The fair will be held on May 1, 2019 at the Harvey City Hall/Armory from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be served by the Harvey Kiwanis again this year with proceeds going toward school scholarships for area students.

We always like to involve the communities in which we serve by pulling together community and healthcare services in one place in order to provide services and information to everyone. This year is no exception. Currently there already are over 40 exhibitor tables reserved.

This is an event that the community really looks forward to each year. We try to make it fun for all ages but along with the fun and excitement we provide helpful resources and education.

“Healthy People, Happy People” in regard to whole community healthcare is our top priority at St. Aloisius Medical Center. We look forward to visiting with you at the health fair May 1.

March 28, 2019, our Decontamination Team practiced suiting-up in preparation of an actual contamination incident. If a patient comes to St. Aloisius Medical Center who has been exposed to a chemical and has not changed clothes or showered, we have a crew that can be ready to assist them without contaminating other people within our facility! Being on the Decontamination Team is a calling above and beyond their “normal job duties.”

At St. Aloisius Medical Center we do two kinds of decontamination training:

- 1st Receiver Certification: First Receiver Operations Level Training includes hazard recognition, signs and symptoms of contamination or exposure, decontamination procedures, selection and use of personal protective equipment which is part of a statewide training.
- Local Hands-On: Receive hands-on training and includes practice for all the members of the team not just the certified members.

PALLIATIVE CARE AVAILABLE

The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) defines palliative care as “specialized care for people with serious illnesses” with the following characteristics:

• Focuses on relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness
• Aims to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family
• Provides an extra layer of support at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and can be provided along with curative treatment
• Supports patient and family, not only by controlling symptoms, but also by helping to understand treatment options and goals

St Aloisius has developed a Task Force that meets to identify how we will can bring this program to our facility.

CHI Health at Home has implemented a Palliative Care Program for people living with a serious illness in their home. Any question contact Beth Huseth at 701-341-0756.

Decontamination Team Practices Suiting-Up

Miranda Weninger, Jackie Martin, Nathan Pitchford, Jessica Hanson (in decon gear), Kevin Tuenge, and Christy Arends. Other team members not pictured: Christina Henderson, Joe Volk, Gary Kennedy, Lorie Sieg, Michael Glennie

Splash Dash

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SPLASH DASH PLANNED FOR JULY 4, 2019
Splash Dash is a Water Filled 5K Walk/Run
Sponsored by Community Cares/PFS Coalition for Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco and Mental Health Awareness
Watch for details and plan to participate!
St. Aloisius Medical Center is proud to announce that they are the recipient of Pinnacle Quality Insight's 2019 Customer Experience Award. Qualifying for the award in the following 12 categories:

- Activities
- Cleanliness
- Communication from Facility
- Dining Service
- Individual Needs
- Laundry Service
- Nursing Care
- Overall Customer Experience
- Overall Satisfaction
- Recommend to Others
- Response to Problems
- Safety and Security

St. Aloisius displays a continued dedication to providing best-in-class senior healthcare services.

Mike Zwicker, CEO describes receiving the award(s) as an honor, stating that, "The Pinnacle Quality Insight's 2019 Customer Experience Award™ is a reflection of the outstanding quality care that our staff provides every day to our residents. I am extremely proud of everyone who contributed to these awards and I thank them for their dedication and commitment to quality care here at St. Aloisius Medical Center."

Throughout its over 80-year history of serving the community, St. Aloisius has placed a strong emphasis on ensuring that the individual needs of every resident are met. Over the course of 2018, a sampling of customers and their families have participated in monthly telephone interviews that include open-ended questions, as well the opportunity to rate St. Aloisius in specific categories.

Every month, St. Aloisius has gathered its real-time survey results to gain a better understanding of the residents' needs and to make improvements when necessary. By qualifying for the Pinnacle Customer Experience Award™, St. Aloisius has satisfied the rigorous demand of scoring in the top 15% of the nation across a 12-month average.

Clients have the opportunity to achieve this Best in Class distinction on a monthly basis in many categories designed to accurately reflect each resident’s experience.

About Pinnacle Quality Insight

A customer satisfaction measurement firm with 23 years of experience in post-acute healthcare, Pinnacle conducts over 150,000 phone surveys each year and works with more than 2,700 care providers in all 50 US states, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Deb McAvoy Retiring

Deb McAvoy, MSN, RN, Clinical Faculty and Site Manager for Bismarck State College at Harvey, ND, has decided to retire at the end of the current nursing class which ends in May, 2019.

Deb earned her Master’s Degree in nursing in 2014 and has assisted other nurses in obtaining their Registered Nursing degree. She has always made her students a priority. She believes that rural hospitals need to grow their own nurses. Because of Deb’s leadership, our students graduate at the top of the class year after year. She has also conducted C.N.A and C.M.A. classes, new employee orientation and skills validation.

She loves teaching and it has truly been a calling for her. She loves to see the students, watch them grow and bring them through the nursing program successfully. Deb has been an outstanding instructor at St. Aloisius.

In 2018, Deb was one of two recipients of the Outstanding Rural Educator/Mentor Award. She has instructed and mentored many nursing students since our nursing program began. She has also taught many C.N.A’s and C.M.A’s here at St. Aloisius.

The Outstanding Rural Educator/Mentor Award is presented to a professional who has made outstanding contributions to the education, development and placement of new healthcare professionals in rural North Dakota communities. Academic educators, community-based instructors and preceptors are eligible for this award.

Deb will be greatly missed at St. Aloisius and we truly wish her the best with her retirement.

Sarah Gregg, RN, Diabetes Educator has accepted the position of Clinical Faculty and Site Manager for Bismarck State College at Harvey left by Deb McAvoy. Sarah graduated in 2013 from our nursing program. We really do “grow our own” nurses. Sarah will continue with the Diabetes Educator role but will also step into her new duties with the fall nursing school term here at St. Aloisius.

St. Aloisius Resident/Family Picnic

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the yard beside the nursing home and behind St. Cecilia Catholic Church (same area as last year). Please mark your calendar. We will send reminders out to each family when this date gets closer.
Heart Disease and Diabetes

“At age 60, having type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease shortens life expectancy by an average of 12 years.” (KnowDiabetesByHeart.org)

The American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association have joined forces to educate the public about the link between heart disease and diabetes by releasing the KnowDiabetesByHeart.org campaign. Cardiovascular disease is the #1 cause of death in people with diabetes and people with diabetes are two times more likely to develop cardiovascular disease.

High blood glucose (sugar) levels damage both the vessels and nerves of the body, making them prone to injury from high blood pressure and plaque buildup. You can reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease by 33-55% by managing your blood sugars.

Cardiovascular risk factors should be assessed by your provider at least yearly and include obesity/overweight, hypertension (high blood pressure), dyslipidemia (high cholesterol), smoking, family history of premature coronary disease, chronic kidney disease, and the presence of albuminuria (protein in the urine).

How can I reduce my cardiovascular risk when I have diabetes?
- Managing your blood sugars
- Start making lifestyle changes including losing weight, eating a balanced and healthy meal plan, and increasing your physical activity
- Taking medications as prescribed by your provider
- Talking to your provider about aspirin therapy
- Quit smoking
- Managing stress
- Tracking your blood sugars, blood pressure, cholesterol, and body weight.

Talk with your provider about your risk for cardiovascular disease and start taking action now to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

If you have questions or want to know more about our Diabetes Education please call: Sarah Gregg, RN: Diabetes Educator #324-4769 ext. 5416 or Lanette Mertz, LRD: Dietician #324-4769 ext. 5105.

You won’t want to miss St. Aloisius Medical Center’s 36th Health, Fitness & Safety Fair!! “Healthy People, Happy People”
Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Harvey City Hall

FREE Admission!

Free blood pressure checks, vision screens, injury screenings, colorectal screening kits, derma scan screenings, product samples, and more! Stop by the ice cream cone booth!

Great door prizes! More than 40 exhibitors!

Information on therapies, Health Care Directives, Medicare, Women’s Way, cancer screenings, healthy eating, hearing loss, assistive technology and resources, finger printing for employment, foster care, children’s services and many more health and safety ideas, resources and products!

Lunch selections will be available from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. with proceeds going toward the Harvey Kiwanis High School Scholarships. SUPPORT KIWANIS & KIDS!!

See you at the fair!
Why and how we assess community health needs

A community health needs assessment is a systematic process involving the community to identify and analyze community health needs. This process provides a way for communities to prioritize health needs, and to plan and act upon unmet community health needs. St. Aloisius Medical center is required to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment every 3 years. Collaboration with the Wells County District Health Unit (WCDHU) and community engagement is essential. Let’s review the goals for 2016 community needs Assessment.

- **Physician Retention**: A priority identified in 2016 was physician retention and recruitment. In August 2018, one full-time physician and one full-time nurse practitioner was hired. Another full-time physician was hired in January 2019.

- **Access to specialists**: Dr. Kelly Krohn, Bone Health Specialist, comes monthly to St. Aloisius Clinic where patients can make appointments to see him.

  We increased Dr. Ronald Skipper’s availability for surgical and colonoscopy services to two time per month. Sarah Gregg, RN Diabetes Educator was certified as a Diabetes Educator and is working with WCDHU for prediabetes education.

  Dr. Michael Page will begin in May 2019 with colonoscopies one day per month.

- **Access to fitness equipment**: St. Aloisius Medical Center Wellness Center continues to be available for the community and staff.

- **Healthy Eating**: During the past three years there was a bariatric support group that met monthly by telemedicine with CHI St. Alexius.

- **Substance abuse education**: WCDHU and St. Aloisius lead the Community coalition and PFS (Partnership for Success) grant to develop community substance education in the community and local schools.

- **Support groups**: Grief support class has been offered regularly each year. Diabetes and pre-diabetes classes have also been offered.

- **Collaboration with local EMS and the school system**: Harvey Ambulance is working directly with Mike Zwicker, CEO and Candie Thompson, DON, to provide EMS services to our local communities. Harvey Public School Health Occupation program offered 2018/19 school year. Seventh grade students from HPS participate in tours of St. Aloisius. WCDHU provides support to both Harvey and Fessenden Public Schools for drug and alcohol prevention. St. Aloisius plans to offer SCRUBS Camp for students this next year to explore health career occupations.

St. Aloisius has contracted with ND Center for Rural Health to complete our 2019 survey. A steering committee has developed a COMMUNITY SURVEY which will be electronically available in May. Please watch for more information about the survey and plan to participate by taking the survey.

Additionally, 20 community members and five interviewees will be invited to meet with the ND Center for Rural Health staff. The survey and community meetings data will be gathered and presented to Mike Zwicker, St. Aloisius Medical Center CEO and the St. Aloisius Board of Directors by Sept. 1, 2019.

St. Joseph’s Community Health Foundation Grant Award Received

St. Aloisius Medical Center was one of the grant award recipients of the St. Joseph’s Community Health Foundation and received $10,000 towards the purchase of a new stress test machine. The mission of St. Joseph’s Community Health Foundation is to promote and support projects and services that contribute to the mental, physical, spiritual and emotional well-being of residents in Northwest-Northcentral North Dakota.

Heart disease is a significant health problem in our area and is one of the two leading causes of death in Wells County. St. Aloisius currently has a stress test machine, but the equipment is becoming outdated. With the help of the St. Joseph’s award, St. Aloisius will purchase a new stress test machine and treadmill to better serve our community members and continue to allow our population to stay local for their health care needs.

A stress test can help detect and diagnosis damage from prior or undetected heart disease, large vessel blockages with their collateral blood flow, and see how your heart responds to work or stress.

A stress test is a valuable diagnostic tool which could be used to help the following patients:

A. Help with diagnosis of chest pain or breathlessness
B. Predict future risk
C. Those who feel winded, faint, or have palpitations (rapid heart rate) during walking
D. Those with an elevated cardiac calcium score – this is a non-invasive CT scan of the heart which measures the amount of calcified plaque in the coronary arteries.
E. Those with a family history of heart disease and other comorbidities such as hypertension and diabetes.
F. Select pre-operative patients

We anticipate that the new stress test will be installed and ready to use by the fall of this year. Stay tuned for updates from our Cardiac Rehab Department!

At St. Aloisius, financial assistance is available for those that are unable to pay for medically necessary services. This includes those that do not have insurance and those that are underinsured. Applications are available at the admissions desk or business office. More information can be obtained at www.staloisius.com/resources-policies.html or at the business office, 701-324-4651.

Katrina Case from Anamoose donated five lap blankets for our residents. Katrina thank you for thinking of our residents! Pictured from left: Sara Balfour, Director of LTC Activities at St. Aloisius and Katrina Case.
ST. ALOISIUS MEDICAL CENTER CLINIC
SERVICES AND PROVIDERS

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday Walk-in Clinic 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Dept. of Transportation Physicals
- Allergy, flu & pneumonia shots
  - Blood pressure checks
- Chronic Disease management
- Mole/wart/skin lesion removal
- Physicals: annuals, sports & insurance
  - Sports medicine
- Surgical services - biopsies
  - Well baby exams
- Joint injections
  - DXA-Scan
- Diabetes Education / Management
  - Full service lab and radiology

Our clinic is now open on Saturday!

Patients can “walk-in” for non-emergent care such as cold, flu, fever, etc. No appointments will be made for our Saturday “walk-in” clinics. As always, if you are having chest pain or have other emergency care needs, please call 911 and/or come to our Emergency Room at the hospital.

Dr. Rick Geier, MD, Family Practice
Dr. Imran Dean, MD, Family Practice
Dr. Kelly Krohn, MD, Bone Health
Kim Thorson, FNP
Dr. Ronald Skipper, General Surgeon
Sarah Gregg, Diabetes Educator
Dr. Michael Page, MD, Colonoscopies
Beginning May 2019
Deb Buxa, FNP and Lisa Neumiller, FNP
Beginning June 2019