Focus on comfort: The Children’s Hospital opens new facility

The new Children’s Hospital occupies approximately 1.44 million square feet and is 73 percent larger than the old facility. It now houses 270 beds and provides more than 2,000 parking spaces.

The move of the Children’s Hospital’s patients, including both acute-care and critical-care patients, began early Saturday morning and took a total of just 12 hours. “We made 111 miracles happen this weekend, and it took each and every one of our staff to accomplish this phenomenal effort,” said Dr. Jim Shmerling, president and CEO of Children’s Hospital.

Crocs, Inc. responds to safety demands

Crocs recently introduced two new shoe models specifically designed without holes to meet stringent workplace dress code requirements – the Specialist and the Specialist Vent from the Crocs Work line.

“With the introduction of workplace gear designs such as the Specialist and Specialist Vent, we are further expanding our footwear offerings to provide functional, high-comfort footwear without holes to meet a high level of compliance in workplace environments,” said Ron Snyder, Crocs™ Work line.

Continued Education

Poudre Valley named among Top 500 most innovative

Natural Lifestyles... Commentary by Dr. Linda Mundorff, MPH, MSN, ND, RN, CNC, CTN

Kaiser Permanente recognized as Green Electronics Champion

Comfort Food

By Elizabeth Bussey Sowdal, RN

I am going through a terrible time. Just terrible. Someday I will have a long story to tell you, long and detailed, but it has to wait for now. And so, since you are there and I am here, this will have to do. We cannot throw ourselves into each other’s arms and sob, pretend that we are not wiping our noses with our fingers, and suddenly, miraculously, feel better. That would be nice, but it cannot be.

There is nothing left for us friend, but to talk about food. There are some disasters, I will admit, which are too horrible to be solved by a good and generous dose of fat, carbs and sugar. This crisis is not one of those. This one is absolutely and without a doubt the type which can be ameliorated with a little good support from some friends, a dash of legal counsel and 21 grams of saturated fat. And no fiber. This week, at least, fiber is no longer my best friend.

Tonight we are having my favorite casserole. As strange as this may seem to you, it is actually hospital food. But you know, hospital food is not all bad and is not always bad. There have been many a shift that I have worked which was eased along a little by the Banana Cream Pie at Presbyterian Hospital. It tastes exactly like Marshmallow Circus Peanuts.
CEO of Crocs. "Crocs footwear’s unique blend of fashion and function makes these new shoe models the perfect workplace footwear solution."

These shoe models offer a closed heel and toe design, a thicker metatarsal area to help protect the top of the foot, a supportive arch and footbed circulation nubs to ensure all-day comfort.

The company also states that the shoe’s primary material Croslite conforms to the foot creating a custom fit, and the loose fit of the shoes allows the foot to bend and expand naturally to reduce fatigue.

The two new designs are still characteristically Crocs, such as odor and bacteria resistant, can be easily cleaned with soap and water and are available in eight colors, including white and black. The shoes are priced at just under $35 and come in both women’s and men’s sizes.

"Those of us who work in the health care industry frequently spend long stretches on our feet – sometimes as long as 12 hours at a time," said Kathy Branzell, RN, family care charge nurse at Swedish Hospital in Denver.

"Crocs are really popular among the nurses here – most of us have more than one pair. They’re unbelievably comfortable and allow us to add a touch of color and style to our scrubs," said Heidi Gustus, RN in neonatal intensive care unit at Avista, agreed.

"I wear Crocs and love them," said Kathy Branzell, RN, family care charge nurse at Swedish Hospital in Denver.

"It makes us more efficient and effective as an organization. Our nurses here – most of us have more than one pair. They’re unbelievably comfortable and allow us to add a touch of color and style to our scrubs," said Heidi Gustus, RN in neonatal intensive care unit at Avista, agreed.

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Everyday Crocs is the system’s highest ranking all Colorado companies that applied to this large and growing customer base."
Comfort
Continued from Page 1

CEO of The Children’s Hospital.
“Our patients, along with their families, were safely and comfortably transported in less than the 24 hours originally planned for the transfer. We planned for this weekend for several weeks, and we are gratified everything went according to plan.”

The new Children’s Hospital occupies approximately 1.44 million square feet and includes an inpatient facility (hospital), outpatient buildings, Administrative Pavilion (medical office building), Medical Pavilion (outpatient clinics) and ample surface and structured parking.

The new facility is 73 percent larger than the old facility and houses 270 beds and provides more than 2,000 parking spaces.

Every aspect of the hospital was developed with the comfort of patients and their families in mind. The hospital offers increased family-based amenities such as family lounges, additional sleeping rooms, family library and business center and expanded sibling childcare.

Additionally, patient portals are available in inpatient rooms for patients and families to view local television, cable programming and video-on-demand.

For the first time, the new Children’s Hospital offers one place of complex care, research and expertise. The proximity of the new hospital to the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center allows for greater collaboration and research.

For parents and kids, this means better access to the best care for children in a healing environment that caters specifically to families.

The facility features all private patient rooms with accommodations for family members. Each private room has two family sleeping spots, plus adequate storage, a desk and data ports, as well as internet connections.

Built-in medical equipment eliminates storage issues and allows room for more sophisticated technology. A 6.6-acre greenway on the southwest corner of Children’s property offers increased family-based amenities such as family lounges, additional sleeping rooms, family library and business center and expanded sibling childcare.

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The 11,000-square-foot, four-story Boettcher Atrium is the heart of the building.

The atrium - made possible by a $5 million gift from the Boettcher Foundation - was designed by “zones” floor-to-ceiling glass. Several terraces, including a large staff terrace that faces the mountains, provides access to the outdoors as well as natural light.

Planners also located workstations and an employee respite area to take advantage of Colorado’s 300 days of sunshine each year.

The facility is also 100 percent wireless-capable, meaning that laptops, Blackberries and other wireless devices have secure access everywhere inside the hospital, outpatient center and office building. A distributed antenna system boosts cell phone signals.

An enhanced nurse-call system deploys as many as 1,500 wireless phones to caregivers to improve communication among care staff and their patients.

And with several spaces dedicated to telemedicine, Children’s is at the forefront delivering information, education and patient care via technology across our region.

Lounges, a living-room-like employee respite area, and a beautiful terrace are among many amenities that were designed to give staff places to take a break from their workdays.

Children’s also implemented a concierge service to help take care of everyday needs such as sending flowers to a friend, arranging car repairs and picking up dry cleaning.

Staff are also able to order take-out from food services, take a shower after jogging through the campus, securely lock bicycles inside, have better access to conference space and enjoy improved parking.

The new hospital on the Fitzsimmons campus is be the hub of Children’s entire network of care. This network includes the 10 care centers throughout the metro region, a downtown presence in Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital and a resource-rich online presence.

Additionally, physicians and healthcare professionals continue their outreach to areas outside the Denver metro area through personal visits and telemedicine.

But a building can do only so much. The Children’s Hospital staff is the cornerstone of their outstanding care and they continue to deliver the compassionate care that has established the hospital’s reputation as a leading children’s hospital in the nation.

For more information on the new Children’s Hospital and the services offered, visit www.thechildrenshospital.org.

Should nurses strike in order to bring attention to patient care practices and health security issues?

According to the California Nurses Association and National Nurses Organizing Committee, registered nurses at 16 Northern California hospitals are planning at two day strike that would place a spotlight on patient care practices and health security for the nurses.

The nurses are staging the walkout after several months of contract negotiations which have broken off. Among the items up for negotiation are mandatory staffing ratios, break/lunch relief, and patient handling, no cuts in patient services, protecting and maintaining RN healthcare benefits and increased retirement plans, according to the CNA.

The hospitals have stated that qualified replacements have already been secured to cover those who walk out during the two day protest despite the fear that the temporary nurses will be harassed when crossing the picket line.

What do you think about the protest? Do you support the RNs striking or do you think there is a better way to handle the situation? Should the nurses covering the two day strike have to endure harassment?

Denver’s Nursing Star would like to know your thoughts. Please email your response, along with your name, nursing credentials, city, and contact information to news@denvernursingstar.com.
Continued Education

October

10/11/07 & 10/12/07 30th Annual L. Joseph Butterfield Perinatal Conference - Perinatal Care: 2007 Updates and Controversies

As we celebrate the 30th annual perinatal conference, much progress has been made in the care of high-risk pregnant women, sick newborns and their families. Still, we have more work to do. This conference will provide a forum for perinatal health care professionals that will enhance and broaden knowledge of current and future perinatal practice. Issues to be addressed include aspects related to antenatal, intrapartum and neonatal care. This conference is intended for RNs and other maternal/child health providers practicing in a variety of settings throughout Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and the surrounding region. Upon completion of this conference, participants should be able to: Examine barriers to lactation for mothers who choose not to provide milk and discuss the Rush Mothers’ Milk Club (Thursday evening presentation). Identify necessary components for an optimal intrauterine environment. Review current evidence-based practices for prenatal diagnoses. Recall events and interventions over the past three decades that have humanized neonatal care and the newborn environment. State recent practice updates from the AAP Fetus and Newborn Committee. Explore infant and maternal risk factors contributing to common clinical lactation problems and useful research technologies, including test-weights, creamatocrit measures, nipple shields and more. Discuss evidence for best practices in the handling, storing and feeding of mothers’ own milk in the NICU. Nursing: The Children’s Hospital is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Colorado Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. This educational offering for 7.4 nursing contact hours is provided by The Children’s Hospital (Thursday evening 1 contact hour; Friday - 6.4 contact hours). Other: A certificate of attendance will be provided for all other participants. Registration questions? Please call Education Services at (303) 861-6123.

November

11/07/07 Interacting With People Who Have Behaviors Created by Disease

Ever wonder why people who have strokes often cry? Or why people with COPD are unusually anxious? Or why Alzheimer’s Disease causes certain behaviors? Understanding why people behave the way they do will allow long-term care staff to enhance the quality of life of their residents through supportive activities and better communication. This program will be a primer on various age-related diseases and how they affect people’s behavior. Participants will learn how to enhance a resident’s mental and emotional status through appropriate activities, positive interaction, and person-centered care. Category 1 Performance skills: motor skills client factors: body structures/body function Category 2 OT Process: Outcomes: quality of life At the end of this seminar participants should be able to: 1. Have a working knowledge about diseases such as stroke, COPD, Alzheimer’s and more. 2. Associate certain diseases with specific changes in behavior. 3. Identify tips on how to work more effectively with people exhibiting disease-related behaviors. 4. Know how appropriate activities can improve mental status and quality of life. 5. Describe the types of activities which should be promoted or avoided for specific diseases. 4.5 Continuing Education Hours for Activity Professionals Approved by NCCAP Provider #27275-08; 4.5 Continuing Education Hours for Counselors NBCC CEUs Approval #5058; 4.5 Continuing Education Hours for CNAs. Directions: Morgan Community College, Founders Room, 17800 County Road 20, Ft. Morgan, Colorado. (Také I-76 to Barlow Road, Exit 82, turn South onto County Road 20, the college is about one mile South on East side of the road) CAHEC is an affiliate of the Colorado AHEC Program of the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center (UCDHCSC). These activities are part of a statewide effort and are partially funded through state appropriations to UCDHCSC. For more information, call (970) 330-3608.

Open

Ultrasonic Guided PICC Insertion Utilizing the Sonosite iLook System

Please contact us for additional information at (303) 880-2243. Registration and payment must be received at least one-week in advance of seminar dates. Class size is limited so register early. Learn to place PICC catheters with the Sonosite iLook Ultrasonic! Course objectives: Discuss advantages of ultrasonic guided PICC insertion; Review concepts of ultrasound; Review A&P of upper arm; Discuss the features of the Sonosite iLook; Demonstrate visualization of veins and arteries; Practice procedure utilizing “Peter PICCs.” Prerequisite - Should be proficient in the MST (Modified Seldinger Insertion Technique.) For more information, visit www.cassuttconsulting.com.
Retiring With Health Care Benefits: Are You Eligible?

Natural Lifestyles...
by Dr. Linda Mundorff MPH, MSN, ND, RN, CNC, CTN

Dr. Linda Mundorff RN, MPH, MSN, ND

It was an industry practice, thirty-plus years ago, that retirees received not only a pension and social security benefits, but health insurance benefits as well. It was part of a retention package that attracted the best employees. Today, however, the notion of a full retirement is rather blurred when companies are struggling to make their bottom-lines and hiring younger-entry-level employees is more cost effective.

Most of us know that if we want to see any kind of retirement that we have to prepare for those investments ourselves through IRA’s, CD’s, mutual funds, and the like. But what about health care benefits during retirement? Where do we find the dollars to pay for the high cost of insuring our loved ones during their golden years when health care costs tend to increase dramatically?

For many, waiting to retire until the age of sixty-five is a necessity because that is the minimum age one is eligible for federal Medicare coverage (unless of course you qualify under one of their disability programs.) But Medicare coverage is not all-inclusive – there are non-covered services and medical reimbursement is approximately 80% for most services. Who pays for the remaining 20% of the charges? The co-payments? The deductibles?

I had a friend who was in the hospital for two days with a flair-up of her lupus. Her medical bill was a staggering $22,000! Imagine what it would cost if you had to have a major operation and were in the hospital for a week. Most hospital stays run anywhere from $300 to $650 per day, and that is only for the room, it doesn’t cover medications, procedures, and supplies.

With the first of the baby boomer generation retiring, our workforce is shrinking, and the numbers are growing. Our population is aging and living longer, thanks to medical breakthroughs, better nutrition, and improved living conditions. There are fewer workers out there to support this growing mass exodus out of the employment sector and into retirement.

You might think that there are laws that govern and protect health insurance benefits, but there aren’t. Your employer can terminate your benefits at anytime and for any reason, especially if you have a chronic condition that is eating away at the reserves. Many smaller companies are opting for self-funded health accounts and are counting on their employees to stay healthy.

The fact is, chronic illnesses chip away at fund reserves – it is basic math: if more money is going out to pay claims then monies coming in as premiums, the fund is going to go bankrupt. Chances are, before a company is going to allow that to happen the employee with the chronic illness is going to be terminated. It would be prudent to begin exploring your medical options now, while you are still healthy and working.

Contact your human resources department and sit down with a benefits analysis and discuss the following:

_coverage for chronic health conditions, such as End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). Diabetes is on the rise in this country and with an increase in diabetes comes the increase chance of developing kidney disease.

_Do you have a life amount payout on your coverage? In other words, in small print it may state that your total benefits is $750,000. That might sound like a lot of money, but develop a chronic and life-long battle with kidney disease and you could reach that $750,000 in a matter of a few short years. Or how about a transplant? The surgery itself is very expensive and what they don’t tell you is that you have to be on anti-rejection medication for the rest of your life. That can cost thousands of dollars per month. As soon as you reach your life amount payout you’re health insurance coverage terminates.

_What are the conditions regarding terminations for benefits? What are you (if anything) eligible for when you retire?

_Will you receive full health benefits? A prorated benefit? Will your premiums go up? How protected are those benefits?

_Check your policy annually as benefits change often, especially medication benefits.

Don’t wait until your health insurance benefits disappear – act now and plan for your retirement health care needs. With knowledge you are powerful and with that power you can make mountains move! Take control of your health; You’ll be glad you did! In health and wellness!

Dr. Mundorff is a Board Certified Naturopath, and not a medical doctor. The information in this column is for educational purposes only and should not be used to self-diagnose and/or treat diseases. She is the author of several books including her latest, Take Control: A Guide to Holistic Living. Visit her website at www.freewebs.com/bridges2hth/ or email her at: Bridges2hth@aol.com

Wow, I’m On An Adventure!

Balance for Life...
Commentary by Sherry L. Ray, CPCC

As I reflect back on my summer, many new things occurred; sharing them seemed important as I might inspire all of you to get out of your routine and try something new.

Many of us get set in our routine and forget how fun it is to learn new things. Learning keeps us feeling young and alive; besides it’s never too late to teach an old dog new tricks.

In the summer of 2006, I went to a golf clinic and was intrigued when, on the putting green, I was sinking most of the puts. I giggled to myself and thought, “Why isn’t anyone else seeing this?” I looked to the sky and thought, “Someone up there is trying to get my attention to slow down and try this crazy game because I just might like it.”

I swore I would never have an interest in golf, after driving race cars and actually can’t wait to go hit balls three times a week just to see what I can do. I am stunned to say I was wrong. It just seemed too slow and boring. I had a friend who was in the hospital for two days with a flair-up of her lupus. Her medical bill was a staggering $22,000! Imagine what it would cost if you had to have a major operation and were in the hospital for a week. Most hospital stays run anywhere from $300 to $650 per day, and that is only for the room, it doesn’t cover medications, procedures, and supplies.

On another front, a few months ago we had some friends over for dinner and they were asking about how my husband and I met. Somehow the conversation then turned to the first time he heard me sing. Many of you have no idea I was a voice major my first two years in college back in the 1970’s.

I listened to my husband describe the first time he heard this big voice come out of my little body, how it gave him chills and tears. Then I thought to myself, “Why aren’t I singing anymore?” Singing used to bring me such joy!

So the next morning I called a voice teacher and made an appointment to start lessons again. I am thrilled and stunned to find out I am a coloreatura soprano. This means I can sing much higher than most regular sopro’s.

I had no idea since my previous teacher had never tested my voice range that high. Let me tell you I am like a little kid with a new toy!

So the next morning I called a voice teacher and made an appointment to start lessons again. I am thrilled and stunned to find out I am a coloreatura soprano. This means I can sing much higher than most regular sopro’s.

I had no idea since my previous teacher had never tested my voice range that high. Let me tell you I am like a little kid with a new toy! I am so excited about all these high notes I can sing that I am giving voice lessons to anyone at least I will listen. I am filled with wonder and joy and am looking forward to see what else is going to show up in my life.

In both of these cases all I had to do was pay attention to the level of my energy when I was exposed to golf and singing. How often do we ignore doing something that seems to really be calling to us?

The excuses are many: I might embarrass myself, I don’t have time, or I could never do that! Well how do you know that if you don’t at least give it a try?

So, as the days start to get shorter this fall, and you battle the urge to call it a night just because it got dark at 5:00, think about all those things you used to love to do or have always wanted to try.

Make a call, sign up, check it out, and allow yourself to giggle with the sheer joy of learning something new. You all have gifts waiting to be discovered, check them out! Balance out your life with fun!

Sherry L. Ray, CPCC is a national speaker, international business/life coach, and a Reiki Master/Teacher. She can be reached thru her website www.yellyeehaw.com or by phone at (303) 796-3066.

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Denver’s Nursing Star
October 8, 2007 Page 5
Free workshop for breast cancer patients offered

University of Colorado Cancer Center will host a free workshop for Advanced Breast Cancer patients entitled The Patient Active Guide to Living with Advanced Breast Cancer.

The program will focus on the needs of women newly diagnosed with advanced (metastatic) breast cancer, and also includes information relevant to women who have lived two to five years with metastatic breast cancer.

This free workshop will take place on Oct. 16 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at University of Colorado Cancer Center, in Room 2005-2006 of the Anschutz Outpatient Center, 1665 North Ursula Street, Aurora, Colorado.

Advance registration is preferred, but walk-in attendees are welcome. A light meal will be served. To register, please call Lori McKeon at 720-848-0249 or email Laura.Mckeon@uch.edu.

Clear and unbiased information will be provided about survivorship issues, new treatments, and concerns for women newly diagnosed with metastatic cancer, in order to empower them to be active participants in their cancer journey.

The Patient Active Guide to Living with Advanced Breast Cancer is created by The Wellness Community - National in collaboration with Living Beyond Breast Cancer and made possible through an unrestricted educational grant from GlaxoSmithKline Oncology.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2007, The Wellness Community (TWC) is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support, education, and hope to people directly or indirectly touched by cancer. Through participation in professionally lead support groups, educational workshops, nutrition and exercise programs, and stress reduction classes, people coping with cancer learn vital skills that enable them to regain control, reduce isolation, and restore hope regardless of the stage of their disease.

Today, there are 21 Wellness Communities across the United States, five in development, 28 satellites, two centers abroad in Tokyo and Tel Aviv, and a community online at The Virtual Wellness Community.

At TWC, all programs are free of charge. For more information please visit www.thewellnesscommunity.org or call 1.888.793.WELL.

The University of Colorado Cancer Center is the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in the Rocky Mountain Region. Headquartered primarily at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center in Aurora, its four-part mission is excellence in cancer research, treatment, prevention and education.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.uccc.info or the UCDHSC Newsroom at http://www.uchsc.edu/news/ithenews/.

Kaiser Permanente recognized as Green Electronics Champion

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Green Electronics Council has recognized Kaiser Permanente as a “Green Electronics Champion” for its leadership in buying environmentally friendly computers. Kaiser Permanente was the only health care organization to receive the distinction for “Going Green” when buying electronic products.

The EPA, in conjunction with the Green Electronics Council, is recognizing organizations that have integrated its Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool into their procurement processes and have purchased EPEAT-registered computers in the past year. EPEAT is a rating system for buying computers, laptops and monitors that meet stringent environmental criteria. Over the past 12 months, Kaiser Permanente has purchased 55,271 desktop computers, 57,165 monitors and more than 9600 laptop computers registered with EPEAT.

“As a health care company, Kaiser Permanente is well aware of the connections between environmental issues and human health,” said Dean Edwards, vice president and chief procurement officer at Kaiser Permanente.

“We are committed to environmental stewardship in all areas of our business and EPEAT has helped us reach our environmental and health goals.”

Compared to traditional computer equipment, all EPEAT-registered computers have reduced levels of toxic chemicals, are more energy efficient and are easier to upgrade and recycle. In the first six months of EPEAT’s existence, purchases of registered computers over conventional products nationwide have saved 34.7 billion kWh of electricity, enough to power 12 million U.S. homes for a year. These purchases have also prevented the release of 118,000 metric tons of water pollution.

The EPA distinction further illustrates Kaiser Permanente’s commitment to the environment. Over the past year, the organization has been praised for its green building initiatives, which include the use of environmentally sound construction techniques and materials. Kaiser Permanente also was recently recognized as the first health care organization to certify its greenhouse gas emissions inventory with the California Climate Action Registry, distinguishing itself as a Climate Action Leader.

Kaiser Permanente is America’s leading integrated health plan. Founded in 1945, it is a not-for-profit; group practice program headquartered in Oakland, Calif. Kaiser Permanente serves more than 8.7 million members in nine states and the District of Columbia.

Today it encompasses the not-for-profit Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and their subsidiaries, and the for-profit Permanente Medical Groups. Nationwide, Kaiser Permanente includes approximately 156,000 technical, administrative and clerical employees and caregivers, and 13,000 physicians representing all specialties. For more information about Kaiser Permanente, visit the Kaiser Permanente News Center at: http://xnet.kp.org/newscenter

The EPA’s Pacific Southwest office works to protect public health and the environment in the southwestern United States (Arizona, California, Nevada, and Hawaii). EPA Region 9 also works with 147 federally recognized tribes in the Pacific Southwest, and with trust territories and former territories in the Pacific Ocean.

The Green Electronics Council partners with environmental organizations, government agencies, manufacturers and other interested stakeholders to improve the environmental and social performance of electronic products. Its main project is to promote and implement the EPEAT green computer standard. Additional information on GEC is available at www.greenelectronicscouncil.org.

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Human Resources Office, Pueblo Community College, 900 W. Orman Ave., Pueblo, CO 81004, telephone (719) 549-3220, FAX (719) 549-3127.
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