

JENNINGS NEWS

Jennings Blood Pressure Clinic will be held on Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m. or noon.

Starting Nov. 8, Dr. Albert, Sean Conroy, PA-C and Robin Williamson, PA-C will alternate seeing patients at the Jennings Clinic every other Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling the Family Practice Clinic at 785-475-2015 so charts can be brought down. Appointments can also be made by calling the Jennings Clinic Tuesday morning at 785-678-2350. You can also call Dorothy at 678-2408. Walk-ins are welcome. Dr. Albert will be in the Jennings Clinic on Nov. 8.

The Historic Building Preservation Committee will serve breakfast at the former Masonic Hall in Jennings on Saturday, Nov. 12 beginning at 6 a.m. The menu includes a breakfast casserole, biscuits and gravy. A free-will offering will be taken. All

pheasant hunters and local citizens are encouraged to attend. All proceeds will be used to assist in the purchase of central heat and air conditioning in the Hall.

Saturday, Oct. 29 from 8 a.m. to noon the Decatur Tomorrow "Vision Retreat" will be held at the Faith Lutheran Church in Oberlin.

Katie Golemboski, Lexy and Lenzy from Colby visited Saturday with her grandparents Stan and Ramona Shaw and Agnes Wahlmeier.

United Methodist Church held Charge Conference Sunday Oct. 23 at 4 p.m. with Max Clayton, Hays District Supt. presiding. There were 18 people attending. After approving the budget and the report by the nominating committee, the Vital Congregation program was discussed.

Hope you all get outside and enjoy these beautiful fall days.

LYLE NEWS

Kathy Van Meter and Lloyd Frandsen enjoyed an overnight visit with her daughter, Sylvia Lovin in Wichita on Friday, Oct. 21. The next day they had BBQ-rib steak at the home of Brian and Maria Joplin and children in Garden Plain. They shopped, ate, garage sale and returned home on Monday. On the way they stopped to see the beautiful native stone Catholic Church at Damar, built in 1912. Damar is also fighting to keep their U.S. Post Office. Kathy had some dental work done on Friday.

Dixie Wood plans a memorial service to be held for Elvin at 2 p.m. on Nov. 20 at Kingdom Hall, 701 W. Electric, McAlester, Okla. Elvin's sons, wives and families visited her after his death.

I thank the Norcatour Volunteer Fire Department for the gift of a fire extinguisher at their Halloween Hot Dog Roast. The hot dogs and popcorn balls were delicious, too.

Teilia Highs son Wade and Vickie Bader and children, Isabell, Carl and Rowan; Emily, Maria and Garrett Bader; and Grant Slater were her weekend

guests.

Sympathies are extended to Tom Baker in the death of his sister who died as a result of a motorcycle accident.

Eleanor Jensen, of Norton, who has taken part in many local activities, quilting, cards, etc., is a patient of Kansas Heart Hospital in Wichita. We hope for a speedy recovery.

Lyle people were privileged to have former pastor Charles Keller bring their Sunday message.

Everyone a winner



The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its Winner's Circle event at the Eagles Lodge on Saturday night. Winner's Circle is the second biggest fund-raiser of the year, which helps pay for the Chamber's annual operating costs. The evening included a social hour, dinner, entertainment was provided by comedian Keith Barany and \$5,000 in cash prizes. Pictured at the Winner's Circle event are (left to right) Ashlie Stewart, Kathy Erbert, Abi Delimont and Julie Campbell.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

School leading the way in dental health

The Kansas Legislature is considering an important proposal that would help solve the state's dental care shortages by creating a new kind of midlevel provider, thus strengthening our dental care workforce and making it easier to get dental care. Rigorous training and education of these new providers -- called registered dental practitioners -- will be essential to ensuring that all Kansans receive top-quality dental care.

Our motto at Fort Hays State University is "Forward Thinking, World Ready," and we believe that by becoming the first four-year university in Kansas to offer a bachelor's degree program for registered dental practitioners, we're truly living up to that commitment. If the Legislature approves the bill, registered dental practitioners will operate as part of a team with dentists and dental hygienists -- similar to how nurse practitioners, physician's assistants and other providers work with medical doctors.

There's no question that our dental care workforce needs reinforcements. Ninety-three of the state's 105 counties don't have enough dentists to meet their residents' needs, and 13 counties don't have any dentists at all. As a result, Kansans are at risk for suffering unnecessarily from preventable dental disease, missing school and work, and possibly incurring serious health consequences. This is a particularly serious problem in rural parts of the state, including western Kansas, which is FHSU's primary service area.

Registered dental practitioners would work as part of a dentist-led team, providing routine but commonly needed services like cleanings, fillings

and certain types of extractions -- services that complement those provided by dental hygienists while supporting the work of dentists, who would be freed up to provide more complicated care. This model has been used successfully for nearly 100 years in dozens of countries, and, more recently, in Minnesota.

Fort Hays State University has developed a similar type of education program for medical diagnostic imaging specialists. This successful program would be the model for our registered dental practitioner proposal. In addition, we are exploring an option with the Kansas Board of Regents that would allow new students to complete their education with both their dental hygienist and registered dental practitioner licenses, while also offering hygienists currently in the workforce the opportunity to return to school and become registered dental practitioners. We believe this approach would produce the greatest benefit for patients and our state's workforce alike.

Midlevel dental providers are being considered in many states that face dental care shortages similar to ours, and it is clear that these new providers will become an integral part of the dental care workforce. At FHSU, we are excited by the opportunity to be involved in the creation of a workforce that will provide desperately needed care for so many Kansans.

We must act now to shore up our dental care workforce. It is time for Kansas to bring in registered dental practitioners so that more Kansans can get quality dental care when and where they need it.

Walking

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and keeping as much waste as possible out of landfills. The group is encouraging people they meet to think about using canteens or re-usable water bottles instead of buying disposable plastic bottles.

Over the course of the 32 months of the trip, the group will travel across 13 states, but so far, Katski said, Kansas has been among the cleanest states. That observation, he said, isn't necessarily because Kansans are less likely to litter, but because there are fewer people to create messes along the road side.

The volunteers who have joined the effort is an ever-changing group, with some staying only a few weeks and some helping out for months at a time. The volunteer group lives in an old school bus that has been repurposed into a living space

with beds, sink, and restroom. The bus travels from town to town with the group and the volunteers use proceeds from recycled aluminum and scrap metal to help fund the trip.

The group also relies on the kindness of strangers to help make their trip feasible.

"We've only to sleep in the bus one night," Katski said. "It's a big sacrifice to be out here volunteering and not getting paid

or making any money, but there are good people everywhere we go. People open their homes to us and provide food and donations to help us keep going on this mission. People are really amazing if you give them a chance."

For more information about the Pick Up America initiative or for ideas to help the cause, visit www.pickupamerica.org.

Dept. of Agriculture Deputy Secretary visited Kansas in October

U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan spent Oct. 12 in Kansas. She primarily came to visit with Kansas State University students about American agriculture, with a focus on recruiting young people to careers in agriculture.

"I show them the reality that agriculture touches people every day in every way," she said, emphasizing that USDA is more than food production and discussing the many avenues that USDA helps U.S. citizens and others.

"It could be because USDA helped fund a community hospital, or we helped develop a rural water system. It could be that we have USDA jobs in our embassies overseas, where we

have people promoting U.S. agriculture to other countries," she said.

"It could be helping people get adequate food. A lot of Americans, 45 million Americans right now, are on the supplemental nutrition assistance program, formerly known as food stamps, many of them struggling to survive. USDA plays a very important role there."

She works to help people make those connections, showcasing why it is important to care about agriculture and to invest in agriculture.

While in Kansas, she also held a producer roundtable to hear about whether USDA programs are working, visited a food cooperative to learn about activities in the local and regional

food movement, and met with USDA employees in Kansas.

She said there was a lot of commonality of interest around the producer roundtable. "People are asking for a fair shake, they want to find ways to prosper whether they are exporting or doing local or regional. And there was a lot of celebration over the passage of free-trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama.

"It (free-trade agreements) is so big. Think of South Korea, the 15th largest economy in the world. We've just opened the doors to South Korea. Beef, pork, dairy, feed grains," she said.

"We know that it is going to mean millions and millions of dollars for the Kansas economy.

The Kansas Farm Bureau estimates these trade agreements mean over 1,000 new jobs; across the U.S. we expect over 20,000 new jobs based on these new trade agreements."

The producers in the roundtable also discussed challenges of USDA programs, and shared concerns about how USDA will fare with the budget in the current environment, with the downsizing of government on the eve of writing a farm bill.

Merrigan discussed briefly USDA's "Know your Farmer, Know your Food" program.

"There is a lot of opportunity in local and regional food. We want to open up new market opportunities that catch the wave of public interest and local agriculture," she said.

Huelskamp comments on agreements

"Passage of new trade agreements with Colombia, South Korea, and Panama will address two of the country's biggest challenges: the need to create jobs and the need to grow the economy," Congressman Huelskamp said. "These agreements will help with getting people back to work without the government having to spend a dime."

"For Kansas, the benefits are enormous, particularly for our farmers and ranchers. We are expected to gain more than \$125 million in new sales and about a thousand new jobs. Being able to export more beef, wheat, pork and other products duty-free will increase Kansas exports by

millions of dollars."

"But, let's not hang up our hats here. While other trade agreements idle, our competitors are crowding us out of the market, finalizing agreements that make the U.S. a less attractive trading partner. In August, I hosted the Ambassador of Vietnam in Kansas. Not only was he impressed with the safety of our products, but also the costs at which we can provide quality products. That is an opportunity. But, unless the U.S. also acts quickly to finalize agreements with other nations, countries like Vietnam -- with growing populations and growing checkbooks -- will make superior arrangements with our competitors."

CITY OF NORTON ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Partnering To Bring Medical Specialists To Norton

Norton Outreach Clinic Schedule

Norton County Hospital
102 E. Holme - Norton

Cardiology - Dr. Christine Fisher
Monthly - (785) 625-4699

Ophthalmology - Dr. John Pokorny Surgery
Every Other Month
Clinic
Every Other Month
(785) 628-8218

Orthopedic - Dr. Alex DeCarvalho
Monthly
(785) 261-7599 or (866) 428-8221

Urology - Dr. Darrell Werth
Monthly
(877) 312-1619 or (785) 628-6014

Mobile Echocardiography
Weekly - (785) 877-3351



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