

Surgeons gone for holidays

By Patty Decker

The Colby Free Press
There will be no surgeon available at the Goodland and Colby hospitals for the next six days while the regular doctors are on vacation, Colby officials confirmed today.
The holiday plans affect both general surgery and Caesarean-section deliveries for mothers unable to have a natural delivery.
The doctors cover both hospitals.
"The primary impact will be on C-sections," said Kevan Trenkle, chief financial officer at Citizens Medical Center in Colby and acting administrator while Michael Boyles is on vacation. Any surgical cases, he said, will be transferred to the closest facility, probably be in Hays.
Trenkle said both Dr. Duncan Davis, general surgeon, and Dr. David Younger, who does Caesarian sections, were away for the holidays.
"We tried to get a locum (replacement) for about two months to cover

surgical procedures for this week," he said, "but because it was during the holiday season, we couldn't find anyone."
Doctors at both Colby clinics agreed that this isn't a good situation, opinions on the seven-day absence of a surgeon differed.
Dr. LaDonna Regier, who is the hospital's chief of staff and a physician at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, said she believes it is a very bad situation for both obstetric patients and emergency room patients alike.
"It's unfair to these (obstetric) patients and it definitely places them and anyone with an emergency in jeopardy," she said.
Although Regier does not handle obstetrics, she did say that her associate, Dr. Victor Hildyard, also at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, does deliver babies.
Hildyard said his office was notified about the lack of surgical coverage on Friday and he agrees with Regier that

this situation is not good.
The lack of surgical coverage had already prompted one obstetrics patient to be transferred to Hays this morning, he said.
"I will not compromise a patient's care," Hildyard.
Conversely, Scott Focke, who is the manager of the Family Center for Health Care, said while this is not the best situation, he disagreed that it is dangerous.
"If we have an emergency situation, Dr. Scott Russell (one of the rotating physicians with Docs Who Care) has the education and experience to handle a problem in the event a patient couldn't be transferred out," he said.
There are a lot of hospital facilities up and down the Interstate without surgical coverage, he said.
While Focke agreed it would be best to have a surgeon available, situations like this come up now and then. Russell was with patients and unavailable for comment.

Merchants give out merry Christmas

DRAWING, from Page 1

The instant winners were Nina Spencer, Cali McDaniel, Glenn Phillips, Jay Sharp, Kelly Hillman, Susan Jensen, Chris Westbrook, Cecil Schneider, Jean Halligan and Peggy Adams.
Spencer got her ticket at Mann's jewelry, McDaniel got hers at Aten

Department Store; Phillips at Frontier Equity Exchange; Sharp at Dan Brenner Ford; Hillman at Bowman's Heating and Air Conditioning; Jensen at Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance; Westbrook at Brenner Ford; Schneider at Medical Arts Pharmacy; Halligan at *The Goodland Daily News* and Adams at Garcia's.
Other participating businesses were

American Communications, Hitchcock Inc., Knott Just Books, Goodland Greenline, Bankwest, Jacque's Hallmark, Western State Bank, Picnic in the Park, Grass Roots Lawn Service, Goodland Sheet Metal, Miller's Electronics, Elliott's, Curt's Corner Garage, Peoples State Bank and Eagle Cable Television.

Iraq insists it's not hiding weapons

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq insists it is hiding no nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, though U.N. inspectors have called its arms declaration wanting and American and British officials have called it a lie.
"We have told the world we are not producing these kind of weapons, but it seems that the world is drugged, absent or in a weak position," President Saddam Hussein said Sunday during talks with visiting Belarus envoy Nikolai Ivanchenko.
Saddam's scientific adviser Amir al-Saadi told reporters in Baghdad Sunday that Iraq had answered many of the questions about its weapons program in a declaration to the United Nations earlier this month or in interviews officials have given U.N. inspectors who have been working here since last month.
Al-Saadi accused the United States and Britain of ignoring Iraq's replies and making judgments before U.N. experts could fully examine the Iraqi declaration.
"Why don't they let the specialized organs of the United Nations get on with their task?" al-Saadi asked at a televised news conference.
"We don't even have an objection if the CIA itself comes and joins the inspection teams to show them the places which they claim have something," he said.

around the world

learned of the death this morning.
"We do not know the circumstances. It is pretty devastating news," he said.
He said Strummer, who was born John Mellor, had been working on a third album with The Mescaleros.
Strummer's death was announced on his official Web site. "Joe Strummer died yesterday," said the simple statement. "Our condolences to Luce and the kids, family and friends."
"The Clash" were known for injecting left wing politics into punk. Their album "London Calling" was named the best album of the 1980s by Rolling Stone magazine, despite being released in 1979.
NATIONAL
NEW YORK — Retailers who have watched with dismay as the pre-Christmas rush hasn't materialized in big bucks are now hoping customers will show up in the next few days — and even after the holiday season.
"The season is reflecting great spending caution and could be the weakest in a dozen years," said Kurt Barnard, president of Barnard's Retail Trend Report.
Retailers had a good start to the season with a better-than-expected sales during the Thanksgiving weekend, but sales subsequently were surprisingly weak. Analysts say consumers have cut back on their spending because of worries about job security and the economy's uncertain recovery.
Shoppers over the weekend were searching for the best price, and retailers were accommodating them with two-for-one specials and other deep discounts.
The National Retail Federation, an industry group, was holding on to its optimism, and to hopes that procrastinators will give stores a boost. The NRF estimated that 35 percent of consumers hadn't completed their shopping as of last Monday.

will allow me to work in the future to do some more good things for our state. And I hope that I can turn this very bad experience into a positive for a lot of innocent people of all races, backgrounds and help my poor state."
TILLAMOOK, Ore. — Police were searching for a man whose wife and three young children were found dead in the snowy woods, but they weren't sure whether the man they are seeking is a victim or a suspect.
The case was being investigated as a homicide, though the causes of death had not been determined and authorities had not ruled out a murder-suicide, Tillamook County Sheriff Todd Anderson said Sunday.
Rene E Morris, 31, and her children, Bryant, 10, Alexis, 8, and 4-year-old Jonathan had been reported missing Saturday from their Portland home, Anderson said. Their bodies were found Saturday.
Police are looking for Edward Morris, 37, and the family's gray 1993 Dodge Caravan. Neighbors of the victims said the husband was a landscaper who had recently begun a job at a Target store.
Anderson said hunters found the first body in Tillamook State Forest, and called authorities from a convenience store. The Oregon State Police forensics team arrived and found the other three in the near vicinity.
The family lived in a single-story white home in north Portland, strung with Christmas lights for the season.

CARACAS, Venezuela — Leaders of a strike aimed at forcing Hugo Chavez from office said they were not intimidated by the president's threats to fire striking managers of the state oil monopoly and vowed the protest would continue through Christmas if necessary.
"Cost it what may cost, we will continue with this strike," Carlos Ortega, the president of Venezuela's largest trade union confederation, said Sunday. "The authoritarianism and violence of the Chavez regime will not force us to retreat."
Ortega insisted citizens were "resolved to spend Christmas in the streets" protesting Chavez's rule.
Chavez, who has already sacked four executives at state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA, vowed more dismissals and said strikers would be prosecuted. The stoppage, which entered its 22nd day Monday, has paralyzed an industry that provides more than 70 percent of the country's export revenue and is the fifth largest supplier to the world.
"We have begun to recover PDVSA and we will start a cleansing in PDVSA," Chavez said during his weekly television and radio show Sunday. "Those who didn't show up for work ... well, they will be fired."
LONDON — Punk legend Joe Strummer of "The Clash" has died, his record company said Monday. He was 50.
Strummer, who was the band's guitarist, vocalist and songwriter alongside Mick Jones, died on Sunday. The cause of his death was not announced.
Hein van der Rey, managing director of Epiaph Records, which had produced two albums for Strummer's latest band, The Mescaleros, said he

ELIZABETH, N.J. — The family of a U.S. soldier killed during a firefight in Afghanistan mourned privately Sunday, with a note taped to their front door saying, "Please respect our privacy."
Neighbors described Sgt. Steven Checo as a good son.
The 22-year-old paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division was shot Saturday during a gun battle in the eastern Afghanistan town of Shkhin.
Checo died during surgery at a field hospital, according to an Army statement from Fort Bragg, N.C., the home of the 82nd Airborne.
Checo was the first U.S. combat death in Afghanistan since August, and the 17th American killed in a hostile situation there since the war on terror began late last year.
Checo's uncle, Gilbert Checo, said relatives were devastated by the death of the young man, who was living his dream of serving in the armed forces.
A Mass was performed for Checo on Sunday morning, said the Rev. Ronald Newland of St. Mary's of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church, where the family attends services.
WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON — Republican senators are gathering by telephone to elect a new leader they hope will help repair the damage that Trent Lott's racially charged remarks have had on GOP efforts to court minority voters.
Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, a White House favorite, emerged last week as the clear choice to replace Lott, who resigned from the leadership under pressure Friday.

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Prime time TV schedule

Channel guide											
2	PBS	3	TBS	4	ABC	5	HBO	6	CNN		
7	CBS	8	NBC (KS)	11	TVLND	12	ESPN	13	FOX	15	MAX
16	TNN	18	LIFE	20	USA	21	SHOW	22	TMC	23	MTV
24	DISC	27	VH1	28	TNT	30	FSN	31	CMT	32	FAM
33	NBC (CO)	34	NICK	36	A&E	38	SCI	39	TLC	40	FX
45	FMC	49	E!	51	TRAV	53	WB	54	ESPN2	55	ESPN News
58	HIST	62	HGTV	99	WGN						

Monday Evening December 23, 2002										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KLBY/ABC	Monday Night Football						Local	ABC New	Local	Local
KBSL/CBS	Raymond	Standing	CSI: Miami		Local	Late Show		Late Late Show		Local
KSNW/NBC	Third Watch		Crossing Jordan		Local	Tonight Show		Conan		Local
KUSA/NBC	Fear Factor		Third Watch		Crossing Jordan		Local	Tonight Show		Conan
KDVR/FOX	That 70's	Grounded	Malcolm	Bernie	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
Cable Channels										
A & E	Biography				Third Watch	TVography	Biography			
AMC	Dreamscape				Enemy Mine	Dreamscape				
CMT	All Access		Inside Fame	Making	Flamewrth	Total Release	CMT 3rd Shift			
CNN	Larry King Live		Newsnight	Connie	Lou Dobb	Larry King	Newsnight			
DISC	Deadly Reptiles 2		Navy Seals Training	Monster Garage	Biker Build-Off	Supervolcanoes		Wild On Taiwan		
E!	Growing Pains			Leonardo DiCaprio	Howard Stern	Wild On Taiwan				
ESPN	Brian Boitano's Skating Spectacular			College Cheer & Danc	SportsCenter	SportsCenter				
ESPN2	Women's Pro Billiards		World's Sexiest Athlet	Snowmobiling	NBA2Night	NFL Films	Friday Night Fights			
FAM	The Preacher's Wife					The Caroline Rhea Sh	Paid Prog	Paid Prog		
FX	My Fellow Americans				Reality	24	My Fellow Americans			
HGTV	Sensible	Public Plc	Challenge	Love By	Kitchen	Interiors	Sensible	Public Plc	Challenge	Love By
HIST	Masada				Gangs of New York	Mail Call	Conquest	Masada		
LIFE	Judgement Day				Golden Gr	Golden Gr	Nanny	Nanny	Mad About	Chicago H
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MTV	Making	Making	Making	MovieHou	All Things Rock	MTV After Hours				
NICK	TBA	Rckt Pwr	Arnold!	Rugrats	Spng Bob	Doug	Cosby	Cosby	Cheers	Cheers
SCI	Stargate SG-1		Stargate SG-1		J Edward	J Edward	Twilight Z	Twilight Z	Stargate SG-1	
TBS	Coming to America				The Ref		Coming to America			
TCM	National Velvet				The Yearling	Angels in the Outfield				
TLC	Twins Mysteries		Med Dete	Med Dete	Trauma	Labor & Delivery	Christie's Story			
TNN	WWE Raw		WWE Raw Zone		CSI	VIP	Baywatch			
TNT	A Christmas Carol				Law & Order	X-Files	X-Files			
TRAV	Secrets		Secrets		Inside Universal Studi	Secrets	Secrets			
TV LAND	Gilligan's	Munsters	Andy Griff	Beaver	Bev Hill	Lucy	Archie B	Jeffersons	The Rockford Files	
USA	Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade					Robbery Homicide	Martin	Lvng Sngl		
VH1	Best of Divas									
WGN	Santa Claus: The Movie				Celebrity	Heat of the Night	Matlock	Susan		
Premium Channels										
HBO	Multiplicity				A.I. Artificial Intelligence	First Look				
MAX	Cast Away				Heist	Under Siege 2				
SHOW	The Hi-Line				I Was a Teenage Faust	Scary Movie 2				

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Tuesday Evening December 24, 2002											
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KLBY/ABC	Life with	Less Than	NYPD Blue		Local	Nightline	Up Close	Local	Local	Local	
KBSL/CBS	The Guardian		Judging Amy		Local	Late Show		Late Late		Local	
KSNW/NBC	It's A Wonderful Life						Tonight S	Local			
KUSA/NBC	It's A Wonderful Life						Local	Tonight Show			
KDVR/FOX	Santa Baby	Funniest Holiday			Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	
Cable Channels											
A & E	Shackleton						Biography	Shackleton			
AMC	Cross Creek				Valmont	Cross Cre					
CMT	Let It Be Christmas		Most Wanted Christm	Most Wanted Christm	Inside Fame	CMT 3rd Shift					
CNN	Larry King Live		Newsnight	Connie	Lou Dobb	Larry King	Newsnight				
DISC	Path of the Reindeer		Navy Seals Training	New Detectives	New Detectives	FBI Files					
E!	Curse of Little Rascal		AnnaNicol	Star Dates	Wild On Hawaii	Howard Stern	Wild On Ibiza				
ESPN	Jimmy V Classic					SportsCenter	SportsCenter				
ESPN2	Harlem Globetrotters					Brian Boitano's Skatin	NFL2Night	NFL's	SportsCenter		
FAM	Santa Claus is Comin'		Year Without Santa		700 Club	The Caroline Rhea Sh	Paid Prog	Paid Prog			
FX	Grumpy Old Men					Grumpy Old Men	Grumpy Old Men				
HGTV	Christmas Across America 2002						Christmas Across America 2002				
HIST	Biblical Disasters #1		Runaways		Organized Crime	The Christmas Truce	Biblical Disasters #1				
LIFE	Something About Amelia				Golden Gr	Golden Gr	Nanny	Nanny	Mad About	Chicago H	
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MTV	MTV's Primetime Players			Osbourne	Special	All Things Rock	MTV After Hours				
NICK	TBA	Rckt Pwr	Arnold!	Rugrats	TBA	TBA	Cosby	Cosby	Cheers	Cheers	
SCI	The X-Files		The X-Files		J Edward	J Edward	Twilight Z	Twilight Z	Stargate SG-1		
TBS	Trading Places				Another 48 Hours	Trading Places					
TCM	Christmas in July				Since You Went Away	Christmas in Connecticut					
TLC	While You Were Out		While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out				
TNN	You Only Live Twice						On Her Majesty's Secret Service				
TNT	A Christmas Story					A Christmas Story	A Christmas Story				
TRAV	Secrets		Secrets		Top Ten Toylands	Secrets	Secrets				
TV LAND	Gilligan's	Munsters	Andy Griff	Beaver	Bev Hill	Lucy	Archie B	Jeffersons	The Rockford Files		
USA	The Waterboy				Tommy Boy	Black Sheep					
VH1	Best of Classic VH1										
WGN	Twins				Scrooge	Midnight Mass					
Premium Channels											
HBO	Little Buddha				Ocean's Eleven	Real Sports					
MAX	2 Days in the Valley				The Pelican Brief	My Cousin Vinny					
SHOW	Lara Croft: Tomb Raider				Heartbreakers	Rat Race					

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