

Ashley Clinic comes to Iola

By VICKIE MOSS
The Iola Register

A new Ashley Clinic Iola office aimed at providing both physical and mental health services will bring familiar physicians and staff.

Dr. Tim Spears and others from Iola's Family Physicians group will staff the new clinic at 401 S. Washington Ave., the site of a former health clinic.

The goal of the new clinic is to provide "whole-person care," an approach touted by Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center, director Nathan Fawson said. SEKMHC purchased the Chanute-based Ashley Clinic last summer and introduced the integrated care model there in September with positive results.

Urologist Dr. J. Jason Robinson also will be based at the Iola clinic and will begin



Dr. Tim Spears, from left, Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center director Nathan Fawson and Ashley Clinic's Lisa Engleman announce the opening of Ashley Clinic Iola at 401 S. Washington Ave. REGISTER/VICKIE MOSS

seeing patients Wednesday; Spears starts March 4.

FAWSON AND Spears first worked together more than

25 years ago.

Fawson began working for SEKMHC in 1997 as a crisis intervention therapist. As part of his duties, he assessed

Spears's patients for mental health care. The health care system at the time was shifting. Up through the 1990s, physicians had the authority to evaluate and admit patients to the state hospital. That responsibility was then delegated to the local community mental health center, which meant Spears and Fawson worked together to determine what was best for patients.

Over time, both came to appreciate the value of an integrated approach.

"As a therapist, I had a variety of community-based, therapeutic and psychiatric resources available to his patients that he might not have known about," Fawson said. "In a way, he was shifting that responsibility and that opportunity for his patient to me,

See CLINIC | Page A6

Iola's Cloud earns state wrestling bid



PAGE B1

Babysitting class offers teens an opportunity

PAGE A4

Red Devils crown homecoming royalty

PAGE A6

Stalled aid underscores GOP's shift on Russia

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
The Associated Press

At about 2 a.m. last Tuesday, Republican Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin stood on the Senate floor and explained why he opposed sending more aid to help Ukraine fend off the invasion launched in 2022 by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I don't like this reality," Johnson said. "Vladimir Putin is an evil war criminal." But he quickly added: "Vladimir Putin will not lose this war."

That argument — that the Russian president cannot be stopped so there's no point in using American taxpayer dollars against him — marks a new stage in the Republican Party's growing acceptance of Russian expansionism in the age of Donald Trump.

The GOP has been softening its stance on Russia ever since Trump won the 2016 election following Russian hacking of his Democratic opponents. There are several reasons for the shift. Among them, Putin is holding himself out as an international champion of conservative Christian values and the GOP is growing increasingly skeptical of overseas entanglements. Then there's Trump's personal embrace of the Russian leader.

Now the GOP's ambivalence on Russia has stalled additional aid to Ukraine at a pivotal time in the war.

The Senate last week passed a foreign aid pack-

See RUSSIA | Page A3



An audience member feeds leaves to Juliet (a segnosaurus) during Friday evening's performance of "Dinosaur World Live" at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. REGISTER/SARAH HANEY

Dinosaurs roar back to life

The Bowlus welcomed dinosaur friends for a magical night of entertainment

By SARAH HANEY
The Iola Register

Despite becoming extinct 65 million years ago, dinosaurs roared onto the Bowlus Fine Arts Center stage Friday evening, delighting show-goers of all ages for the "Dinosaur World Live" interactive show.

The show is led by perky guide Miranda (played by the talented Selin Balcioğlu) as she introduces the audience to a host of dinosaurs. Setting the scene, Miranda noted that back in the "ancient times" — the 1990s — her parents met at a natural history museum, where they studied dinosaurs. Having heard of an island just off the coast of Argentina where enormous creatures "could swallow ships whole," her family and a team of paleontologists set sail.

Treacherous conditions wrecked the ship and the crew washed ashore the island. After taking 25 days to repair their ship, the family returned with some of the dinosaurs they discovered there.

Among Miranda's new friends were Juliet, a towering segnosaurus. Miranda explained the segnosaurus (meaning "slow lizard") is an herbivore.

Talented puppeteers helped steer the otherwise gangly dinosaurs across the stage.

Audience participation was an integral part of the show, beginning with one audience member being selected to feed leaves to a hesitant Juliet. After a few nibbles, Juliet warmed up to the audience member and even allowed him to pet her.

One particularly endear-



Audience member, Atlas, reaches out to pet a baby triceratops. Audience participation was an integral part of the "Dinosaur World Live" show.

ing moment of the show was when a young audience member named Atlas took to the stage to pet a baby tric-

eratops. As she reached for the sleeping baby dinosaur, the triceratops let out a little

See DINOSAURS | Page A3

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29,000 killed in Gaza

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel's assault in Gaza has killed more than 29,000 Palestinians since Oct. 7, the territory's Health Ministry said Monday, marking another grim milestone in one of the deadliest and most destructive military campaigns in recent history.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the offensive until "total victory" against Hamas after the militants' Oct. 7 attack on Israeli communities. He and the military have said troops will move soon into the southernmost town of Rafah on the Egyptian border, where over half of Gaza's 2.3 million people have sought refuge from fighting elsewhere.

The United States, Israel's top ally, says it is still working with mediators Egypt and Qatar to try to broker another cease-fire and hostage release agreement. But those efforts appear to have stalled in recent days, and Netanyahu angered Qatar by calling on it to pressure Hamas and suggesting it funds the militant group.

The conflict has also brought near daily exchanges of fire between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group that frequently threaten to escalate.

Israeli warplanes on Monday carried out at least two strikes near the southern port city of Sidon in one of the largest attacks near a major city, Lebanese state media said.



Red Devil royalty

Allen Community College's Wisdom Nkwamba and Tanika Rother were crowned 2024 Homecoming King and Queen Saturday during Allen's basketball games against Kansas City Kansas. The homecoming court consisted of, from left, Rain Burseson, Tiago Cortes, Veronica Agostini, Pascal Brose, Nkwamba, Rother, Taylor Palenske, Nadia Gallegos, Ethan Henry and Noa Muranaka. REGISTER/RICHARD LUKEN

Clinic: Integrated approach

Continued from A1

with the overriding goal that I would assess their needs and wrap community-based services around them to keep them home."

The benefits of that approach have become more clear over time, both Spears and Fawson said. They now realize how mental health affects physical health, while physical health problems also can increase the risk of developing mental illnesses.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness.

"In family medicine, we treat the whole patient. Mental health is important because someone may present with physical problems that are actually brought on by depression, for example," Spears said. "It's nice to have the support because, unfortunately, we don't always have the time to devote to those needs."

In a traditional health setting, doctors will make recommendations, encouraging patients to schedule a mental health evaluation. A lot of times, that patient doesn't follow through.

But with integrated care, patients can immediately schedule an evaluation before they leave the office.

"They may have fears or barriers such as travel and distance," Fawson said. "Our goal is to eliminate those barriers, so if Dr. Spears is trying to support a patient through their mental health needs, he has a therapist down the hall rather than across town in an unfamiliar facility."

It also helps eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health care, Spears added. Particularly in a small town, some patients may feel uncomfortable walking into a mental health center. They may feel more at ease seeking treatment at the health clinic.

An integrated approach has a far-reaching effect, Spears noted. "When you're able to help someone with their mental health issues, you're actually treating the whole family unit. It has a ripple effect," he said. "Ashley Clinic is go-

ing to bring a lot more resources to me and my patients. I'm really excited."

AT CHANUTE'S Ashley Clinic, the integrated approach is working, Lisa Engleman, medical and health services manager, said.

"Our providers meet with patients, whether it's in a family medicine setting or urgent care, and if they identify mental health needs, they can literally walk them right down the hall to meet with our therapist or case manager," Engleman said.

The Ashley Clinic health system was established in 1938 and currently has 101 employees at offices in Chanute, Humboldt and now Iola. The system offers laboratory, X-ray, stenography and bone density services with a pharmacy at Humboldt. Patients will be able to receive immunizations and some tests at the Iola clinic, along with continued obstetrics and family planning services.

At some point, the Iola clinic may offer walk-in services or expanded hours, similar to its Chanute office. Other services may be added over time, as the Chanute office has specialists in areas such as pediatrics, neurology surgery and diabetes.

"It will evolve after we get up and going," Engleman said.

In addition to Spears and Robinson, the Iola clinic will offer three nurse practitioners.

Leigh Scharff, a part-time nurse practitioner at Family Physicians, will join Ashley Clinic with expanded hours. Cassie Roach, a long-time emergency room nurse who recently completed training as a nurse practitioner, will join the clinic along with her husband, Justin Roach, who is also a nurse practitioner who previously worked for local providers.

Therapy and case management services also will be offered at the Iola clinic.

Support staff include nurses Richard James, Nikki Knight and Wanita Cummings, and medical assistants Leah Haviland and Maegan Emerson. Anita Haar is an office assistant. Most are coming from

The Family Physicians group.

"We're encouraged that many of the staff will be joining us," Fawson said. "It will help contribute to continuity of care and be a familiar, supportive face to the patients they've already been serving."

DR. FRANK Porter and The Family Physicians group will remain at the building but will move into renovated quarters, said Martha DeGrado, office manager.

The Family Physicians building at 1408 East St. was sold recently and leased for use as a new Veterans Administration health clinic. The new VA clinic is expected to open in June after remodeling.

The practice is excited about the coming VA clinic and the renovations, DeGrado said.

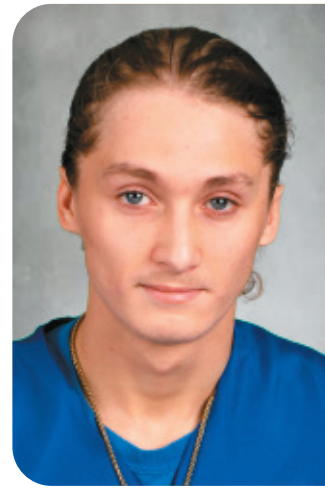
The Family Physicians group has notified patients of the changes.

OTHER CHANGES also are on the horizon for the local health scene.

The new Ashley Clinic Iola office previously was the location for Allen County Regional Hospital's clinic office. The hospital moved to renovated offices at its Medical Arts Building at 826 E. Madison Ave., and SEKMHC purchased the Washington street building.

SEKMHC has other changes still in the works. The system purchased property on East Street (next to the Family Physicians building) with the intention of eventually building a health center there. Currently, SEKMHC has multiple offices throughout Iola; a centralized location is intended to eventually streamline services under one roof. The Ashley Clinic on South Washington gives them another location to establish integrated health services in the meantime.

SEKMHC also will work with the Humboldt USD 258 school district to build a community care center at the Humboldt Sports Complex, thanks to a \$5 million grant. The Ashley Clinic at Humboldt and its pharmacy are expected to either move to or expand services at that location when it opens in 2025.



DAVID DRAGO

David is the son of Daniel Drago and Serena Daniels.

He's involved in St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Daniel enjoys camping, woodworking and studying in his free time. He works part-time at Derryberry Breadery and Mid-American Machine & Equipment.

After high school, David plans on working in a quarry.



JUSTICE ENGELHARDT

Justice is the daughter of Amanda Thiede.

While in high school, she has been involved in Genders and Sexualities Alliance. Justice enjoys art and reading.

After graduating, she plans on going to college. Her highlights from high school involve meeting her friends.



KATELYN ERBERT

Katelyn is the daughter of Stephanie and Jason Erbert.

She has been active in yearbook and enjoys hunting and fishing in her free time.

Upon graduation, Katelyn plans on attending Neosho County Community College to study nursing. Her favorite memories from high school were making funny videos in her Human Body Systems class her junior year.

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