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By ROBERT PIERCE

• Leader & Times

Seniors in Haskell County who have a need for senior living now have the option to remain in the county near their family and friends.

Operated by Satanta District Hospital, the Legacy Suites Senior Living Facility opened its doors in February 2012, and director Janet Kado said the facility is helping meet the strong demand for assisted living in Haskell County.

Kado said, though, Legacy Suites does not provide “nursing home type care.”

“We do not get them up and put them to bed,” she said. “We do not shower them, dress them or feed them.”

Rather, Kado said the purpose of the Satanta facility is to encourage individuals to live as independently as possible with some safe guards built in.

Seniors at Legacy Suites live in apartments that include all the amenities that will help make a comfortable and easy transition into senior living. Those include an all-call system, security cameras, maintenance services and weekly housekeeping.

“(We) will administer medication per request of the neighbor or family at an extra monthly fee,” Kado said. “(We) will provide three balanced meals per day, a 24-hour nursing care covered by long term care and/or hospital when the neighbors need assistance.”

She added the 24-hour nursing care is not within the facility. Spring cleaning is also provided.

“Six months after the neighbor has moved, the staff will assist in spring cleaning of the apartment,” she said. “(At) Legacy Suites, the neighbors are allowed to come and go as they wish as if they were living in their own home.”

Kado said the Satanta facility has helped meet about 70 percent of the demand for senior care in Haskell County.

“With some education about our facility, we would love to see it at 100 percent,” she said.

So what are the costs of living at Legacy Suites? A one-bedroom apartment runs \$2,250 per month, and a studio apartment is priced at \$1,875 per month. Some of the optional items and costs include:

- Medication management: \$150;

- Garage: \$100;

- Transportation: \$20 per hour;

- Laundry: \$.65 per pound;
- Extra housekeeping \$20 per hour; and
- Guest room for overnight visitors: \$60 per night and meals not included, meals after 45 meals is \$5 per meal. Guest meals: \$5 per meal, and second person in an apartment: \$650 per month.

“The apartments will be furnished by the individual who is moving in,” Kado said.

The Legacy Suites director then outlined what is needed to qualify for an apartment at the facility.

“An active daily living skill assessment, a mini-mental assessment and a depression assessment are conducted by the director, which will determine if the individual qualifies to move into our facility,” she said. “The individual does need to be able to care for themselves meaning they don’t need to have assistance with showering, bathing, dressing, getting in and out of bed or being fed.”

Kado said costs can only be paid through private pay. Legacy Suites features two wings of apartments.

“As you walk into our facility, a foyer has the two wings,” she said. “As you walk down the wing, there are seven apartments on each wing. Their doors are facing the inside of the wing, which leads out to a commons area on each wing. There are about eight different common areas where the neighbors can entertain. We have a living room that is off from the foyer where there are couches and a piano.”

The apartments at Legacy Suites are connected, but Kado said each one has its own individual

key entry.

“The Courtyard Wing and a Parkview Wing and their apartment doors are internal entry only,” she said. “There are several entrances that lead to the outside. We have four garages for rent. We have two garages rented.”

Legacy Suites is located at 200 W. Apache in Satanta. For more information, call 620-649-2200, Ext. 600.

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