



8 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Monday

January 30, 2012
Volume 123, Number 16
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Colby hospital plans more expansion

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkans.com

In addition to the expansion that was recently completed at the hospital, Citizens Medical Center Incorporated of Colby is continuing to plan for growth.

Over the next two years, \$1.9 million more in expansions and surgical suite upgrades are expected, with ground breaking at the Family Center for Health Care to take place some time in the late spring, said Kevan Trenkle, the hospital's chief executive officer.

The increase in health care services includes the addition of a full-time surgeon, two doctors who will specialize in family medicine and obstetrics and building expansions and upgrades to accommodate their work.

Scott Focke, manager of the Family Center for Health Care clinic, said that although plans for building expansions are already in the works, funding has not yet been received.

"We feel comfortable about the idea (to start the expansions) because we have undergone preplan-



A computer rendering showed what the expansion will look like with the renovations.

ning and have gotten feedback from several community members and a consultant," said Focke. "We have reserves and trust contributions that will help pay for it, and the community interviews show that we have a lot of support from people who will contribute."

"We have been strategically expanding and recruiting for many years," Trenkle said. "In the last five years, CMCI has invested \$8.6 million in technology, expansions and renovations, and we have accomplished these invest-

ments without being on the public tax rolls.

"With additional providers coming to Colby, we are faced with urgent and accelerated growth. We must accommodate our providers with the facilities, staff and equipment they need to provide care. We are very proud of the growth we are experiencing. It has taken a lot of planning and good people to bring us to where we are today," said Trenkle.

"We simply can't put the project off," added Focke. "The doctors

are coming."

Focke said Dr. John Dygert will be the first to arrive, and is expected in August. He is trained in family medicine and obstetrics care.

Arriving in August 2013 are a husband and wife couple. Dr. Kelly Gabel will be the new full-time surgeon and will add a line of services for Citizens and northwest Kansas. Dr. Sarah Gabel specializes in family medicine and obstetrics care.

With an expected increase in obstetrics patients, the center

plans to upgrade and modernize the clinic's obstetrics wing. In order to accommodate the new surgeon, the hospital will upgrade its surgical suites, along with buying equipment and instruments. Space will be added to accommodate their work and patient care.

The additional services in obstetrics, family medicine, women's health and surgery, said Trenkle, the center will be able to deliver increased access to regular and emergency medicine.

"It is very important that we

continually recruit and seek opportunities for growth that will sustain us for many years to come," Trenkle said. "We are proud of the exceptional services we have been able to offer, and with Dr. Dygert joining us this August and the Gabels coming in 2013, we will be well-positioned to ensure access to high quality physician services over the next decade."

The three new doctors will accompany the clinic's family practice physicians Dr. Darren Matchell, Dr. Brewster Kellogg and Dr. Steven Bear, five nurse practitioners – one of which began today – and two physician assistants.

The hospital staffs one full-time orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Mekki Saba.

"This project will also allow access to general surgery services in Colby that have not been available because we did not have a full time surgeon," Focke said. "This expansion project will position Colby and CMCI to be a true leader in the region for all health care services for the foreseeable future."

Brass comes to town



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band's Brass in Blue played the National Anthem (top) on Thursday during its concert at Colby High School. Three trumpet players played a song during the program, which was enjoyed by hundreds of attendees.



Colby agent joins Shay Realty based in St. Francis

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkans.com

Colby agent Terry Stover is now associated with Shay Realty, which has its main office in St. Francis.

However, Stover says he continues to live in Atwood, working from his home with folks in most of western Kansas and trying to put buyers and sellers together.

"We are glad to have Terry as part of our sales team," said Rodney Shay, broker and president of Shay Realty. "He has a wealth of agriculture and business experience."

Stover said he has been a licensed real estate agent in Kansas since May 2008 and specializes in agricultural land sales with his farm-and-ranch background.

"Before real estate, Stover said, his expertise was mostly in sales, working at the KXXX radio station with Larry Steckline from about 1985 to 1988. He sold advertising for northwest Kansas television stations from 1998 to 2008.

He said when management decided to consolidate operations, they offered him the opportunity to move to Salina or Wichita.

"But I chose to stay close to home," he said. "It was an easy decision."

Stover said he has also worked for years in farming and livestock and operated a clothing store.

When he isn't working, he said, he likes to "play cowboy" with his wife Linda and their grandchildren in an arena at their home.

"We love to have family and friends come and rope with us, and especially enjoy when the grandkids come and play," Stover said. "They all ride the horses, run barrels, chase the steers and get dirty."

Stover said he and Linda have two grown children, Amanda (Mark) Wahlmeier of Colby and Ryan (Tonya) Stover of Norton,

and six grandkids: Jordan, Kellyn, Peyton and Breckyn Wahlmeier and Josie and Colton Stover.

"We call our fun time at the arena 'playing cowboy,'" he said, "because however big the job to maintain it is, it still isn't work since we enjoy it so much."

Stover said he was born in Winona, where he was raised in a farming and ranching family. He is a 1969 graduate of Winona High School and a 1971 graduate of Colby Community College. He also attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

Warrant a must for tracking

By Jesse H. Holland
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court ruled unanimously last Monday that police must get a search warrant before using Global Positioning System technology to track criminal suspects.

The ruling represents a serious complication for law enforcement nationwide, which increasingly relies on high tech surveillance of suspects, including use of various types of GPS devices.

A GPS device installed by police on Washington nightclub owner Antoine Jones' Jeep helped them link him to a suburban house used to stash money and drugs. He was sentenced to life in prison before the appeals court overturned the conviction.

Associate Justice Antonin Scalia said that the government's installation of a GPS device, and its use to monitor the vehicle's movements, constitutes a search, meaning that a warrant is required.

"By attaching the device to the Jeep" that Jones was using, "officers encroached on a protected area," Scalia wrote. He concluded that the installation of the device on the vehicle without a warrant was a trespass and therefore an illegal search.

All nine justices agreed that the GPS monitoring on the Jeep violated the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

Scalia wrote the main opinion of three in the case. He was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Sonia Sotomayor.

Sotomayor also wrote one of the two concurring opinions that agreed with the outcome in the Jones case for different reasons.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote, in the other concurring opinion, that the trespass was not as important as the suspect's expectation of privacy and that the long-term duration of the surveillance impinged on that expectation of privacy. Police monitored the Jeep's movements over the course of four weeks after attaching the GPS device.

"The use of longer term GPS monitoring in investigations of

See "TRACKING," Page 2

