

Business Pulse

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When you think about it, a sandwich shop like Subway makes perfect sense for that side of town. The hospital and nearby medical offices mean the area is saturated with health care workers. Oster is also located a block away. And between Motlow College and Tennessee Technology Center, there are over 1,000 students about a quarter mile away.

A sandwich shop makes perfect sense and I have no doubt a Subway will thrive there. However, I expect a little down time. It will probably be several months before it opens.

Four new specialists coming to hospital

There's great news in terms of the medical care that's available in McMinnville. Four new physicians are coming to town to practice medicine through River Park Hospital.

The first, Dr. Jack Coleman, will begin practicing here on Monday. He's an ear, nose and throat specialist and he's now accepting new patients. The number to call is 815-4368.

"We don't have a full-time ENT in this community so this will be a big plus," said River Park CEO John McLain. "We feel like we did well to find him. He spent 10 years as an associate professor at Vanderbilt."

The second new physician is Dr. Evelyn Cintron who specializes in internal medicine. She will begin seeing patients Feb. 1.

"This area has a shortage of physicians on the primary care side," said John. "She's been practicing in Morristown for the past 10 to 12 years and



James Clark photo

Hi-C Transportation on Smithville Highway now has a scale for weighing any type of vehicle up to 40,000 pounds per axle. Hi-C manager Jeffery

Eaton directs a truck driver from Clarkrange onto the scale Monday.

she's originally from Puerto Rico. She's really a delightful lady."

Since I wasn't clear on the difference between an internist and a family practitioner, John explained that there's really not much that separates them except for their clientele. A family practitioner generally sees patients of all ages, while an internist usually only sees adults.

Dr. Cintron will handle a number of general health ailments from basic infections to high blood pressure and dia-



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betes.

The next physician to come on board will be Dr. Robert Benson, a cardiologist, who is scheduled to start March 1. He's a board-certified cardiologist who will work full time out of the medical office building.

"Right now we just have a bunch of cardiologists who are here part time with The Heart Group," said John. "He'll be around on the weekends and through the week. Patients can see the same

doctor every time."

The fourth addition, an OB-GYN, will be working at the hospital's Family Birthing Unit through the office of Dr. Rene Del Valle. Dr. Dawn Riley-Cavner is scheduled to begin working here in July.

"Currently we only have Dr. Del Valle and Dr. Watlington to cover our Family Birthing Unit on a full-time basis," said John. "And they are very, very busy."

Dr. Riley-Cavner is an interesting story because she will come to McMinnville from Los Angeles, Calif. She has ties to

Tennessee with family members in Pikeville and Chattanooga.

"She was looking for a smaller town to get out of a big city," said John. "So it's worked out great how we found each other."

Not to take anything away from Dr. Watlington and Dr. Del Valle, but I've heard several women comment over the years about how they would like to have a female gynecologist in McMinnville. In July they will have that option.

The upcoming additions to the River Park staff are a definite asset, especially at a time when a number of hospitals are reducing employees. John said River Park is feeling the economic pinch as well.

"Right now we've seen a softening in our volume," said John. "We have not had to do a layoff and right now there's nothing on the horizon. But with these additions, the first three months we're obviously looking at an increase."

Not only will there be four new physicians, John says each one will require two office staff members. Using simple math, that's 12 jobs.

Having the new physicians here will also bolster the overall medical community since physicians recommend patients to other physicians they know. That means more work for other local doctors.

Hi-C Transportation adds scale

If you're looking for a scale to weigh a big rig, or any type of vehicle, Hi-C Transportation

manager Jeffery Eaton says his business has the only scale in town.

"It will weigh up to 40,000 pounds per axle," said Jeffery, who operates the business with his wife, Lisa. "And they're state certified so they're guaranteed to weigh within 20 pounds."

Hi-C Transportation bought the scale from Angela Whitman, who now works there. Her company, A&J Truck Broker on Beersheba Highway, was forced to go out of business after a fire.

"It's a good thing to have," said Angela. "For a \$10 fee, we'll weigh anything that can be put on the scales."

Everyone is invited to take advantage of the scale even if you don't do any other business with Hi-C Transportation. The company is located on Smithville Highway across from Gateway Tire by the new traffic light. The phone number is 668-8300.



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That's all folks

Allow me to encourage you to come forward with your business news. The number to call is 473-2191.

And if you have a life-changing story where you've found it's right to do the wrong thing, you should enter the 2009 essay contest. Of course it may rekindle haunting memories of your past that may require therapy, but at least you have a chance to win a contest.