

_yle Worthy had one of his first dialysis treatments at Goodland but once the site is inspected and approved by the state, the

Regional Medical Center last month. Worthy is the first patient, dialysis unit will be able to start taking more patients

Dialysis opens for first patient

Lyle Worthy has put a lot of miles on his vehicle over the past four years, so the decision to receive treatment at the High Plains Dialysis Service as its first patient and save about 140 miles each trip was an easy one.

Worthy became the first dialysis patient at Goodland Regional Medical Center on Jan. 28. Over the next 30 days, he will help establish a medical record that will be part of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's licensing survey. State officials were to visit sometime this week to conduct a complete review of the dialysis service. Pending the state review, the hospital says it hopes to have the unit at full capacity in March.

It has been a long road, said Tina Goodwin, a spokesman for the hospital. Plans to create a regional dialysis service in Goodland began in 2010 after the DaVita facility in Burlington closed. A citizen group reached out to the hospital to help fill the void. It then took nearly 2 1/2 years to develop systems, policies, personnel and equipment to get the service where it

But it has been even a longer trip for Worthy. The World War II veteran, who served in the infantry at Okinawa, Japan, spent 50 years in the family automobile and implements dealership in Atwood. He returned to Kansas after the war and worked with his father for 20 years, then ran the dealership for the next 30.

Four years ago, he began his dialysis treatment in Hays. Worthy, who now lives in Colby, drove the 220-mile round trip twice a week for about three years. A year ago, his doctor suggested an additional day of treatment. That meant three days on the road, traveling more than 200 miles each day.

"I guess I got used to it," Worthy said, of the drive. "It's like a job. You got to do it."

Worthy said over the years, a network of about 40 people that have helped drive him to his treatments. His sister and brother-in-law travelled 40 miles to Colby to pick him up.

"It was almost 300 miles for my sister," he (785) 890-6002

said. "So I really liked the idea of just driving to Goodland. I like the facility and the staff

The dialysis team consists of Michelle Thompson, a registered nurse and manager of the unit; dialysis technician Judy Snyder; and Mardy Jo Gustafson, also a registered nurse. Dr. Yolanda Bogaert of Denver Nephrology is the medical director.

The service was paid for, in part, through the sale of Community Service Tax Credits through the Kansas Department of Commerce, which were awarded to the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation in the amount of

The service received donations including \$17,000 from Tri-State Health Assistance of

Individuals or groups interested in making donations can contact the foundation at (785) 890-2206 or Jay Jolly, chief executive officer at Goodland Regional Medical Center, at

Deaths

Ramona June Lyon

Ramona June Lyon, 80, a re- Lyon; two sisters, Neva Volk and tired Army veteran, died Friday, Betty Sanders; a step-brother, Roy Feb. 22, 2013, at Citizens Medical Livingston Jr.; and a step-brother-Center in Colby.

She was born Jan. 25, 1933, in Colby, the daughter of Newton E. Lyon and Thelma (Lyon) Livings-

Corp. in 1955 and spent two years in France, Germany and Japan. She also worked at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver and after more than 20 years as a ser- Lora Volk, Colby. geant first class.

worked at Colby Community College as a monitor for Tel-net classes. She was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary in Colby and the First Christian chapel. Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her step-father, Roy ety in care of the funeral home. Livingston Sr.; a brother, Robert

in-law, Mac Allen.

She is survived by a sister, Enola Overholser; a childhood friend, Moya Bieker; a brother-in-law, Alvin Volk; and a step-sister-in-She joined the Women's Army law, Elva Livingston, all of Colby; three step-sisters, Virginia Allen, Satanta; Bonnie (James) Bahr, Keenesburg, Colo.; and Betty (Bill) Friend, Golden, Colo.; a Walter Reed Army Hospital in step-brother, Gerald (Janet) Lyon, Washington. She retired in 1976 Denver; and a niece and helper,

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tues-She returned to Colby and day, Feb. 26, 2013, at the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, with burial and military honors at the Disabled American Veterans, the Beulah Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m. today at the

> Memorials may be made to the Thomas County Historical Soci-

Gene H. Whittaker

Gene H. Whittaker, 72, a Brewster area farmer before he retired, ers, Norman Whittaker, Brewster, died Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, at Deseret Health and Rehab in Colby.

He was born May 11, 1940, on the family farm in Thomas County, the third child of H.M. and Alma Whittaker. He grew up on the farm and attended school in Brewster. He was a member of the Future Farmers of America at Brewster High School, where he graduated in 1963.

He farmed and raised hogs and cattle with his brother Norman until he moved into Lantern Park church in Brewster, the Levant Manor nursing home (later Deseret). He enjoyed riding in and showing off his 1958 Dodge.

parents and a brother, Raymond 67701.

He is survived by two brothand Marlin (Setusko) Whittaker. Westcliff, Colo., and by the Melda Moore family of Colby, which "adopted" him many years ago. Services will be at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, at the Brewster Community Church, with burial in the Brewster Cem-Visitation will be from 4 to 8

p.m. Tuesday at the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby.

Memorials may be made to the Community Church, the Brewster Museum or the Brewster Library, in care of the funeral chapel at 745 Preceding him in death were his S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan.,

Foundation gives grant to Art Club

Melinda Olson, director of together in applying for the grant, the Thomas County Community to be used in building 10 free-Foundation, and Ranelle Lun- standing art display units for the sway, a member of the founda- use of both. Each display unit will tion, presented the High Plains Art have three four-by-eight foot peg-Club and the Heartland Christian board panels connected to form a School with a grant for \$567 at three-sided display eight feet tall. the club's meeting Feb. 13 at the They will be stored at the school.

The program is a season ticket club president Marlene Carpenter for other organizations to borrow Heartland Christian School Administrator Renee Schmeiser was unable to attend.

The club and the school went show at the school next fall.

When not in use by the club or Accepting the check were art school, the units will be available by applying to the school's board. Carpenter says the art club

> plans to use the units for the first time when they have their next art

Music program set Friday at college here The Marvelous Wonderettes the Off-Broadway Westside The- "It's My Party" and 20 other hits.

the Cultural Arts Center on the tunes of the 1950s and 1960s. Colby Community College cam-

the tight-harmony guy-group music of The Four Seasons to Broad-

will show at 7:30 p.m. Friday in atre with tight-harmony girl-group

The Marvelous Wonderettes is While Jersey Boys was bringing revue by Roger Bean that features and Carly Mooney. a trunk full of pop classics like "Lollipop," "Stupid Cupid," "Lipway, another show was packing stick on Your Collar," "Mr. Lee," show is from the "Patricia A. Em-

Roger Bean and stars four talented singer-actors: Ashley Pankow,

Along with the Western Plains Arts Association, support for the

bree Trust Fund and the Director's It is written and directed by Fund at the Thomas County Com- Colby United Methodist Church. munity Foundation."

a funny, glittery song-and-dance Tiffany Wiesend, Kelly Karcher event for the Western Plains Arts and project director Marj Brown. Association at the door, \$20 for adults and \$10 for students.

Department gives millions for project

WASHINGTON (AP) - Education Secretary Arne Duncan today announced a \$15 million AmeriCorps program to help some of the nation's worst performing schools increase their graduation rates.

Duncan said the three-year program, called the School Turnaround AmeriCorps, would send 650 members into about 60 schools that are not graduating enough of their students. Schools will compete for the grants, which are funded through the Education Department and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Duncan's announcement comes as lawmakers and the administration are looking for a way to

dodge some \$85 billion in automatic spending cuts set to take hold at the end of the week. The new AmeriCorps program is a pittance by comparison to that, or the \$4.5 billion the Education Department has sent to 1,300 of the nation's lowest performing schools in search of a turnabout.

Duncan said the new program's goal will be to improve school safety, attendance and discipline in districts where large percentages of students don't complete their education. The AmeriCorps members also will work to help students' reading and mathematics skills and increase college enrollment rates by helping them and their parents apply for financial aid.

Receive 10 free trees from foundation

The Arbor Day Foundation is making it easier to celebrate the arrival of spring through planting trees. Anyone joining the foundation in March will receive 10 free

white flowering dogwood trees. "White flowering dogwoods will add beauty to your home throughout the year," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the foundation. "Dogwoods are known for their showy spring flowers, scarlet autumn foliage and red berries...."

The free trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for

planting between March 1 and contribution to Ten Free Dogwood May 31, with instructions. The 6to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb.,

To become a member and receive the free trees, send a \$10

Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 grow or they will be replaced free. 68410, by Saturday, March 30, or join online at arborday.org/march.



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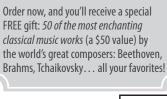
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Important Notice for Agriculture Producers

Colby Community College needs your input to better serve the ag community. As agriculture changes, CCC is working to ensure that the college meets producers' needs. To accomplish this goal, the college is conducting an "Agriculture Needs Assessment." Your assistance will enable CCC to offer ag programs, courses, workshops and speakers that are relevant and useful. Please complete the short survey at the following website: http://www.biturls.com/jbxN5. The results will be posted on the college web site at www.colbycc.edu.

For additional information, call Barry Kaaz at (785) 460-5429, toll free (888) 634-9350 or barry.kaaz@colbycc.edu



The mission of Colby Community College is engaging others in learning and service opportunities to positively affect their world.

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