



Luke Sprenger appreciates the new technology, such as the 32-slice CT scanner, being utilized at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, and credits the hospital with saving his life.

JMHCC technology saving lives

Luke Sprenger's towering stature probably matches his perseverance. Cattle ranchers, in general, possess a certain amount of grit. Spring calving, after all, doesn't stop for the sniffles. So, many farmers and ranchers weather their ailments through the seasons with a tenacious, tough-as-nails resolve to avoid doctors. Until one moment, one misstep, one split-

second decision changes everything.

Luke's moment came during a sharp turn on the four-wheeler, as he was chasing cattle that had escaped the fence. On March 19, that sharp turn didn't end like hundreds of sharp turns before. This one spun him onto the ground, where he hit the back of his head. Undeterred, he simply got up and moved on. He didn't even real-

ize he had been unconscious for more than an hour.

"I just stepped off like I've done 1,000 times and caught my heels and landed on the back of my head. I hit my head really hard," he describes.

But he continued working. Until he couldn't.

Over time, his legs and arms were

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growing weaker and the headaches were getting more intense. So, on May 13, he made an appointment with Dr. Alan Lindemann, a provider at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center in Elgin. Dr. Lindemann immediately referred him to Bismarck for an emergency MRI.

But at Bismarck, Luke was given Tylenol, told he had a concussion and was sent home.

Returning to Elgin that same day, Luke's wife, Betty, called Dr. Lindemann, who insisted Luke get immediate care. That insistence would save Luke's life. They returned to JMHCC, where a CT scan revealed a double brain bleed. He returned to Bismarck, this time by ambulance, and had an emergency double craniotomy that night, a surgical procedure in which a bone flap is temporarily removed from the skull. During the seven-hour surgery, doctors also drilled two holes into Luke's skull to allow the blood to drain, then implanted titanium plates.

"They said if I hadn't come in Friday, I wouldn't have seen Monday," Luke says. "It was pretty touch and go. They really didn't expect me to come out of surgery."

Luke was discharged May 29, but returned to JMHCC just days later after experiencing more difficulties. This time, he was air lifted to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Another CT scan had revealed that the bleeding had returned, and he was experiencing a full-body gout attack, a painful attack of the joints that had been triggered by the trauma.

After returning from Rochester, Luke is now mending under the watchful care of local providers.

"I have my days," he says. One of the side effects is not being able to control his emotions, such as becoming

"They're the ones that pushed further and used their technology to find out what was wrong."

- Luke Sprenger about JMHCC's care

ing angry for no reason. He credits Betty and his three children for their understanding during his recovery. He's also grateful to the community members who helped him during his hospitalization and recovery.

Luke's follow-up care requires a periodic CT scan at JMHCC, using the new 32-slice CT scanner the hospital acquired recently.

He gives full credit for his recovery to JMHCC, where the initial diagnosis was made and pursued.

"They're the ones that found that I had a bleed. They're the ones that pushed further and used their technology to find out what was wrong," he says.

"The technology that we have here is amazing," he says. "I'm glad it's here to save us."

"Our local hospital, they know you," he says, joking that when he walks in for treatment, the providers know it must be serious.

"I've always taken this hospital for granted. It's always been here my entire life. We watch as a community some of the struggles and having providers come and go," he says. "We've taken it for granted. Everybody does." But he points to the continued quality care.

The role of JMHCC as a critical access hospital is vital to the surrounding area, Luke says, such as diagnosing and stabilizing trauma patients for further surgery and care.

"They stabilize you and it's nice that they are there," he says. "I put all the faith in the world in that process."

He points to the ability of the local hospital to utilize technology such as the 32-slice CT scanner to save lives. In May, JMHCC received a \$380,387 grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust's Rural Healthcare Program to access the latest CT diagnostic technology and purchase the CT scanner. CT scanners provide essential diagnostic images of the body. The new CT scanner allows for faster scans that produce high-quality images, allowing medical staff to quickly determine the health status and course of treatment right here at home.

"The purchase of this new scanner through grant funds allows JMHCC to provide better patient care," says JMHCC CEO Theo Stoller. "The scanner has already been used to make diagnoses which have helped save lives, and that is why JMHCC is here."

Previously, JMHCC leased an eight-slice CT scanner, which was housed in a mobile unit.

"To be a hospital that can do this stuff, it's amazing. As a community, we can't thank you enough for pushing for all this technology," he says. "You never see what's happening behind the scenes and getting grants to purchase this equipment. For someone willing to do that, we owe a debt of gratitude. It saved my life." ■

Annual meeting Nov. 9

The annual meeting of Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the Elgin Community Center.

The meal will begin at 5:30 p.m. MT, with the business meeting and program beginning at 6 p.m. MT.

In addition to the regular business meeting, the agenda will include a free meal, special presentations, and recognition of board members, employees, hospital auxiliary members and volunteers for their dedication and service to JMHCC.

Both members and non-members are invited and encouraged to attend. Anyone who is at least 18 years old may become a shareholder of JMHCC by making a cash contribution of \$10 or more to JMHCC or to the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation. Those who have become shareholders no less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting may vote on matters presented during the annual meeting.

Shareholders may also serve on the JMHCC board of directors.

During this year's annual meeting, members will be electing directors to fill the open positions. ■

Time for that flu shot!

Fever, cough, muscle aches. It's influenza season. Don't despair. There is a way to dodge the dreaded illness.

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center urges anyone from 6 months old and older to get a flu shot as soon as possible to not only avoid getting the influenza, but to keep it from spreading to your family.

JMHCC and its affiliated clinics, the Elgin Community Clinic and Glen Ullin Family Medical Clinic, have flu vaccine available.

From 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 27 and from 1-4 p.m. Oct. 5, patients may get a flu shot at JMHCC at a walk-in flu shot clinic. Come into the front entrance of JMHCC for the walk-in flu shot clinic. Or patients may make

an appointment at either clinic at their convenience.

A yearly vaccination is the most effective way to avoid the flu. While you may still get the flu after having a vaccination, research shows that even if you do get the flu after getting a flu shot, it is less likely to be as severe. A flu shot will also keep you from spreading the flu to your family or other people.

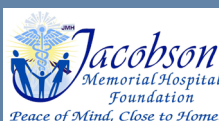
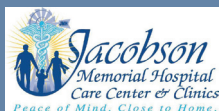
A common misconception is that people contract influenza from the vaccination. That's impossible.

In addition to vaccination, JMHCC recommends frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes and staying home when you are sick to prevent spread of influenza. Common signs and symptoms of influenza include abrupt onset of fever, muscle aches, sore throat and cough.

Flu can be more dangerous to young children, those age 65 or older and those with other health conditions. ■

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Welcome!

Welcome to Lifelines, a newsletter which is published quarterly by the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center and the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation, serving the region.

The mission of Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center:

To advance the health of patients and communities with respect, integrity, quality, commitment and accountability to accomplish peace of mind close to home.

The mission of the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation:

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation, in support of Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, is to engage and foster health care philanthropy, and provide funds, support and programs to enhance continuous health care excellence for our region.

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation
invites you to a

FREE **APPRECIATION EVENT**

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30

Elgin Community Center

5 p.m. Tours of JMHCC

5:30 p.m. Social • 6 p.m. Meal

6:30 p.m. Music by Cottonwood

Learn about JMHF's "Share the Gift of Life"
capital campaign to fund JMHCC's latest projects.

JMHCC ... Share the Gift of Life

JMHCC has been undergoing a \$772,000 renovation project. You can help offset the costs of this project with your donations.



You can “adopt” certain parts of a room and *Share the Gift of Life*. Here’s what you can “adopt:”



Door:

26 doors in the renovation project:
\$1,000 per door



Cabinet:

Cabinets in each exam room, lab
and radiology room: \$1,000 per cabinet



Exam tables:

Three exam tables at \$5,000 each



Room:

You can “adopt” an entire room
for a donation of \$10,000 or more!

“This renovation project will bring more services closer to home for our patients, advancing the mission of JMHCC,”
says CEO Theo Stoller.

“With three additional exam rooms in the clinic, we will be able to bring more specialists to the area, as well as offer telemedicine services.”

With your donation, you will *Share the Gift of Life*. Your donation of \$1,000 or more toward a room will be recognized by a plaque on the door.

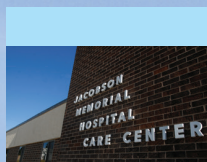
Plaque acknowledgments will include:



Gold: \$1,000 to \$5,000



Platinum: \$5,001 to \$10,000




Diamond: \$10,001 and above



JMHCC RENOVATION UPDATE

Before



Phase 1A: 
CT scanner suite:
saving lives


This phase, which is complete, renovated an area of JMHCC to house the new 32-slice CT scanner inside the facility in the lower level. The scanner is operational and has already helped to save lives. JMHCC was utilizing a leased CT scanner which was a mobile unit located outside of the facility.

After:



Before



Phase 1B: 
Lab: more privacy


This phase, which is complete, moved the lab into another area to make room for additional exam rooms in the clinic. A waiting area has been added to the lab for patient privacy. The new lab is located in the lower level of JMHCC, just down the hall from the Elgin Community Clinic.

After



Before



Phase 2: 
Portion of clinic:
better care

This phase, which is complete, remodeled the radiology department and provider offices, and added additional exam rooms in the clinic. Clinic exam rooms will be expanded from three to seven. More privacy will be offered in the radiology department, with a waiting area for patients.

After



Before



Phase 3: Elgin Community Clinic: increased services

This phase, which is still under way, will finalize the clinic renovation, by updating the clinic registration area and waiting room, the existing exam rooms, a provider's office and the nurses' station. The clinic will then have seven exam rooms, rather than three, and will be able to accommodate visiting specialists. Two of the exam rooms will also be linked to telemedicine services, offering increased opportunities for patient care close to home. Provider offices will be relocated to one area so providers can communicate better with each other and have more privacy for patients visiting with them in their offices.

**Expected completion:
October 2016**

You're invited to Sept. 30 event!

The Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation invites its supporters to a free Appreciation Event Friday, Sept. 30, at the Elgin Community Center. The event will include a social starting at 5:30 p.m., a meal at 6 p.m. and music by Cottonwood starting at 6:30 p.m. Supporters are also invited to attend a tour of the new renovations at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center at the facility at 5 p.m.

During the event, supporters will learn more about the Foundation's "Share the Gift of Life" capital campaign to fund JMHCC's latest renovation projects, which are highlighted in this month's *Lifelines* newsletter.

Donations to the "Share the Gift of Life" campaign will help offset the cost of these latest renovations, all of which will improve patient care at JMHCC, says JMHCC CEO Theo Stoller.

With a donation of \$1,000 or more, a donor will be recognized by a plaque in the newly renovated area. Donors may make specific donations, which will be recognized. For example, donors may "adopt" a door in the newly renovated areas for \$1,000 per door. Or donors may "adopt" an entire room in the newly renovated area for a donation of \$10,000 or more, and their name will be stated on a plaque leading to that room.

Please attend the free Sept. 30 event to celebrate JMHCC's latest accomplishments and to learn more about this campaign.

Anyone with questions or with a donation may contact Stoller at 584-2792 or tastoller@primecare.org. Donations may be mailed to: JMHCC, PO Box 367, Elgin, ND 58533. ■

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

**Clip this entry coupon
and bring it to the Free Appreciation Event
Sept. 30 at the Elgin Community Center.**


Enter this coupon for a chance to win
a designated prize basket.
Only those with this coupon entry will be eligible
to win this particular basket!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____



**Walk in.
Get your flu shot.
Walk out.
It's that simple.**

WALK-IN FLU SHOT CLINICS • \$30

SEPT. 27: 9 a.m. to noon

OCT. 5: 1-4 p.m.

**Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center
– front entrance**

Or make an appointment at the Glen Ullin or Elgin clinic at your convenience. Insurance and billing information needed at registration.
(Immunizations are covered by most insurance companies.)