

# Sheridan County introduces new doctor, hospital executive

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

HOXIE — Sheridan County

Health Complex trustees are excited about action taken Monday to hire a new doctor and new administrator

"We are excited. We feel like Dr. Hammeke has an outgoing personality and is enthusiastic. Her husband, Paul, is a quick study and will be a hard worker and I have confidence in both of them," said Richard Krannawitter, trustee chairman.

Dr. Margarita G. Hammeke, an osteopath, and her husband signed three-year contracts, and contin-



M. Hammeke

gent on the couple locating housing in Hoxie, are expected to start work on April 18.

Krannawitter, when reviewing the couple's credentials last month, asked interim administrator Jim Turnbull if he foresaw any conflict of interest in hiring the couple.

Turnbull assured

Krannawitter that the complex by-laws address all aspects of such a venture and he sees no problem in the move.

Dr. Hammeke's \$162,000 contract includes an annual 4-week vacation, family health insurance plan, and payment for her profes-



P. Hammeke

sional fees and associations.

Having a 90-day termination clause in it, the doctor's contract says she will work in the clinic 4 days per week.

Dr. Hammeke, 41, will cover the emergency room on a "1/2 rotation call" with nurse practitioner Kaylee Watkins. The doctor will receive \$200 per weeknight, Monday through Thursday, and \$2,000 per weekend, Friday through Sunday, for emergency room coverage.

The doctor will also receive a monthly inventive bonus, which according to Turnbull, is "pretty standard in the industry."

"Anytime her collectives are 1 1/2 times her monthly salary she'll get a 50 percent bonus," Turnbull said.

While the search for another full-time doctor continues, Dr. Brewster Kellogg, Colby, will continue to work one day per week in the clinic,

and Olathe-based Docs Who Care will assist in the emergency room "as needed," Turnbull said.

Before entering medical school, Dr. Hammeke was a mechanical engineer with General Dynamics/Lockheed-Martin Aerospace Inc.

She completed her residency at John Peter Smith Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, and is certified in obstetrics, as well as pediatric, neonatal, cardiac and trauma life support.

In addition to her medical background, Margarita Hammeke brings to the community the fact she is fluent in Spanish. She said one of her goals as a doctor was to practice as a family practitioner in a rural healthcare setting using her obstetrics background.

Communication between Dr. Hammeke and Citizens Medical Center, Colby, is underway for a

working arrangement to utilize her obstetric abilities at that facility as well as in Hoxie. Nothing yet has been finalized.

Paul Hammeke, 36, holds a master's degree in business administration and marketing from the University of North Texas, Fort Worth, and has worked in the field of medical equipment marketing and communications.

As administrator, Paul Hammeke will earn \$70,000 per year. He'll have a similar benefit package to that of his wife, and will be covered by the doctor's family health insurance plan. His contract also has a 90-day termination clause, as stated in the complex's employee manual.

Hammeke has an extensive business background in medical equipment marketing to physicians, businesses and the public at Twin Oaks Medical Center in Fort Worth.

In addition, he has experience in implementing innovative strategies to increase new uses of business for new and existing clients. He is also experienced in the promotion of electronic and print media, and direct-mail and oral presentation.

Hammeke was the marketing director at Twin Oaks Medical Center Acute Care Hospital, and has been a supervisor and customer care representative in the communication industry in the Fort Worth area.

Turnbull will stay on as interim administrator until Paul Hammeke begins and is scheduled to help with the transition.

"The community will be very pleased. The board is pleased and the Hammekes will be an asset to the community," Turnbull said.

The Hammekes have two sons, James Dennis "J.D.", 5, and Joe, age 2.

## Tornado warnings to undergo change

WICHITA (AP)—For years, tornado warnings have been widespread enough to send people to their basements who were never in any danger.

But the National Weather Service is rolling out new technology this year that will allow the agency to issue warnings specifically tailored to precise areas. For example, forecasters will be able to issue a severe thunderstorm warning for those in one area of a storm, and a tornado warning for those in another.

Officials say they want to avoid the false alarms that can potentially rob tornado warnings of their importance.

"It will place the real emphasis on storms that really deserve the attention," said Dave Freeman, chief meteorologist for KSN-TV in Wichita, who plans to use the new technology. "When we use the word 'warning,' we should be talking about something that requires people to do something."

The changes come as the National Weather Service has refined its criteria for severe thunderstorm

warnings, requiring quarter-sized hail before a warning is issued. Before, hail the size of a penny could trigger such a warning.

Last year, a record 122 tornados touched down in Kansas, although no one was killed in the storms.

Emergency officials say they hope to eventually use the new technology when sounding tornado sirens. Sedgwick County Emergency Management director Randy Duncan estimates it would cost \$600,000 to add the specific-area technology to his county's 140 sirens, allowing them to be sounded individually, rather than county wide.

"I think we need to take advantage of the new technology," Duncan said.

Wichita officials estimate a false alarm for the city last April cost the local economy \$1 million in retail sales and \$55,000 in tax revenue.

## Lawmakers might limit judges' power

TOPEKA (AP)—Stung by rulings mandating higher spending on public schools and striking down Kansas' death penalty law, legislators are considering proposals to limit judges' power and make the courts more responsive to voters.

A House committee endorsed a bill this week to set standards for courts to use in deciding whether education funding meets the requirements of the Kansas Constitution. The measure also would require a three-judge panel—instead of a single judge—to review school finance lawsuits in district court.

Another House committee planned a hearing Thursday on a proposal to have voters pick Supreme Court justices in nonpartisan elections. A proposal before the Senate would retain the governor's power to appoint justices but require the Senate to confirm their selection.

Some legislators remain upset over the Supreme Court's decision in January declaring the 1994 capital punishment law unconstitutional. Some lawmakers also are frustrated over a school finance lawsuit that led the Supreme Court to set an April 12 deadline for legislators to improve education funding.

"It's obvious that the real issue that's motivating the Legislature is just politics," said Bill Rich, a law professor at Washburn University of Topeka. "We want an independent judiciary up until at least the time it rules against us, and then we want one we can control."

The bill on school funding lawsuits won Senate approval last month. The House's committee on school finance endorsed the measure on a voice vote Monday, sending it to the chamber for debate.

The House panel added language saying parents, educators or school districts suing the state must prove the state isn't spending enough money to cover the cost of mandated school courses.

Committee Chairwoman Kathe Decker, R-Clay Center, said the proposal would give the courts guidance.

## From the Local Courts

### Multiple charges filed against Colby resident

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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A Colby man has been charged with multiple crimes against his wife for an incident which took place earlier this month.

Boyd L. Hensley, Jr., 46, has been charged with criminal threat, harassment by telephone, and disorderly conduct against Linda Hensley.

According to Thomas County court records, Boyd Hensley on Saturday, March 5, is alleged to have used profanity and abusive language to terrorize Linda Hensley

and threatened to go to her house and kill her new boyfriend.

Those same records say Boyd Hensley is also alleged to have made harassing telephone calls "repeatedly within a short period of time" and used profanity and abusive language to Linda Hensley.

Boyd Hensley is also alleged to have engaged in a brawl or fight with Linda Hensley with "knowledge or probable cause to believe that such acts would alarm, anger or disturb others or provoke and assault or other breach of the peace."

If convicted, and depending on

his criminal history background, Boyd Hensley faces from 5 to 17 months in the county jail and a fine up to \$100,000 for the criminal threat charge.

He faces up to one year in the county jail and a fine not to exceed \$2,500 for the phone harassment charge, and up to one month in the county jail and a fine not to exceed

\$2,500 for the disorderly conduct charge.

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