



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Something he's wanted to do for a long time

Clinic's new administrator settles in

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby Medical and Surgical Center has a new administrator.

Dave Voss, who was co-owner of Voss Hardware for many years in Colby and more recently was employed as an insurance agent with Farm Bureau, said he accepted the administrator's position at the first of the year.



Dave Voss

"I am excited to be here," he said, "and this is something I have wanted to do for a long time."

In his new position, Voss oversees day-to-day operations, which includes public relations, financial, personnel and insur-

ance matters.

As the clinic's new administrator, Voss will be looking at ways to enhance services for patients.

"We are blessed to have department heads and employees who do an incredible job," he said.

Voss said he is also proud to work for an organization that truly believes in doing what is best for the patient.

In this business, costs are a consideration when making decisions about patient services, he said, but it's not the only factor.

Whatever services are available now or in the future at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, Voss said, they are added for the benefit of the patient.

"We have a medical practice unique in northwest Kansas," he said.

Within the clinic there are many differ-

ent departments and professionals to help patients with anything from insurance questions, medical records and accounting to X-rays, sonograms and cardio-pulmonary.

As the administrator, part of Voss' job is to make sure the clinic provides cost effective services so that patients don't have to be inconvenienced or pay exorbitant medical costs by traveling to larger metropolitan areas. For example, Voss said that during the past several months, the clinic has expanded its ancillary services, extended hours to accommodate urgent care, and added consulting physicians.

Voss reiterated the reason for these additions as being what is best for the patient.

"I know it is said a lot, but it's true that Drs. LaDonna Regier, Ray Ketting and Victor Hildyard all want what is best for

their patients," he said.

Oftentimes, doctors cannot look at money as the driving factor when dealing with people, he said, and that philosophy certainly holds true at the clinic.

Voss said that's why he is so enthusiastic about his job as the administrator, and said his relationship with the clinic dates back many years.

"My mother, Betty, was the nurse for Dr. Hildyard's father until his retirement in the early 1970s and then continued to work as Hildyard's nurse until 1986."

Graduating from Fort Hays State University with a Master's degree in political science and public administration, Voss went on to work for a federally-funded organization known as "Health Planning Association of Western Kansas."

The main function of the association, he

said, was to review certificates of need by clinics and other medical facilities wanting to expand or add ancillary services, nuclear medicine or other types of needs.

Reasons for the association's existence years ago was in making sure there wouldn't be excessive duplication of services in the medical community and also as a means for the federal government in controlling costs. Colby Medical and Surgical Center has 46 employees, Voss said, and provides medical services throughout northwest Kansas and part of Nebraska.

"The clinic has expanded over the years," Voss said, "and is continuing to grow in providing the best care to its patients."

For questions about the clinic or suggestions for better serving the area, Voss encourages them to call him at (785) 462-3332.

Contracts approved

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Colby school board got an update on projects during its Monday meeting.

High school principal Brian Kraus said second semester teacher evaluations are under way and pre-enrollment for the 2004-2005 school year started Monday.

He said students can enroll online at school using Power School but everyone's still getting used to the format and how to use it.

"I hope we can get a little more engaged," Kraus said.

Board president Stan Molstad asked if students can enroll from home. Kraus said that option isn't available yet but by this time next year, they should be able to log on from home and sign up for their classes.

Middle school principal Robb Ross reported the students at the school worked on a project called "If I were mayor."

He also said vocabulary is becoming a concern, especially in science and math classes. Curriculum

director Diana Wieland said students are needing some help with communicating back the ideas they've learned.

The board also approved administrative contracts for one year for Kraus, Ross, grade school principal Terrel Harrison and athletic director Jeff Quenzer. Board members Tracy Rogers, Dewey Augustine and Joel Powell voted against the motion. The meeting also included a curriculum presentation on incorporating conference ideas into classroom activities in the language arts classes at the high school. Teacher Linda Jones talked about how they implement the concepts learned at a language arts conference in their everyday lesson plans.

She wanted to show why the teachers enjoy going and share with the board why it's a valuable experience. Jones said the teachers exchange ideas with instructors from other schools and all go to different informational sessions to get the most out of the experience.

The board also went into executive session to discuss personnel.

S-u-c-c-e-s-s is the way to spell success



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Kindergarten through fifth grade girls at Colby Grade School learned what it's like to be a cheerleader during a clinic put on by the Colby High School cheerleaders after school Wednesday. The girls were taught cheers and some of the moves the cheerleaders do at middle school and high school games. More than 30 youngsters participated in the clinic.

Man hurt in I-70 accident

A California man was injured in a one-vehicle wreck Monday west of Oakley on Interstate-70 when his motor home went off the road.

The Kansas Highway Patrol said Patrick Anthony Burke, 60, of Newport Beach, Calif., was westbound on I-70 when his 1999 Ford motor home crossed the median and entered the eastbound lanes.

The vehicle, according to the report, then recrossed the median, both westbound lanes and entered the north ditch. It then crossed the ditch and went through the Kansas Department of Transportation fence bordering the interstate.

The report said the motor home then came to rest in a wheat field about 200 yards from the fence.

College officials beat drum for extra dollars

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Colby Community College took its first step in trying to secure more federal money for programs.

The board of trustees heard an update on a recent trip school president Dr. Mikel Ary and board members Curt Stephens and Don Kready took to Washington, D.C.

The three were there Feb. 9-11 for the American Association of Community Colleges legislative conference, but they also made a pitch to Rep. Jerry Moran for a block grant for health care education.

Ary said Colby College along with Pratt and Hutchinson Community Colleges have put in a request for federal funding to help alleviate a shortage of nurses in the western half of the state.

Colby has asked for \$210,000; Pratt \$290,000 and Hutchinson \$326,000.

Ary said if Colby gets the money, it will be used to help implement a nursing program for non-traditional students with classes after 5 p.m. and on Saturdays.

Hutchinson and Pratt would like to use their portion of the money for

on-line courses and equipment. He said all three schools want to use some for staffing and scholarships.

Ary said they won't know until November if they will receive the money.

"I thought it was a favorable discussion," he said.

In other business, Ken Johnson, dean of financial affairs the college, gave a report on the school's year-to-date expenses.

Board president Kenton Krehbiel wanted to know how the end of 2003 stacked up against previous years.

"Is this better or worse?" he asked.

Johnson said the figures for this year are up compared to 2001 and 2002.

Krehbiel said he was happy with how it stacked up against the previous two years, considering how tight education budgets have been.

"I feel more comfortable about it," he said. "We're moving in the right direction."

The board also went into four 15-minute executive sessions to discuss school president Mikel Ary's evaluation.

Briefly

Commodity distribution planned

Commodity distribution will be from 4-5:30 p.m. Monday, March 1 at the RSVP office in the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park in Colby. Eligible people may receive commodities according to income guidelines. Distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis and my not begin until the advertised time. Participants are asked to not arrive at the distribution site more than 30 minutes prior to the distribution. Eligible people who are not able to attend the distribution may send a signed permission note with another person to pick up their commodities. Questions, call 462-6744.

'Feed' to fund local group

The Colby Knights of Columbus will sponsor a "Pancake & Sausage Feed" on Saturday from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. in the basement of Sacred Heart Church. Proceeds will benefit the needs and causes of the Thomas County Amusement Association.

Beef Weigh-In Saturday

Beef Weigh-In for 4-H members enrolled in the market

steer and yearling bucket calf project will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon at the Thomas County Fairgrounds, said D'Ette Scholtz, extension agent. In the event of inclement weather, listen for postponement details from KXXX/KQLS, she said.

Senior/Parent Recognition Night

Senior/Parent Recognition Night for all parents of seniors who participated in boys and girls basketball and pep band will be held Friday. For details, call 460-5300.

Music workshops planned

Dr. Jan Kraybill, formerly of Colby, will offer two workshops on Saturday for age groups 2nd to 8th grade from 9 to 11 a.m. In that workshop, children will learn Christian songs and techniques for making music together with voices and various instruments. The second workshop is for singers ages 9th through adult and features choral techniques, global music and learning music and descants for the evening hymn festival. The hymn festival will be held at the Colby United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and an organ

recital will be at 3 p.m., Sunday, at Colby First Presbyterian.

Voter registration open

Voter registration books are now open for anyone who has changed their name, address or who will turn 18 before the next statewide general election. You may stop in at the County Clerk's office to pick up a registration card or call (785) 462-4500 with questions.

Benefit supper for preschool planned

Kappa Upsilon, a local sorority, is sponsoring a soup supper on Friday, Feb. 20 from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at the Colby Community Building when Colby takes on Atwood in basketball action. The cost is free-will donation with proceeds going to benefit PuddleDuck Pre-School.

Postmaster installation Friday

An installation ceremony will be held at 2 p.m., Friday, for Kenton Krehbiel, the newly appointed postmaster for the Colby facility. Everyone is invited to attend the event with refreshments and cookies available after the ceremony.



Windy, snow

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Cloudy with snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Windy. Snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Lows in the upper 20s. North winds 25 to 30 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent. **Friday...**Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the lower 40s. North winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph. **Friday night...**Mostly clear. Cooler. Lows around 18. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. West winds around 10 mph shifting to the southwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. **Saturday night and Sunday...**Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Lows in the lower 20s.

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 75
Low this morning, 34
Records for Feb. 19, 77 in 1930 and -1 in 1894
Year ago today, 55 and 20
February 2004 precipitation, 0.27 inches
February 2004 snowfall, 6 inches
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00

The sources:
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

