

# Westlake named number one for patient experience

Westlake Regional Hospital earned the distinction of being named in the top 100 best hospitals for patient experience by a national women's group, and took top honors for hospitals under 100 beds.

Hospital CEO Neal Gold received a letter notifying the hospital of the top 100 award, he said during a hospital board meeting last Thursday. He then received a call from the organization's CEO telling him Westlake had the highest rating of all small hospitals. WomenCertified, Inc. chooses the Women's Choice Awards, which are posted on [womenschoiceaward.com](http://womenschoiceaward.com).

The awards are partly based on surveys of patients

when they exit the hospital. "This speaks to the kind of experience our patients have here," Gold said. "Despite the negative feelings and the history, it's really important for the community to realize that the people who actually come here and get care, find it to be an incredibly good experience."

Gold also voiced enthusiasm about Westlake Primary Care, where the number of patient visits is increasing due to a full staff of providers. Dr. Clinton Kiteck, who previously served as chief of the medical staff at Westlake, has returned to the staff and joins Dr. Viorel Boborodea (Dr. B) and nurse practitioner Tiffany McMinoway.

"That actually makes Westlake Primary Care one of the most comprehensive primary care clinics in Columbia. Not only do we have the expertise of a board certified gynecologist in Dr. B; Dr. Kiteck in his osteopathic background, has a holistic approach...When you add in Tiffany's nursing experience...we've got a good broad range of skills. On top of that we are the only clinic in town with a fully certified lab and an x-ray department. The x-ray department we have upgraded with new equipment plus added the primary care to our (digital imaging system) here at the hospital," Gold said.

Sharon Burton  
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## Health Fair is annual success

Westlake Regional Hospital hosted its annual health fair this past weekend. Above, Ray Price, of Columbia, plays a plinko game at Summit Manor Health and Rehab Center's booth at the health fair. Kim Dykes, with Summit Manor, cheers him on.

# Upcoming roadside clean-up fundraiser

Non-profit organizations of Adair County can earn up to \$150 by cleaning up roadsides this month.

Judge Executive Ann Melton and the Adair County Fiscal Court are providing \$50 per mile, paid with Litter Abatement Grant Funds from the state, for picking up trash on up to three miles of roadsides.

Organizations must clean both sides of the road.

Interested groups must contact Melton's office with their name, the number of people participating and the name of the road to be cleaned or a request for help deciding. Before cleaning the road, the group will stop by the office to pick up necessary supplies.

Non-profit organizations that can participate include, but are not limited to, clubs, churches, relay teams, fire departments and sport boosters.

For more information, contact Melton's office at 270-384-4703 or [ac-judge1@duo-county.com](mailto:ac-judge1@duo-county.com).

# WRH negotiating partnership

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ment to CMS and that is what we have to have," Gold said.

If negotiations with the potential partners and with creditors progress well the hospital district may ask the bankruptcy court for an ex-

ension to "get to the fine print and work with the lawyers on a partnership agreement."

CMS officials said they want the district to make them a proposal instead of officials telling the district how much they expect to receive.

"I'm taking that as a hopeful sign," Gold said, "that they are going to be flexible and allow us to present a reasonable plan that makes sense to the viability of this hospital."

By Sharon Burton  
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# Free tipping coming soon

Later this month, Judge Executive Ann Melton and the Adair County Fiscal Court will offer free tipping, sponsored by the county, to county residents at the Transfer Station on L Willis Rd.

With certain restrictions, residents will be able to

bring unwanted items and materials and dispose of them. There will be personnel onsite to help unload.

The dates are Friday, Oct. 24 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 25 from 7 a.m. to noon.

Restrictions include tires, concrete, steel cable, capac-

itors, dirt, rocks, lumber, burning barrels, air tanks, hazardous material and paint not dried with sand or cat litter.

For more information, contact Melton's office at 270-384-4703 or [ac-judge1@duo-county.com](mailto:ac-judge1@duo-county.com).

# Fundraiser set for Baby Maddox Durbin

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ally good and the next day not so good."

Jeremy and Hanna, of Columbia, are staying near the hospital at a Ronald McDonald House and are by their son's side as often as possible.

"We have a place to stay," Hanna said. "I mean, it's still stressful, but it makes it

a lot easier to be here with him."

Jeremy and Hanna's lives are turned upside down right now, but they look toward the future with their son.

"It's different, it's stressful at times," Hanna said, "but it'll be worth it if we can just bring him home."

By James D. McIntosh Jr.  
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## FUNDRAISER PLANNED

Jeremy's brother-in-law, B.J. Bray, is organizing a benefit auction to help the young couple with expenses during their stay in Lexington.

The benefit will be held Friday, Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. at the Olde Town Cafe in Knifley. Everyone is invited to attend.

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# Elect JUNE PARSON COLUMBIA MAYOR



**In October 2004, at the time Hardwick resigned, in the middle of his term, there were 10 FULL TIME POLICE OFFICERS, each one with a take home car.**

*Official City of Columbia minutes, in part.  
May, 3, 1999, page 313.*

Hardwick stated that was his push when he came into office and that was reason for more officers. The officers were working so much overtime and not able to take vacations.

**In October 2014, we still only have 10 full time police officers. We also have an undercover officer whose main responsibility is the drug problem and we have a School Resource Officer, for a total of 12 positions in the department.**

**It is my understanding that my opponent is stating that he will cut the force by four officers.**

**QUESTION:** If the force is too big today, what was it 10 years ago?

**QUESTION:** What will that do to the budget, with the increased overtime costs?

**QUESTION:** What about vacation time?

**QUESTION:** As a community, do we not want to confront the drug problem?

**QUESTION:** Do we not want to protect our children while they are in school, especially when the school system helps with the cost of this position?

**QUESTION:** If someone is trying to break into your home to harm you or your family you call 911 and find out our officer is working a wreck and cannot respond, the sheriff's department is working a case in Knifley, and the nearest state police officer is in Washington County, is our force too big – or would you want to have that second officer on duty who could respond immediately?

**The objective of a local police department is to be available, if needed. Personally, I do not think it would be in the best interest of our community to have less police protection now than we did 10 years ago.**

**Elect a Mayor that will put the safety of the community first and look at what needs to be done to operate the department in the most cost-efficient way.**

"Doing Business A New Way"

June

Paid for by June Parson