

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

## Dr. Frey donates surgery equipment to Horizon Health Foundation

Dr. Marilyn Frey recently made a generous gift to the Horizon Health Foundation of East Central Illinois that enhances patient care.

Dr. Frey has been a long time donor and supporter of Horizon Health. Her recent donation supported the purchase of a Sedline Regional Oximeter. The device, produced by Masimo medical device company, provides more complete monitoring of the brain. It allows clinicians to constantly monitor blood flow and oxygenation under anesthesia.

“We thank Dr. Frey for her generosity,” said Anita Toussi, MD, Horizon Health chief medical officer. “This ensures the brain is doing well during surgery.”

Scott Williamson, certified registered nurse anesthetist and anesthesia manager, said the equipment will further enhance patient safety.

“Anesthesia is an art as well as a science,” he said. “This equipment is very high tech, non-invasive, and we’re happy to have it.”

Dr. Frey is renowned throughout the community for her volunteer efforts, as well as her global contributions to the psychology profession. In making her donation, she honored those who have supported local healthcare. They include Alfonso and Nancy Frey, members of Dr. Frey’s family, and Dr. R.H. McKnight and his wife, Bertha.

“I love being here and really appreciate the growth of the hospital,” Dr. Frey said. “I’m so excited about our hospital having this new equipment.”

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Submitted Photo

Dr. Marilyn Frey recently donated a Sedline Regional Oximeter to the Horizon Health Foundation of East Central Illinois. The device allows clinicians to closely monitor blood flow and oxygen to the brain during surgery. Pictured (L to R): Randi Bohannon, foundation executive director; Rachel Kelley, vice president of nursing and chief nursing officer; Scott Williamson, certified registered nurse anesthetist and anesthesia manager; Ollie Smith, Horizon Health president & CEO; Martin Adams, foundation board member and Horizon Health vice president of finance and chief financial officer; Debbie Benefiel, foundation board member; Vick Bowyer, foundation board member; Kim Sweitzer, director of surgical services; Anita Toussi, MD, chief medical officer; and Dr. Marilyn Frey, psychologist and longtime supporter of Horizon Health.

## Arthur seeks entries for Freedom Celebration parade on June 26

Entries for Arthur’s 2021 Freedom Celebration Parade are being accepted. Registration forms are available at the Arthur Graphic-Clarion or the Arthur Welcome Center.

Individuals, organizations, churches, and businesses interested in participating in the parade should call 217-543-2151 to request a form or stop by the newspaper office at 113 E. Illinois or the Welcome Center at 106 E. Progress to pick up a form.

“Salute to Freedom’s Heroes” is the theme for the 27th annual parade.

Sponsored by Arthur Area Association of Commerce, the line-up for the parade will begin at 12:45 p.m. in the old Progress Tank Facility (402 East Progress St.) and the parade will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. Only parade participants are allowed in the line-up area. Drop off area for parade participants will be at 402 East Progress St., which is the entrance to the plant.

The Freedom Celebration Parade route will run west on Progress Street to Vine Street, turn left on Vine and travel through downtown Arthur. The parade route turns left from Vine on Logan Street and then left again on Pine Street back to Progress.

The Arthur American Legion Post #479 will be handing out American flags along the parade route again this year.

People are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs to watch the parade anywhere along the route with their families, friends and neighbors. Kids and kids at heart don’t forget to bring the candy bags!

Parade entries should remember to report to for line-up between 12:45 and 1:45 p.m. on June 26.

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## ROE #11 Superintendent Dr. Kyle Thompson to seek re-election

Halfway through his first term, Regional Superintendent Dr. Kyle Thompson is making it clear he plans to continue serving as Regional Superintendent for Regional Office of Education #11. Thompson oversees school districts in Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties.

Of Thompson’s many highlights while in office, he touts the ability to adapt under ever changing circumstances. “COVID has changed the way we lead and conduct business in a now virtual and hybrid world.” Nine months into his first term, schools were shut down and the profession changed. “It has pushed us out of our comfort zone and made us more efficient and effective in how we provide our services.”

Upon entering office, Thompson wanted to shed some positive light on the teaching profession. “We’ve made it a priority to recognize those who do outstanding work in education throughout our region.” Additionally, Thompson continues to battle the teacher shortage crisis, working with local and statewide legislators to remove barriers to entering the profession. As school districts continue to struggle finding properly licensed teachers, he was able to create a series of teacher recruitment videos with the help of Eastern Il-

linois graduate students. “It’s people, not programs,” Thompson says, citing his colleagues as the reason for the office’s recent accomplishments and promising future. “The success of anything depends on the people behind it and I have been fortunate to help build and work with a committed group of individuals.”



Thompson is also proud of his financial record. “In a time where not many budgets are being cut, we’ve been able to reduce the budget we ask our counties to provide, and hope to do so again.” “We are growing our team and expanding our services without asking for more money from our counties,” Thompson said. “That is something to be proud of.”

Thompson believes his responsiveness and communication is well received by those he serves. “The relationships with our district and community partners across the region have grown stronger than ever. That’s what happens when you put our kids first.” Thompson said.

Thompson also serves as vice chairman of the Coles County Republican Party. At 38, he is the youngest Regional Superintendent in Illinois. He won all seven counties in ROE #11 by a wide margin in the 2018 republican primary and ran unopposed in the 2018 general election.

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