

# Southwestern gets accredited

BY ROBERT FOX STAFF WRITER RFOX@LAWTON-CONSTITUTION.COM

Southwestern Medical Center recently received a threeyear accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Nicole Jolly, marketing director for Southwestern, said this is a high level award for the hospital's inpatient rehabilitation services. Southwestern has been CARF accredited since 2001, and this is the third consecutive accreditation from CARF for Southwestern. She said Southwestern was the first rehabilitation facility in Southwestern Oklahoma to receive CARF accreditation. CARF is an independant, nonprofit accrediting group, which promotes optimal outcomes of service through a consultation process.

Dinah Lasarte, nursing director of rehabilitation, said she and her team started preparing for the CARF review in January. She said she; Dr. Shane Ross, physician director of rehabilitation; Tammy Beltz, clinical supervisor of rehabilitation; and Kari Garza, physical medicine director; met once a week to make sure the rehabilitation department conformed to the new CARF standards. "It was harder this year because they were more picky about some things being documented," she said. She said the rehabilitation staff and an interdisciplinary team were central in qualifying for the accreditation.

