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# Groundbreaking ushers in hospital expansion

Free Press Editor Citizens Medical Center is expanding its facility by 3,341 square feet in order to house a new radiology addition that when completed will house its larger equipment such as the MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), CT scan (Computerized Tomography), sonogram, mammography, and x-ray

There were two reasons for the addition, said Michael Boyles, chief executive officer.

The first and foremost, he said, is the need to continue keeping pace with technology by providing patients with the highest quality care using state-ofthe-art equipment in treatment and di-

More room was also necessary, not only for all the equipment, but as a multiple purpose expansion that will free up space in the emergency room, in addition to providing office space for diagnostic personnel and other services. During the groundbreaking dedication ceremony held earlier this week, Boyles expressed gratitude to the board of directors for making the addition possible.

"I would really like to thank the board for their dedication in this project," he said. Those members include Greg Schafer, chairman; Judith Sears, vice-chair; Vern Schwanke, secretary; Kay Weston, treasurer; and members Kristie Cox, Kevin Kriss, Terry Cousins, Doug Munderloh and Curt Stephens.

The addition is expected to cost \$214,000 is being funded by tax cred- of 2002.

I would really like to thank the board for their dedication...."

> Michael Boyles, CEO at Citizens Medical Center

its granted to the hospital through a state program initiated earlier this sum-

The hospital is 20 years old, Boyles said, and has seen many expansion projects that have increased its original size from 41,097 square feet to 60,690 square feet once the newest phase is completed.

During its two decades, the additions have included an ambulance garage at 4,500 square feet in 1983; a northeast addition at 2,790 square feet in 1993; and in 1994, a laundry/storage expansion at 2,580 square feet and emergency room/obstetrics expansion of 2,640 square feet

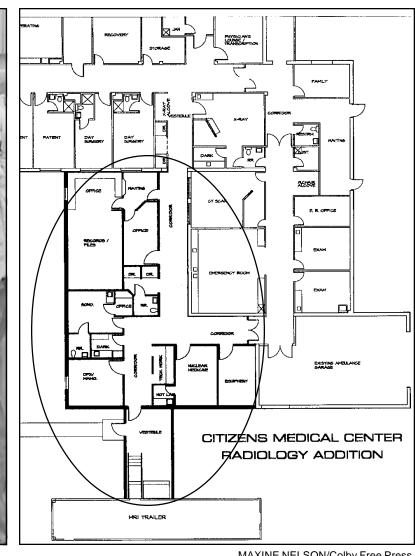
As Colby's hospital continues to expand and progress in its technology and quality of care, Boyles said, the goal remains patient satisfaction.

The idea of the expansion project is not to take away from other surrounding communities, he said, but rather to work with area administrators in providing services to people in northwest Kansas that would otherwise force them to travel to Denver or elsewhere for diagnostic reasons.

The renovation/expansion project is expected to take seven months with a more than \$350,000 and of that completion date tentatively set for June



Citizens Medical Center broke ground on a new radiology addition and Floyd Moore, director of general services for the hospital after the and Valerie Bliss, director radiology, talked with architect Glenn Strait shows the new addition.



MAXINE NELSON/Colby Free Press

this week. **LEFT:** Jim Lambert, left, MRI technologist at the hospital groundbreaking event. **RIGHT:** Amap of the hospital in the circled area

### Smoke gets in their eyes



Colby firefighters James Carney and Lynn Marker dragged a hose pack up four stories during a fire drill at the Colby Schools administration building on Tuesday night. The fire department drills two nights a month in addition to attending area schools and training.

#### JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

### Briefly

### **Weather: No big change**

No significant change in the weather is seen for the Colby region for the next several days, reports the National Weather Service. Tonight, mostly cloudy, lows in the upper 30s and south winds 10-15 mph. Saturday, cloudy, highs in the middle 60s and south winds 5-15 mph. Saturday night, cloudy, a 30 percent chance for showers, lows in the lower 40s. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, cloudy to partly cloudy, lows in the upper 20s to around 30, chance for showers during the period, highs in the upper 40s to middle 50s. For Thanksgiving day, look for cloudy conditions, lows in the 20s and highs in the 40s. Colby's high Thursday was 69 and the overnight low this morning was 36. The soil tempera-

ture at the four-inch depth is averaging 52 degrees. The records for Nov. 16: 81 in 1941 and -1 in 1955.(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

'55' Alive class nears The "55 Alive" defensive drivers course, sponsored by AARP, will be given at the Senior Progress Center on Nov 29-30, from 1-5 p.m. This course is open to all area individuals 55 or older. You must attend both classes to qualify for a discount on your automobile insurance premium. Class size is limited, so call Deb Koon at 462-2901, to en-

## New terrorist response team will be located in Kansas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kansas is spond quickly to any emergency," said morning to say his state would be get-Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced Thursday.

Five new Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams are authorized in this year's Defense Departwell as Alabama, Michigan, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

"Here in Kansas, we can breathe a little easier knowing that a highly skilled team will be working to detect

getting a specialized military team to Rep. Jim Ryun, R-Kan. Ryun serves on ting a team. Recruitment and training respond to terrorist attacks, Defense the House Armed Services Committee. for the new teams should begin within

Guard members under the direction of

Their job is to identify the danger, whether chemical, nuclear or biologi-

ment budget, to be set up in Kansas as cal, then advise local authorities on how to handle it, and prepare for any other military units on the way. Twenty-seven other states, includ-

ing Missouri, already have the teams.

The Defense Department called problems before they happen and re- Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan., Thursday

Each team has 22 full-time National months, and the teams are expected to be certified in 2003. Created in response to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the teams

have endured some criticism. In September, the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress. recommended a moratorium on adding more teams, saying they need to resolve "problems that undermine their usefulness.'

### House and Senate poised to send aviation security bill to president

was poised to overwhelmingly pass work force, the legislation moves tolegislation to permanently strengthen airport and airline security and give a holiday lift to an aviation industry devastated by the Sept. 11 attacks.

President Bush lauded the compromise plan forged after weeks of diffition between the Transportation Decult negotiations, saying that by putting the federal government in charge of aviation security Congress was "making airline travel safer for the American people."

Both the House and the Senate planned to vote on the measure today, their last major act before leaving for the Thanksgiving holiday. "At long last we can declare victory," said Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D. "The American people are going to win because they are going to fly more securely.'

In addition to putting airport screen-

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress ingunder federal control with a federal ward inspection of all checked bags, requires fortified cockpit doors, increases the use of air marshals on flights and law enforcement in all areas of airports, and increases coordinapartment and law enforcement agencies to cross-check passengers.

> Anew agency is created in the Transportation Department to oversee all transportation security matters. A \$2.50 passenger fee per flight, with a maximum of \$5 per trip, is levied to pay for the added security.

Some of the provisions, such as required use of explosives detection machines, could take months or years to put in place, but lawmakers said the psychological effects of enacting the legislation could be instant.

"From a confidence-building point industry's image.

of view I think it will have a very important impact," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., one of the key sponsors of the Senate-passed legislation along with Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ernest Hollings, D-

"That ends hijackings," Hollings said of the requirement that cockpit doors be fortified and locked during flights. With the peak holiday travel season approaching, the airline industry desperately needs such assurances that it is safe to fly.

Passenger loads have decreased significantly since the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings of four jetliners, pushing some airlines to the edge of bankruptcy. The crash of the American Airlines jetliner in New York City on Monday, while apparently not linked to terrorism, was another blow to the

### Household collection Saturday

The final Household Hazardous waste collection for this year will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 190 W. 4th St. Inclement weather will cancel the event until next spring, said Sandy Swob, director. The facility is open to all citizens of Thomas County.

### Orchestra to perform on Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will perform its first concert of the season on Sunday, at 3:30 p.m., in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus. Admission to the concert will be by Friends of the Orchestra membership or tickets are available at the door.

### Thanksgiving dinner Monday

All seniors citizens are invited to the 39th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Older Americans at noon Monday at the Colby Community Building. Bring a salad or dessert; meat is provided.

Sponsored by the Social Problems Class at Colby Community College.

#### Pancake feed planned Saturday

Thomas County Big Brothers Big Sisters will be hosting a pancake and sausage feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Community Building. The feed is \$3 person, said Doug Finley, one of the organizers.

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