

Anita Reding | October 1, 2015

By: Cassandra Huggins, Staff Writer

OCTOBER AIMS TO BE HEALTH CONSCIOUS

Many events are planned during the month of October that will help raise awareness to different health related topics, including breast cancer.

Oct. 6 will bring the Haskell County Coalition—sponsored Shape your Future event that has been combined with the Healthy Living Expo from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by the “Lighting of Faith” ceremony that evening, all taking place on the lawn of the Haskell County Community Hospital, 401 N.W. H St., Stigler.



Staff photo by Cassandra Huggins

The “flock” has arrived at the Haskell County Community Hospital to help raise cancer awareness. The flock of flamingos decorating the hospital lawn is just one of a few events to help raise awareness.

Due to the heavy rainfall in May of this year, the annual Healthy Living Expo had to be cancelled. So, the coalition members voted to combine it with the Shape Your Future event. Also, it was decided to partner with the hospital since it is Hospital Awareness Week.

“We recognize the importance of promoting health in collaboration with community partners. I’m excited that there will be a variety of service providers on site to perform an array of screenings and services that do not require an appointment,” stated Royce Alverson, chairman of the Haskell County Coalition.

Each year the Haskell County Community Hospital decorates the lawn in bright pink flamingos to help raise breast cancer awareness. These flamingos are tagged in honor of someone who has been affected by cancer, not just breast cancer. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, but the hospital wants to bring awareness to all types of cancer.

In September, the “Grace” quilt was raffled off, raising \$570 in funds to support the Lighting of Faith” ceremony, which will be held at 7 p.m. The remaining amount and the funds raised at the Oct. 6 event will be donated to Breast Friends for use by families affected by cancer.

The 7 p.m. event will include music by The Alversons and Gospel Cousins followed by a lighted balloon release dedicated to those affected by cancer.

Tribute balloons are available for a minimum donation of \$3.

Refreshments will be served.

For questions about “Lighting of Faith,” contact the hospital at 918-967-4682.

For questions about the Shape your Future event and the Healthy Living Expo, contact Royce Alverson at 918-967-3325.