



Lyle Worthy had one of his first dialysis treatments at Goodland Regional Medical Center last month. Worthy is the first patient, but once the site is inspected and approved by the state, the 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

is today. 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. He retired in 1993.

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

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

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 \$246,000.

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

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 (785) 890-6002.

Music program set Friday at college here

The Marvelous Wonderettes will show at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus.

While Jersey Boys was bringing the tight-harmony guy-group music of The Four Seasons to Broadway, another show was packing

the Off-Broadway Westside Theatre with tight-harmony girl-group tunes of the 1950s and 1960s.

The Marvelous Wonderettes is a funny, glittery song-and-dance revue by Roger Bean that features a trunk full of pop classics like "Lollipop," "Stupid Cupid," "Lipstick on Your Collar," "Mr. Lee,"

"It's My Party" and 20 other hits.

It is written and directed by Roger Bean and stars four talented singer-actors: Ashley Pankow, Tiffany Wiesend, Kelly Karcher and Carly Mooney.

Along with the Western Plains Arts Association, support for the show is from the "Patricia A. Em-

tree Trust Fund and the Director's Fund at the Thomas County Community Foundation."

The program is a season ticket event for the Western Plains Arts 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 turnaround.

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 May 31, with instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free.

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

contribution to Ten Free Dogwood Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 1000 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb., 68410, by Saturday, March 30, or join online at arborday.org/march.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day
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Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.71

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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.biturl.com/jb5xN5>. 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



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We want your local news!

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