



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Colby loses medical professional

By **Patty Decker**
Free Press Editor

Colby's medical community is losing one of its five nurse practitioners.

Janet Myers resigned from Colby Medical and Surgical Center this month.

Myers accepted a job in Bakersfield, Calif., not only because of the opportunity, but also it brings her closer to family. She credits Dr. Victor Hildyard as the reason she is able to move to California.

"If it wasn't for his excellent clinical skills and mentoring, I wouldn't have the experience to make this move," she said.

Born and raised in Oberlin, Myers moved to Colby in 1994 working five years at Colby Community College as director of the nursing program; two years at Citizens Medical Center as director of nursing and the last five years with Colby Medical and Surgical Center as a nurse practitioner.

Prior to that, she served as director of Oberlin's Cottonwood Home Care Agency, clinical RN

at Oberlin Medical Arts, Nursing Service Administrator of Decatur County Hospital and Cedar Living Center and other related positions. Her career has spanned more than 26 years. Myers said it was crucial she found someone as good as Hildyard in California, who will allow her to develop the skills and protocols for optimal care on high intensity patients.

"I believe the professional and personal growth it (the new facility) will afford me cannot be refused," she said. "The timing was right."

Hildyard and Dr. LaDonna Regier, both family practice physicians, were both pioneers in being pro-active by preventing the development of acute problems.

"Nobody wants to be hospitalized," she said, "and through guidance and allowing hands-on in optimizing a patient's quality of life, Hildyard prepared me to be marketable for the position I now have."

For Myers, the clinical skills she acquired in a rural setting and working at Colby Medical and Surgical, molded her.

"As a nurse practitioner I chose to work in a collaborative setting



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Nurse practitioner Deanna Sulzman, left, Dr. Victor Hildyard, center, and nurse practitioner Janet Myers, all of Colby Medical and

Surgical Center, went over charts recently. Myers resigned from the clinic to accept a job in Bakersfield, Calif.

with an experienced doctor, like Dr. Hildyard."

In addition, that collaborative effort and optimal patient care made her responsible to help someone

access other resources needed in order to sustain quality. Myers spoke of "plugging in services" like home health, county health, and others in order to achieve that aim.

"In the old days, patients were treated for a specific problem," she said, "without looking at the whole picture. I am walking away from Colby Medical and Surgical Center

with proficient skills and a keen understanding of the importance of collaborative relationships between provider and patient."

Senior Citizens recognized at volunteer service banquet

By **Tisha Cox**
Colby Free Press

Area senior citizens were honored Wednesday for their volunteer work.

The 24th annual Retired and Senior Volunteer Program banquet and dance was held Wednesday at the Colby American Legion.

Laura Withington, director of the volunteer program, said the event is to recognize all of the volunteers for their work over the past year, and to give special recognition to those who have reached 1,000 or more hours of volunteer time.

She said the hours are cumulative, and are accrued from their starting date on, not just in one year.

The program covers Thomas, Sheridan and Logan counties, and the event draws many of the volunteers together for one night.

"We have 85 workstations in the communities," Withington said. "They cover libraries, museums, schools, hospitals and non-profit agencies."

The program, she said, provides a volunteer corps the area couldn't



LEFT: Colby Community College interim president Skip Sharp congratulated RSVP volunteer Josie West of Oakley for achieving 27,000 volunteer hours since joining the program. West had the most hours of any other volunteer. **RIGHT:** Hubert Cooper received a special hat during the event.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

do without.

Some volunteers have places they choose to volunteer at, while others are on call and work whenever needed.

"We have requests from non-

profit agencies," Withington said, adding some of the stations have had the same volunteers for years.

She said there are 375 people in the program, and about 200 of them came to the banquet.

The banquet itself was a volunteer event. Students from Colby Community College helped decorate and set up, served the meal and stayed for the dance after the meal. Volunteer Hubert Cooper prepared

the meal, and was given a special chef's hat to commemorate his effort.

Volunteers were honored for reaching 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000 hours or more.

They are:

1,000 hours: Sandra Anderson, Alma; Margie Ausmus, Winona; Gene Cooper, Colby; Carolyn DeBoer, Colby; Margaret Denner, Colby; Zita Fisher, Alma; Rose Grigsby, Colby; Bettie Hamill, Colby; Elaine Hurtt, Colby; Zelma Kinkade, Brewster; Carol Lovenstein, Colby; Wilma Pabst, Colby; Janet Phelps, Colby; Mary Shoemaker, Oakley; Adelia Wilnerd, Alma; Richard Dempewolf, Colby; Don Dodds, Phillipsburg.

2,000 hours: Mildred Green, Colby; Gene Griffin, Colby; Delpha Jennings, Phillipsburg; Paula Marchbanks, Oakley; Pauline McKinley, Phillipsburg; Erma Palmgren, Brewster; Rachle Rundle, Phillipsburg.

3,000 hours: Lyle Rose, Phillipsburg; Joan Albers, Colby; Hubert Cooper, Colby; Jean Dem-

pewolf, Colby; LaVerne Graham, Alma; Virginia Hickman, Colby; Florene Messamore, Colby; Henrietta VanKooten, Phillipsburg; Eldo Graham, Alma; Loren Larrick, Phillipsburg.

4,000/5,000 hours: Carolyn Miller, Colby.

4,000 hours: Joyce Crabtree, Brewster.

5,000 hours: Shirley Hutton, Oakley; Betty James, Selden; Cordelia Jespersen, Colby; Patty Lewallen, Oakley.

6,000 hours: Darlene Rumbaugh, Phillipsburg; Mary Weed, Colby.

7,000 hours: Melda Moore, Colby.

8,000 hours: Mickey Siglinger, Phillipsburg.

10,000 hours: Lucille Hofaker, Phillipsburg.

12,000 hours: Evelyn Ure, Park.

14,000 hours: Alma Lubbers, Oakley.

12,000/13,000: James Edmundson, Colby.

23,000/24,000: Marguerette Edmundson, Colby.

26,000/27,000: Josie West, Oak-

Fire damages houses

Colby firefighters extinguished hot spots on the exterior of two houses Wednesday afternoon. At 4:04 p.m., the fire department responded to 1125 E. Ninth St. According to a preliminary report, the exterior of the house was on fire and spread to 1105 E. Ninth. Damage estimates were not available. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Cemetery board wants book back

By **Patty Decker**
Free Press Editor

Colby's cemetery board is making an appeal to whomever was responsible for taking the census book from the cemetery to return it.

The book disappeared sometimes in the last four to five days, said Beulah Cemetery Board Chairman Dale Deaver.

"This book is for public use and is available year-round by friends and family members to locate their loved one's grave site," he said.

The book was located in a drawer under the map locator site on the cemetery grounds and was placed there about one year ago on Memorial Day.

Even though there is a master copy of the information, board members said they still would like the copy returned.

The census book was not se-

cured, said Relda Galli, secretary-treasurer, but maybe that's something the board will consider doing in the future.

"The book is available for everyone's use," Galli said.

If someone needs a copy of one or more pages, cemetery officials would be glad to do that.

Deaver and the other board members have not ruled out the possibility that the book was accidentally taken off the cemetery grounds.

Either way, if anyone has information about the disappearance, they can also contact Deaver or Ron Haremza, Barry Kaaz, Wilbur Henry, Lyman Bear and Lonnie Wilson, the other cemetery board members.