

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 22, 2007

Established in 1914

EAGLE TIMES

Focused on Local News

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Back on track

When David Laplante took over as temporary administrator at the Sullivan County Health Care, he knew he had his work cut out for him.

There was dissension among the staff. The resident count was down. There were critical reports from the state. And there was a lot of discontent from the public.

Fortunately, the challenges didn't scare Laplante away.

He has been on the job for five weeks now, carefully trying to rebuild the facility day by day.

The days of wine and roses have not returned. A multitude of problems face the facility.

"The facility is slightly behind where it wants to be," he said, "but it's fixable."

And he is trying hard to fix it.

The problems can be fixed. They must be fixed. The staff, administration, taxpayers and patients have invested too much financially and spiritually in this great facility to see fall by the wayside.

The county is losing money daily because the facility census is not what it should be. The problems have taken their toll.

One of the first solutions, Laplante said, is to start doing more listening. The administration and staff will listen to patients, family and staffers.

That's a good first step. There is lots more to do, and it looks like the facility's administration is on the right track.