

# Hospital facing tough year

**BUDGET, from Page 1**

than their estimate. This is an issue facing all hospitals, Laue said, as well as increasing unemployment leading to more uninsured people needing services. That people needing these services receive them regardless of ability to pay is unique to hospitals, Jolly said, not something that other businesses have to worry about.

There's a human side behind the numbers, Jolly said, and that's the hospital's purpose.

"It's much more than a numbers game," he said. "We want to be here to serve the community."

Employees often give up their holidays and family time, Jolly said, to work in this industry. The hospital is open every day, even Christmas, Laue said, meaning there will be doctors and nurses on duty and people to prepare meals for the patients.

This is also unique to hospitals, Jolly said. People want instant access to medical care, he said, so the emergency room is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

No one can predict when they'll need it, he said, so doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners have to be in the building or on call. Even when the patient count, or census, is low, Laue said, the hospital has to keep a core of people there to care for those patients and prepare for emergencies.

This often costs the hospital more than is recovered in the charges to pa-

tients, Jolly said, especially when people needing emergency care are unable to pay for it.

The hospital ran up \$27,000 in charges in November for treating 12 possible illegal immigrants injured in an accident on I-70, the administrator said. The actual cost to the hospital to care for those people was between \$15,000 and 20,000, he said, and they will probably not be paid since those people do not have insurance.

But it was necessary to treat them, he said.

"We treat the patients first," Jolly said, "and look for payment later."

The cost of providing services is increasing, Laue said, as the hospital's liability insurance goes up and suppliers raise their rates. The hospital is not like a business, he said, where those costs can just be passed on to the customers.

And the hospital has bought new equipment in the last year, Jolly said, some of which was anticipated and some that wasn't. Some were planned for the following year, he said, but needed to be replaced sooner.

Among the new equipment are a bone density scanner, an X-ray machine, a second-hand ambulance, a film developer and a Pyxis system to dispense drugs in the pharmacy. The hospital is also in the process of installing a new computer system.

The early part of 2002 was profitable, Jolly said, because of a high patient census. But it was a transitional year, he said, with changes in person-

nel in two key positions, leading to an increase in costs to recruit and train people.

The hospital also hired some nurses in the spring and had to spend money training them, he said, as nurses just out of college are not ready to just be sent out on the floor.

The important thing for the hospital is to maintain a positive cash flow, Laue and Jolly both said, which it has.

Rural hospitals are at a disadvantage, Jolly said, in seeing so many patients who are uninsured or covered by Medicare. But Goodland's hospital will survive, he said.

"It is becoming very common for hospitals to have a loss," Laue said, "the norm for rural hospitals."

"It's unusual to find a rural hospital that shows a profit."

If times get too tough, Jolly said, the hospital could take advantage of concessions available for hospitals in smaller communities or change its format. For example, some rural hospitals also operate nursing homes, but the administrator said he doesn't see that being necessary any time soon.

Rural health care has been a challenging issue, he said, and has been overlooked. But Jolly said he is hopeful changes in federal law will make it less challenging in the future.

Rep. Jerry Moran has introduced legislation in Congress to give some relief, Jolly said, but it needs support from urban areas as well as rural to be passed.

"It is a steep hill to climb," he said.

# Colby doctor responds to story

**DOCTOR, from Page 1**

placement coverage when a surgeon is gone or for anesthesia because of the cost.

Hildyard said it concerned him, too, that Scott Focke, who is the clinic manager at Family Center for Health Care, would make statements about the quality and standards of patient care in the absence of surgical coverage.

He said that Focke is an administrator of an outpatient clinic and should have no opinion about emergency room obstetrics care.

"Administrators do not determine quality and standards of care and do not deliver patient care," he said referring to statements Focke made to the *Colby Free Press*.

In that article, Focke said that while the situation isn't the best, he disagreed that the lack of surgical coverage is dangerous.

"It is truly irresponsible and arrogant that a clinic manager would think they would have any idea about what constitutes a dangerous situation when it comes to direct patient care in obstetrics or emergency room trauma," Hildyard said.

He said that in Focke's capacity as a clinic manager, he does not establish policy, procedures and standards in acute care or hospital settings. That should be determined by the physicians.

Hildyard also said he spoke with Dr. Scott Russell, one of the rotating physicians with the replacement agency

Docs Who Care who practices at the Family Center for Health Care.

According to Focke in the article earlier this week, Russell could be called on if there had been an emergency and a patient couldn't be transferred out of Colby.

Hildyard said Dr. Russell notified Docs Who Care's main office a week before arriving in Colby on Monday that he would be unavailable to cover emergency room or obstetric surgical conditions because he did not have malpractice insurance coverage in those areas.

Hildyard said he thinks it's imperative to have surgical and anesthesia coverage available at all times. Anything less, he said, would be a compromise.

# Mission will continue to operate

**SHOOTING, from Page 1**

Mission Board president Jerry Rankin said his organization would continue to operate in Yemen as long as the government allows.

He said there had been threats against his group's missionaries — though not specifically against the hospital. "They are taken seriously," he said. "It goes with being a Christian missionary now, but also with being an American."

It was the second recent attack on American missionaries in the region. On November 21, a gunman shot and killed an American missionary nurse in the Lebanese city of Sidon. Lebanese authorities have yet to determine who was behind that shooting.

A Yemeni Interior Ministry official identified the 30-year-old assailant in today's attack as Abed Abdul Razak Kamel, the official news agency Saba reported. Officials said they believed he was a Muslim extremist.

Kamel said during interrogation that he plotted the shooting in collaboration with Ali al-Jarallah, who was arrested

for killing a senior Yemeni leftist politician on Saturday, an official said.

Another security official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said authorities were searching for a five to eight extremists targeting foreigners and secular personalities in Yemen.

The U.S. Embassy in San'a condemned the attack and urged the Yemeni government "to bring those responsible to justice."

In a statement, the embassy also asked Americans in Yemen to enhance their security.

The Southern Baptist missionary board said its 80-bed Jibla hospital treats more than 40,000 patients annually, providing care free to those cannot afford it. Its missionaries also taught English and clinical skills at a nearby nursing school, according to the board.

Kathleen Gariety had been in Yemen for about 10 years and along with her hospital work had helped educate Yemeni children, said her brother Jerome J. Gariety Jr. of Colgate, Wis. "She was a wonderful, devoted per-

son," he said. "She loved the children very much."

Impoverished, factionalized, predominantly Muslim Yemen has for years been a haven for wanted Muslim extremists. Bin Laden enlisted thousands of Yemenis to fight alongside the mujahedeen of Afghanistan in their U.S.-backed war against an occupation Soviet army in the 1980s. Many returned when the Soviets withdrew, and they are a powerful political force here.

On Oct. 6, an explosives-laden boat rammed a French oil tanker off Yemen's coast, killing a crewmember. U.S. intelligence officials suspect militants with links to al-Qaida in the attack.

In a similar attack in October 2000, a suicide bomb boat hit the USS Cole in the southern port of Aden, killing 17 sailors in an attack blamed on al-Qaida. Al-Qaida also is held responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

Yemen has signed on as Washington's partner in the war on terrorism launched after the Sept. 11 attacks.

# Venezuelan leaders urge strike to go on around the world

**By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL**

CARACAS, Venezuela — Leaders of a strike against Hugo Chavez urged citizens not to give up on a four-week protest that has depleted gasoline supplies in the world's No. 5 oil exporter but failed to force the president from office.

"The strike will continue until the last consequences," said Carlos Ortega, president of Venezuela's largest labor confederation. "This regime is only prolonging its agony. Venezuelans, your indignation is just. The people never give up."

Ortega's comments Sunday came after hundreds of thousands of Chavez opponents marched through the street of Caracas — the latest in countless of protests that have accompanied the strike since it began Dec. 2.

On Sunday, Chavez again vowed he wouldn't quit. He insisted he was foiling a strike that has slashed oil exports from 3 million barrels a day to 160,000 and forced Venezuela to look abroad for food and fuel.

"I think I'm never going to leave. I

feel so loved that I am never going to leave," Chavez said during his weekly television show. "It's a treacherous oligarchy that wants to break the government and break the Venezuelan people."

BEIJING — Strutting about its future in space, China catapulted a fourth unmanned craft into orbit today in a test launch that showcased its itch to send Chinese humans beyond the Earth — and build its space program into a pillar of national prestige.

As Chinese leaders looked on, the Shenzhou IV spacecraft blasted off from a launch pad in the inky blackness of the Gobi desert and entered a preset orbit. The state-controlled Beijing Times newspaper said the trip would last seven days.

The government said the launch could "soon lead to a manned space voyage."

For China, it was another moment of patriotic sentiment not unlike what

surrounded NASA's 1960s Apollo missions in the United States. Morning newspapers arrived two hours later than usual, brimming with coverage of the post-midnight launch. The government-run noon television newscast spent 10 minutes on the topic.

**NATIONAL**  
NEW YORK — The federal government has paid out less than a quarter of the \$21.4 billion it pledged to New York City in the months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, according to a published report.

The New York Times, which examined the spending of the promised aid, reported today that the government has delivered between \$4.5 to \$5 billion, and has intentionally delayed payments in some cases.

Some government agencies, plagued by bureaucratic blunders, have been slow in allocating their funds, while other aid has been held up because local and state officials have not decided how it should be spent.

# 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 30, 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	Ransom					Local	Local	Local	Local

A & E	True Lies	True Lies
AMC	Roman Holiday	Sabrina
CMT	Inside Fame	Noisemakers 2002
CNN	Larry King Live	Newsnight
DISC	Mountain Rivals	High Speed Impacts
E!	JFK Jr.	Rank: Entertainers
ESPN	ISU Figure Skating	Cheerlead
ESPN2	Billiards	Bowling
FAM	Bye Bye Love	700 Club
FX	Assassins	Reality
HGTV	Public	Challenge
HIST	The Emperor Who Saved Rome	The Real Spartacus
LIFE	Kazaam	Death in Small Doses

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NICK	TBA	TBA	Arnold!	Rugrats	Spng Bob	Ginger	Cosby	Cosby
SCI	The X-Files	Chain Reaction						
TBS	Kindergarten Cop			Forever Young			Kindergarten Cop	
TCM	Edison, The Man			Plymouth Adventure		Conquest		
TLC	Real Lives	Forensic Science		Trauma		Maternity Ward		Labor & Delivery
TNN	WWE Raw	WWE Raw Zone		CSI		VIP		Baywatch
TNT	Law & Order	Law & Order		Law & Order		X-Files		X-Files
TRAV	Secrets	Secrets		Magic in the Streets		Secrets		Secrets
TV LAND	Gilligan's	Munsters	Andy Griff	Beaver	Bev Hill	Lucy	Archie B	Jeffersons
USA	The Dead Zone			JAG			Robbery Homicide	Martin
VH1	The Temptations							The Temptations
WGN	In the Heat of the Night: Give Me Your Life			Celebrity	Heat of the Night		Matlock	

Premium Channels	HBO	MAX	SHOW
	Fat Man & Little Boy	The Specialist	Funny Farm
	The Last Castle	Sniper 2	The Score
			Bless the Child

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## Tuesday Evening December 31, 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	Dick Clark's New Year's					Local	Local
KBSL/CBS	The Guardian	Judging Amy		Local	Late Show		Late Late		Local
KSNW/NBC	Frasier	Hidden	Dateline NBC		Tonight Show		Conan		Local
KUSA/NBC	Shoot Me	In-Laws	Frasier	Hidden	Dateline NBC		Local	Tonight Show	Conan
KDVR/FOX	That 70's	Andy	John Doe		Local	Local	America's Party: New Year's Eve		Local

A & E	Third Watch	Third Watch	Third Watch	Third Watch
AMC	Sons of Katie Elder		Donovan's Reef	True Grit
CMT	MWL Special		Kenny Chesney	Faith Hill
CNN	Larry King Live	Newsnight	Connie	Lou Dobb
DISC	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
E!	True Hollywood Story of the Year		SNL	Howard Stern
ESPN	Peach Bowl			SportsCenter
ESPN2	NBA Holiday Game		2002 San Francisco Bowl	
FAM	Hired Heart		700 Club	The Caroline Rhea Sh
FX	Buffy Marathon			Paid Prog
HGTV	Room	Decor Ce	Hunters	Dream
HIST	History of Sex	History of Sex	History of Sex	History of Sex
LIFE	Every Woman's Dream		Obsessed	Sex & Mrs. X

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NICK	TBA	TBA	Arnold!	Rugrats	Spng Bob	Ginger	Cosby	Cosby
SCI	The Twilight Zone	Chain Reaction						
TBS	The Wedding Singer			Dumb & Dumber		Trading Places		
TCM	Some Like It Hot			I Was a Male War Bri		Victor/Victoria		
TLC	City Spies	I-Witness		Countdown to Danger		Hostage Rescues		Beware! Bad Drivers
TNN	Star Trek II			Star Trek III		Star Trek V		
TNT	Law & Order	Charmed		X-Files		X-Files		X-Files
TRAV	Most Dangerous Roa	Most Dangerous Roa		Dangerous Highways		Most Dangerous Roa		Most Dangerous Roa
TV LAND	Father	Munsters	Andy Griff	Beaver	Bev Hill	Lucy	Archie B	Jeffersons
USA	Never Been Kissed			She's All That				Jawbreaker
VH1	I Love the 80's							
WGN	In the Heat of the Night: A Matter of Justice			Scrooge				Midnight Mass

Premium Channels	HBO	MAX	SHOW
	Twas the	Two Bits	Earth Girls
	Joy Ride	From Hell	Along Came a Spider
	Jim Brown: All-Americ	9 1/2 Weeks	Down to Earth

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