

Area Clinics Join Avera Under New Pact

From P&D Staff Reports

FREEMAN — Clinics in four area communities have entered a joint operating agreement with Avera Medical Group.

The clinics in Freeman, Menno, Marion and Bridgewater became part of Freeman Regional Health Services (FRHS) this week under the new agreement.

While Freeman Regional Health Services has owned the clinic buildings in recent years, the Rural Medical Clinics practice has operated independently. FRHS includes the local hospital and Freeman Medical Center as well as a long-term care facility, senior housing and now the network of four clinics.

The clinics' three physicians — Drs. Dennis Ries, Kenneth Kirton and Eloise Schrag — and three mid-level providers — Doug Schafer, Terri Behl and Mary Manson — are joining Avera Medical Group as employees. Clinic staff members are becoming FRHS employees.

"The decision to form this joint operating agreement will help the

clinics better face the challenges of providing health care in a rural environment, including physician recruitment and retention, and long-term financial viability," Ries said in a press release.

"We believe this arrangement is in the best interest of our communities and will only enhance the health care we're able to provide in this region."

Rural Medical Clinics offer a wide range of services including general medicine, internal medicine, family medicine, geriatrics, procedures, gynecology, basic orthopedics and preventive care.

"Patients will experience the same personalized, high-quality care they've received in the past," said Dan Gran, FRHS chief executive officer (CEO).

"Other than enhanced and expanded services that can be provided through our partnership with Avera Medical Group, residents of the Freeman area will experience no (changes) in the way that they receive health care services."

The new agreement provides the best setting for local health care providers, said David Flicek, the Avera Medical Group's chief administrative officer.

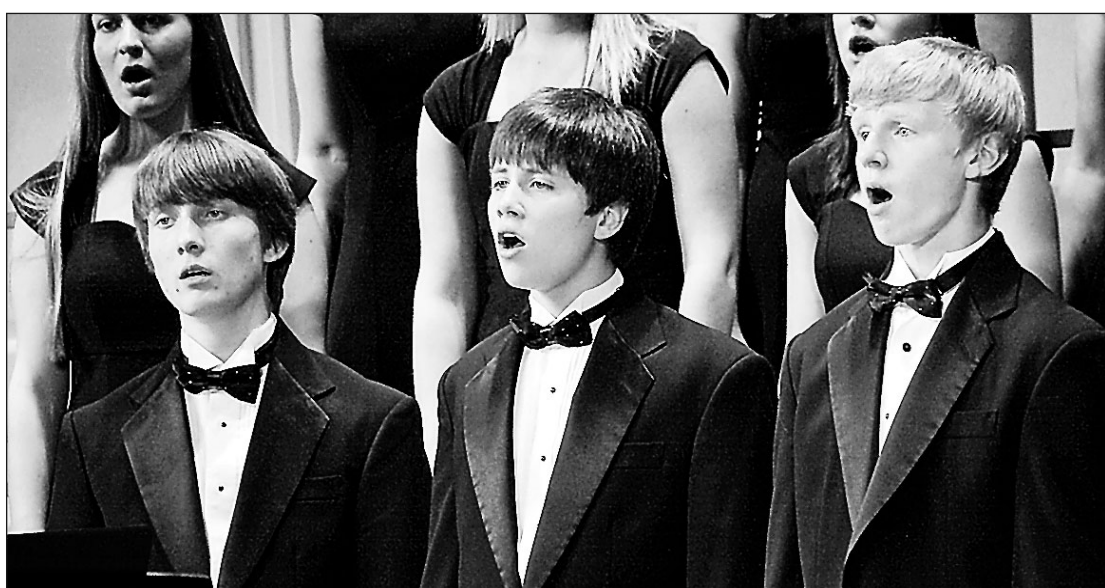
"Avera Medical Group serves to support the unique needs of local physicians, yet gives them the autonomy to practice medicine in the way that's best for their patients," he said. "This support is important as the health care industry is constantly changing and becoming more and more complex."

Flicek sees great opportunities for the clinics, located in Hutchinson and Turner counties.

"Rural Medical Clinics is a strong practice with experienced physicians and staff who serve the communities of Freeman, Menno, Marion and Bridgewater very well. We are happy to welcome them to the Avera family," he said.

"Freeman Regional Health Services has a tremendous reach to this part of South Dakota, and so Avera is proud to partner with them in this venture."

RHAPSODIZING



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Members of the Yankton high school chorale are shown performing Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" during the YHS Spring Choir Concert Friday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. The program also featured performances by the a cappella choir, the girls' choir and the concert choir. The final music event for the school year is Monday night's Yankton All Schools band concert at the SAC main gym. To see or purchase images from Friday's event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

Priest

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Conception seminary in Missouri in 1954. Lange's first bachelor degree was philosophy and then he finished his theology degree in 1961 at Mt. St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1961.

Lange traveled through the Archdiocese of Omaha starting in Omaha at St. Pius X parish, then West Point, South Sioux City, St. Helena, Butte, Crofton and Stanton. Along the way he studied music wherever there was an opportunity. His bachelor of music education degree came from Briar Cliff College while he was serving as assistant pastor at St. Michael's parish.

Butte, Neb., was the first parish where Lange was on his own. He served a congregation at Naper as a mission and also taught religion at St. Mary's High School in O'Neill. In his spare time, he drove to Vermillion three days a week and during the summers to earn a masters degree in Organ studies.

The next stop for Lange was St. Rose of Lima Church in Crofton. He considered himself fortunate to have his mother live with him at the Crofton parsonage for eight of the 10 1/2 years he spent as the Crofton pastor. She died at the rectory in 1984, 13 years after her husband. During those years he traveled to Norfolk to study extension classes from Creighton University and eventually received a Master of Divinity.

It was at St. Peter's parish in Stanton where Lange focused on

teaching piano/organ for music was his hobby. It was a smaller parish and he had the time to travel to towns in a 50-mile radius. He does admit at one time he taught 65 students in one week and decided that was a little much. He also recorded four albums of piano music ranging from classical to semi-classical to jazz and one with traditional Christmas music.

There was still one area in which Lange decided to complete training. In 1998 he was assigned to be a part-time chaplain at Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk, Neb., while serving at Stanton. He was encouraged to become a certified chaplain and completed that course of study in 2003.

Lange's biggest accomplishment was the construction of the new rectory and parish hall in Stanton during his 22 years there. He smiles with the memory of celebrating mass at the Regional Center in Norfolk which was the only time he received applause for one of his homilies.

Lange retired in 2008 and moved to Yankton to live with his older brother, Bud, in a townhouse on the Avera Majestic Bluffs campus. He hasn't slowed down much as there is a great demand on the weekends for substitute priests in area parishes in South Dakota and Nebraska and he helps out in the Yankton parishes during the week.

"I compare all the big and little difficulties in the world now as a good wake-up call," said Lange. "It usually takes some catastrophe like World War II, (it) gets people on the right track and vocations increase."

Over the years, Lange has seen many changes as the church continued to grow and serve Catholics

around the world. He found the change to face-to-face confession one of the hardest he had to adjust to. In time he's sure it will become quite easy as youth today are only taught to go face-to-face and not use the confessional box.

"Although time changes the church will continue," said Lange. "We seem to be going back the other way in the church now; back to very traditional ways of doing things."

He sees the changes coming in the church and wonders if going backward is good.

"When Vatican II ended and we could take off all those long cassocks, we were so happy," said Lange. "Now it seems the young priests feel as if they missed something and are going back to all the old ways."

There will be a celebration at St. Boniface parish in Menominee on Sunday, May 29, with a 10 a.m. mass followed by a string quartet concert in church and a dinner to follow. There will be an open house at 2 p.m. and more music.

A mass will be celebrated in Stanton at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 5, also followed by a dinner and open house at 2 p.m. For dinner reservations on either date call or email Ron and Tammie Eskens at 402-357-2287 or tame4dice@yahoo.com. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, May 15.

"I'm really grateful for the privilege of serving as a priest and being an instrument to bring Christ to the many people by offering thousands of masses and administering the Sacraments through the years," said Lange. "It's a celebration of the priesthood and of all the faithful members of Christ's Church."

Jobless

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is all about jobs," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "More and more, it is looking as if the recovery is on track despite the headwinds it is facing."

Those include higher prices for crude oil and gas. But energy prices fell sharply earlier this week, apparently reflecting lower consumption in the United States and a stronger dollar. Analysts think the price of gas may have peaked for the summer at about \$4 a gallon.

The rise in the unemployment rate, to 9 percent in April from 8.8 percent the month, was the first increase since November.

But it appeared to be because of a temporary disparity in two surveys the government uses to track jobs.

Wall Street was pleased by Friday's report from the Labor Department. The Dow Jones industrials rose more than 150 points shortly after the opening bell. The Dow closed up 55 points, or 0.4 percent.

Businesses added jobs in April across the economy. Retailers, factories, financial companies, education, health care and the construction industry all reported gains.

And the government said the job gains it reported for March and February turned out to be even stronger than previously thought. Private employers have now added jobs for 14 straight months.

Economists say companies

are paying for new hires by starting to spend some of the almost \$2 trillion in cash that businesses stockpiled after the recession ended in June 2009. Analysts have said the use of corporate cash reserves is the most effective way to strengthen the job market.

Once again, governments at the federal, state and local levels all cut jobs — 24,000 in April. Counting those cuts, the economy as a whole added 244,000 jobs last month. The private-sector job gains were the most since February 2006.

"It is a sigh of relief: Economic momentum has not been lost," said Sung Won Sohn, economist at California State University. He said he was surprised that energy prices hadn't scared businesses away from hiring more.

Stars

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dents about snakes, tortoises and turtles. At the same time, they educated the students on what each animal required in terms of care as a pet, hoping to instill a respect for the animals.

"I used to be so afraid of snakes," Lawrenz said to the students. "But did you know that snakes are very useful, they catch rodents that carry diseases?"

She added that she had to learn a lot about snakes to over-

come her own fear.

In an effort to help the students — and maybe a few teachers, too — conquer their fear of the reptiles and snakes, the duo walked around the crowd of students, showing them the snake's facial features, how to identify if they were a "boy or a girl snake," and explained why snakes shed their skin.

As the students were leaving, each had an opportunity to touch a snake and a lizard.

"You will feel them and their skin is nothing like you expect," Magnuson said. "A snake looks like it should be slimy but it is actually more rubbery, kind of like a basketball. You look at the lizard and he looks like he should be rough and sharp, but he is kind of soft."

For more information about the show, visit www.NatureAdventuresonline.org.

YANKTON COURTS

3/25/2011-3/31/2011

- Leslie A. Peterson, Hoskins, Neb.; No proper license plates on vehicle, \$120
- Casey Weverstad, 1108 Redmond, Yankton; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$130; Careless driving, \$120
- Darick Fuller, Sioux City, Iowa; Parking/standing violation, \$112
- Darick Fuller, Sioux City, Iowa; Parking/standing violation, \$112
- Jennifer J. Osborn, 616 Pine St., Yankton; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, dismissed-motion by court
- Tyler Konkin, 106 Jake St., Yankton; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$130
- Jonathan P. Riibe, 167 Spring Meadow Rd., Yankton; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$120
- Stephen E. Amerine, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25
- Robert E. Rada, Scotland; Operate oversize/overweight veh, \$170
- Diane Bushong, 104 Calumet Dr., Yankton; Municipal speeding, \$99
- Henry Edward Hansen, Vermillion; Expired annual inspection, \$130
- Terry Lynn Mulford, 1210 Broadway Avenue, Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25
- Beverly Jo Brady, 113 Oakhills Drive, Yankton; Speeding other roadways, \$85
- Brian L. Kemnitz, 609 Broadway St., #1, Yankton; Theft by insufficient funds check, \$140
- Kyle Eugene McGinty, Sioux City, Iowa; Driving under influence-1st of, dismissal-reduction; Reckless driving, \$493
- Evan George Easthouse-Bauer, Britton; Seat belt violation, \$25
- Ashley Nicole Pemble, Hermosa; Seat belt violation, \$25
- Andrew Alan List, 1305 Timberland Dr., Yankton; Speeding other roadways, \$105
- Kenneth John Novak, 610 W. 10th St., Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25
- Marilyn R. LaCroix, 1408 Green St., Yankton; Violations of safety requirements, \$170
- Douglas Joseph Koenig, Fairfax; Speeding on state highway, \$145
- George B. Johnson, Niobrara, Neb.; Overweight on axle, \$170
- Larry Dean Rederick, Wakonda; Speeding other roadways, \$145
- Sheri Williams, 1207 East 14th Street, Yankton; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, not sustained at prelim/grand jury
- Seth Cressy, 803 E. 16th Street, Yankton; Purchase/consume/poss tobacco under 18, \$95
- Alisha Dawn Tramp, 314 E. 15th St., Yankton; Purchase/consume/poss tobacco under 18, \$95
- Lori S. Pederesen, Utica; Renewal registration during assigned month, \$120
- Cammie Leigh Palatas, Appleton, Wis.; Speeding other roadways, \$85
- Jacob C. Bobby, Bowdle; Speeding in school zone, \$125
- Cari Linn Sherman, 502 W. 17th Street, #8, Yankton; Possession controlled substance, recharge; Driving under

influence-1st of, dismissed-motion by prosecutor; Careless driving, dismissed-motion by prosecutor; Open alcoholic bev container accessible in vehicle, dismissed-motion by prosecutor; Accessory to a felony, \$104 suspended based on conditions of court

David Koch, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Speeding other roadways

Tammy E. Craig, 618 Douglas Ave., Yankton; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$270

Laurie Ann Groetken, 1010 Willow, Yankton; Operator assure passengers 5-18 wear seat belts, \$25; Seat belt violation, \$25

Marcus Claude Mitchell, 208 Golf Lane, Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25

Kyle James Huether, Volin; Seat belt violation, \$25

Austin Runyon, PO Box 1841, Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25

Eugene K. Brinkmeyer, 2205 Burleigh, #208, Yankton; Municipal speeding, \$119

Theodore Francis Trautt, 1210 1/2 Walnut, Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25

Joshua Ryan Sudbeck, 100 Wayne St., Yankton; Passengers between 14-18 required to wear seat belts, \$25

Michael Arthur Wirth, Hurler; Seat belt violation, \$25

Jeremy Brandt, 1202 Willowdale Rd., Yankton; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$120

Daniel Henry Franks, 176 Mickelson Dr., Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25

Duane Harold Hunter, 101 Jake St., Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25

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NIE (Newspapers in Education) is a program that provides the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan newspapers to classrooms to be used as teaching materials. Along with special instructional materials, these newspapers are used at all grade levels to reach children and stimulate their minds. In recent years, the use of newspapers in school has more than tripled due to the need for a more current perspective on the events of the world today.

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