



Scholarship fund is seen as big plus for hospital

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

As the new addition and renovation project at Citizens Medical Center continues to move toward completion in the spring, another branch of the hospital, Citizens Foundation, was busy establishing an endowed scholarship fund, said Tama Unger, fund development director.

In years prior to the new scholarship fund, Unger said, the hospital budgeted \$72,000 for education.

"Thanks to donations and help from Citizens Medical Center, we have \$100,000 with 100 percent of the interest earnings going to help people in need of scholarships," she said.

"We are also taking applications for those wanting a scholarship in the field of nursing, along with other areas," she said.

Another advantage to having a scholarship fund established is that many other foundations are willing to donate.

"We have applied to the William Randolph Hurst Foundation in California and the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation in New York, for funding," she said.

In addition, Unger plans to apply to other private and nationwide foundations for support, but added that the local support is imperative in this undertaking.

Citizens Foundations, Inc. is made up of seven board members, with some of those also on the Citizens Medical Center board as well. They include



Valerie Bliss, director of radiology, demonstrated the use of a fluoroscopy, which is considered a live x-ray and can watch actual movement in the body, such as someone swallowing and following the path through the digestive system. The hospital obtained this piece of equipment about four months ago, Bliss said.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Kerri Schippers, ultrasound technician at Citizens Medical Center, was using the sonogram on a patient recently. The sonogram, she explained, is helpful in detecting problems with the liver or kidney or other areas.

Sharon Kriss, chairperson; Mary Smith, vice-chairperson; Lisa Wilson, secretary; Judith Sears, treasurer; and Larry Washburn, Tom Waldschmidt and Darryl Henry as board members.

Other activities keeping hospital personnel on the go have been the renovations and addition of 3,341 square

feet to house the new radiology addition. "The reason so much more room is needed," Unger said, "is to house the larger equipment such as the MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), CT scan (computerized tomography), sonogram, mammography and x-ray machines."

Not only will the new addition allow room for the equipment, but it will also free up more space in the emergency room and provide office space and storage facilities. Along with providing quality patient care, using the new equipment that encompasses nuclear medicine, the hospital also sees its ex-

pansion project as benefiting others in surrounding communities, Unger said.

Hospital board members involved in the decision to expand the hospital's square footage included Greg Schafer, chairman; Judith Sears, vice-chairperson; Vern Schwanke, secretary; Kay Weston, treasurer; and members

Kristie Cox, Kevin Kriss, Terry Cousins, Doug Munderloh and Curt Stephens.

Editor's note: This was the second of a two part series involving recent changes at Citizens Medical Center, Inc., and fundraising efforts through Citizens Foundation, Inc.

Legislators convene and jockey to avoid blame on state budget

By JOHN HANNA

The Associated Press

TOPEKA (AP) — Paul Feleciano was indignant. The Democratic senator from Wichita had been hearing the buzz about a Senate Republican plan to solve the state's budget problems without a tax increase.

He'd concluded that Republicans had pinned the blame for those problems on what happened in the economy since Sept. 11. Upon finding a reporter, he said, "Horse manure."

He was only a few minutes behind Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, who'd made exactly the same point. The two Democrats even used some of the same phrases to argue that the responsibility lay entirely with Gov. Bill Graves and other Republicans who had been in charge.

Later, Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer offered the GOP reply: "Did they all go to stupid school to get ready for the session?"

Such was the tone in the days preceding Monday's opening of the 2002 Legislature, which must close a projected \$426 million gap in the state

budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Democrats and the GOP's feuding moderate and conservative wings are worrying about what voters think because a new governor will be elected and all 125 House seats will be filled in November. Graves faces questions about his legacy and whether he is leaving the state in worse condition than he found it when he entered office in January 1995.

"I don't think you can gloss over that it is a mess," said House Minority Leader Jim Garner, D-Coffeyville.

Moderate Republicans probably have the most to lose politically, starting with the governor's office.

House Speaker Kent Glasscock, R-Manhattan, is running for lieutenant governor with Attorney General Carla Stovall, the moderate candidate for governor. Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, might run for governor himself.

Kerr has a plan for balancing the budget without increasing taxes, though it relies heavily on spending

cuts. Graves, not facing re-election, insists that tax increases are the best option.

While moderates concede policy decisions did play some role, they pin the blame for the state's problems on economic problems outside the Legislature's control.

Kerr said the problems are bad but not dire. Asked to elaborate, he acknowledged the difference is hard to define. "It's kind of like it's bad when my neighbor loses his job, it's dire when I lose mine," he said.

Lean and fat years run in cycles, and the economy has inarguably been hurt by the aftereffects of Sept. 11. But the problems the state now faces have been developing since 1999, after years of healthy tax cuts and spending increases.

Democrats are upset with what they see as an attempt to blame the problems on the terrorist attacks. The mantra Feleciano and Hensley tried on reporters is that Republican mismanagement blew a "surplus" in good times and turned it into a hole.

family and for Prince Harry, who could conceivably be expelled from Eton, the prestigious private school.

But given how many parents have faced similar problems with their teenagers, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prince Charles won praise for the way he had dealt with Harry, who is third in line for the British throne after his father and brother.

Blair, whose son Euan, then 16, was arrested when police found him drunk and vomiting in London in July 2000, said Charles had faced a difficult situation.

"I know this myself," Blair told the British Broadcasting Corp.

"I think the way that Prince Charles and the royal family have handled it is absolutely right and they have done it in a very responsible and, as you would expect, in a very sensitive way for their child."

Marijuana use is illegal and the legal drinking age in Britain is 18.

Harry, then 16, drank with friends at a pub last summer near Charles' Highgrove country estate in western England and smoked marijuana with friends, according to the media reports.

The aftermath



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Larry Horinek, employed with the City of Colby public power department, looked over damage to a light pole late Saturday afternoon. The one-vehicle accident happened at about 4:15 p.m. at Cherry and S. Franklin when Robert L. Kraft, 29, of Colby, driving his 1999 Ford pickup went out of control and struck the pole. Gary Shull, with the Colby Police Department, said earlier today that Kraft was charged with driving under the influence of drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a prescription depressant (not prescribed to him). In addition, a passenger in the vehicle, Aaron N. Kraft, 16, was also taken into custody and while waiting for juvenile intake officials, fled the law enforcement center. Shull said he was caught near Second and School minutes later, but when officers approached him he threatened to hit them with a board. No charges were filed as yet on the younger passenger.

Prince Harry's experiment with liquor, marijuana, rehab visit shakes up Britain

LONDON (AP) — Britain's 17-year-old Prince Harry was taken to a rehab center after he admitted he had smoked marijuana and illegally drunk alcoholic beverages, the first public embarrassment involving one of Princess Diana's children since her death.

The story, broken by Sunday's News of the World tabloid under the headline "Harry's Drug Shame," and all but confirmed by the royal family, dominated British print and broadcast news reports all day.

It also led to widespread speculation about what it will mean for the royal

Briefly

Weather: Pretty much dry

Don't bet on any measurable snow through Friday of this week, because you'll probably lose, if the National Weather Service forecast for the Colby region holds out. Tonight, clear, lows 10-15 and light and variable winds. Tuesday, partly sunny, highs 35-40 and south winds up to 10 mph. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, lows around 10. Wednesday, cloudy, a 20 percent chance for light snow and the highs near 30. Thursday, partly cloudy, lows 10-15 and highs 30-35. Colby's high Sunday was 53 and the overnight low this morning was 20. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 34 degrees. Precipitation for the month remains

at 0.10 inches. The records for Jan. 14: 68 in 1900 and -15 in 1979. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

City Council meets Tuesday

The Colby City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the council chambers. They are expected to approve a quit claim deed to Sunflower partners on a tract of land in SE1/4-12-8-34; approve an agreement with Cahoj Earthmoving for subgrade modification for Horton Avenue; approve a health insurance plan effective Feb. 1; and consider a recommendation of the planning commission on the

request of Tuffy and Linda Taylor to rezone Southwind Plaza Addition from C-2 (neighborhood commercial) to C-1 (commercial)

The council also plans to discuss replacement of a copier in the city manager's office. All meetings are open to the public.

Midwest recycles Christmas trees

Midwest Energy will accept Christmas trees at the Midwest Energy office, 1125 S. Range in Colby until Friday. Midwest Energy officials said they are requesting that all decorations and plastic tree removal bags be taken from the trees before they are deposited at the collection points.

College board meets next week

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will not meet Tuesday, Jan. 22, beginning at 5 p.m. The Jan. 22 meeting would normally be on Monday, Jan. 21; however, because of the Martin Luther King holiday, the college will not be in session.

Recycling center takes phone books

The Thomas County Recycling Center is taking old telephone books at its collection site, 720 E. College Dr. in Colby. Those wanting to drop off the books should use the magazine bins, coordinators said.

