

Mansfield's 'a buzz' about December medical center launch

Stephanie Patrick - August 28, 2006

The last of the windows and exterior bricks are being fit into place and the parking lots recently were poured at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center. Even the landscaping is under way as the \$134 million hospital goes into countdown mode for its scheduled Dec. 18 opening.

"From the exterior, it looks like we are nearly ready to open," said Jim List, the hospital's construction manager. "We are really starting to hear a buzz about it when we are out in the community."

The hospital, designed by RTKL and located at 2700 E. Broad St., will boast 80 private rooms and will have the capacity to expand to 152 beds. The 285,000-square-foot Methodist Mansfield will include emergency care and surgery facilities, a cardiac catheterization lab, and a women's pavilion with a special-care nursery, labor and delivery accommodations and postpartum facilities.

Inside, construction crews continue to lay flooring, paint walls and install plumbing fixtures on the first and second floors. Large equipment, such as an MRI machine, recently was moved into place so the surrounding walls could be completed.

Laura Irvine, Methodist Mansfield's president, said hiring continues and the hospital will employ nearly 500 people. Physicians of more than 20 specialties are joining the staff.

Corphealth is keeping a healthy eye on Arkansans

Fort Worth-based Corphealth Inc., a national health and productivity-solutions company, recently was chosen by the state of Arkansas to manage its AR Wellness weight management and nutrition program for state and public school employees and their dependents. More than 400 people were signed up for the program as of late July.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. But, according to information provided by Corphealth, the company has an operational service center in Little Rock, Ark.

The AR Wellness program offers personalized coaching, an online program that teaches participants the elements of successful weight loss and maintenance and an online program with tools for making healthy-eating choices.

Something extra for the expecting

Beginning on or about Jan. 1, Delta Dental of California, which has many Texas members and an office in Flower Mound, will offer a third covered teeth cleaning and periodontal examination for pregnant women who show signs or symptoms of periodontal disease. For pregnant women without symptoms of periodontal disease, the benefit enhancement will include an additional regular cleaning to help prevent gum disease.

Company officials said the benefits, which will be rolled out to existing clients upon renewal and offered to all new clients as well, should address the documented relationship between periodontal disease and

premature births or delivery of low birth-weight infants.

UNT Health Science Center

welcomes new students

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth's faculty and staff will welcome 2006-07 entering students at its Convocation and White Coat Ceremony on Sept. 8. The ceremony will be at Will Rogers Auditorium.

This year's guest speaker is Dr. Scott Ransom, the health science center's new president. He began his job Aug. 7.

The ceremony is a rite of passage for students entering the academic health community. During the ceremony, new medical, physician assistant, biomedical sciences and public health students are given their medical coats for the first time. The white coats they will receive are meant to symbolize the humanitarianism and integrity required of each individual entering a health-related profession. Students also receive gifts signifying the entry into their respective professions.

The ceremony will include the largest group of students in the history of the health science center. It includes 167 incoming students from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, 107 incoming students from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 60 new students from the School of Public Health and 32 new students from the Physician Assistant Studies Program.

Supporters of the ceremony include the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Physician Assistant Studies, the School of Public Health and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

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