

Doc hangs up his white coat

Bob Willey retires from Dallas practice, turns eye to overseas

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dr. Bob Willey learned something new his last day on the job at his Dallas medical practice.

After 36 years seeing patients in Dallas and 42 years in the medical field overall, Willey retired on June 30. His last appointments were on June 29.

He spent his last day saying goodbye to his patients during a retirement party. Through those final interactions, Willey learned just how much he will be missed.

"I never thought about that before, but after today ... it's pretty amazing," Willey said.

Willey moved to Dallas 36 years ago after working in Victoria, British Columbia, for six years.

From Illinois originally, Willey and his wife wanted to move back the United States.

That was when Willey found an advertisement from a hospital in Dallas looking for a doctor to set up a practice.

"It was karma," Willey said, noting that the job came with an assurance of financial stability in the first year. "It was a hard thing to pass up."

He didn't, and the family moved to Dallas in 1979. They found a new home.

"This is a great little town," Willey said. "It's always been a great community, and the people are wonderful."

That is what he will miss now that he's officially retired.

"The social aspect, that is what I will miss the most," Willey said.

Willey said he won't be hanging up his white jacket entirely.



Dr. Bob Willey, left, poses for a photo with patients on June 30 during his retirement party and last day on the job in Dallas, where he has practiced medicine for 36 years.

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He's thinking of serving overseas, something he wanted to do early in his career, but was never able to until now. He would also like to travel and spend time with his grandkids.

"Family has always been important to me," Willey said.

He has no intentions of leaving Dallas, which he says is in the perfect location because it's close to the coast, mountains and Portland area.

"Dallas will be my center of operations," he said, with a smile.



It's quitting time, at least for the most part, for Bob Willey as decorations at his retirement send off party indicate. Willey said he might volunteer to go overseas someday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

County taking sheriff applications

POLK COUNTY — The Polk County Board of Commissioners will soon be tasked with appointing a new sheriff upon the resignation of Sheriff Robert Wolfe.

Wolfe has been the Polk County sheriff since 1998.

The Board of Commissioners will hold an open selection process for the soon-to-be vacant position.

The board will begin accepting letters of interest on Sept. 1, and begin the selection process in the month of October.

The board should come to a decision by Nov. 4.

Any individual selected to be the next sheriff will need to meet the appropriate qualifications prior to appointment pursuant to Oregon law and the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Direct any questions to the Polk County Personnel Department at 503-623-1888.

Pentacle names new exec director

WEST SALEM — Pentacle Theatre announced last week it has named Lisa Joyce as its new executive director.

Joyce served as the theater's interim executive director since December, following former director Randy Boyd's departure.

After a search that attracted applicants from throughout the United States and Canada, Joyce's experience, skills and vision for Pentacle made her the theater governing board's choice for the position.

As the new executive director, Joyce will focus on the board's strategic plan, especially developing sustainable funding and strengthening the theater's preparedness for the future. She has already implemented changes to enhance patron and volunteer experiences, such as seat selection for online ticket sales to improving employee morale.

"An engaged workforce is a critical tool for any business, particularly one this small," Joyce said.

Dallas police arrest two after warrant

DALLAS — Two people were arrested Thursday after Dallas officers served a search warrant at a home on Southwest Cheryl Street.

Detectives seized suspected methamphetamine, paraphernalia and money. The investigation remains open, according to police. This is the third time Dallas detectives have served search warrants at this residence since December.

Arrested in the bust were:

- Jimmy Davis, 36, on charges of felony unlawful delivery of methamphetamine, two counts of misdemeanor endangering the welfare of a minor, and two counts of violating a release agreement. Davis is pending adjudication for arrests related to earlier search warrants served at the same residence.

- Jenny Hill, 29, on charges of felony unlawful possession of methamphetamine and four counts of misdemeanor endangering the welfare of a minor.

Library to show 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

DALLAS — The Dallas Public Library is holding a movie night Tuesday to mark the release of Harper Lee's new book, "Go Set a Watchman."

The manuscript was written several years before Lee's 1960 classic book, "To Kill a Mockingbird," but she did not release it for publication until this year. In honor of the new book release, the library will show the movie version of "To Kill a Mockingbird," starring Gregory Peck, Tuesday at 7 p.m. A copy of "Go Set a Watchman" will be offered as a door prize for those in attendance. For more information: www.facebook.com/dallaslibrary-oregon.

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COUNSELING

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- **WEST VALLEY SURGICAL SPECIALTY CLINIC** surgeon, **Dr. Alison Smith**, provides general surgery services for a wide range of needs including breast cancer, gallbladder, biopsies, abdominal surgery, hernia repair, appendectomy, as well as colonoscopy. General surgery appointments are scheduled at the clinic on

Mondays and Thursdays. Dr. Smith does her surgeries at West Valley Hospital's spacious, state-of-the-art new surgical suite. West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 or fax 503-623-2612. Visit salemhealth.org/specialty.

GYNECOLOGY SERVICES

Gynecological care is available in Dallas at the West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic. **Gynecologist Keita Sakon, MD**, specializes in gynecology exams and procedures, including hysteroscopy and laparoscopy, as well as family planning, abnormal Pap evaluation, treatment of pelvic pain, symptom control for menopause and abnormal periods. Dr. Sakon works in Dallas on Friday afternoons from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. seeing patients at the clinic and performing gynecological procedures in the West Valley Hospital surgical suites. New patients are welcome! West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 for an appointment. Visit westvalleyhospital.org/specialtyclinic.

HEARING HEALTH

- **JOYFUL SOUND HEARING SERVICES, INC.** Mark Sturtevant, 312 Main Street, Dallas OR, 503-623-0290. Providing Polk County with hearing solutions for 30 years. Services include: Hearing evaluations, Diagnosing hearing loss; Impedance; Fitting all types of hearing devices, Servicing all makes and models of hearing aids; Ear inspections; Wax removal; Hearing protection. Hours: Monday - Thursday 9-4pm. (Fridays by appointment only)

HEART SERVICES

- **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** provides heart diagnostic services including electrocardiograms (EKG), pulmonary function tests, cardiac stress tests and echocardiograms with a physician referral. Cardiologists **Dr. Raghu Kamineni, Dr. William Stiles and Dr. Kevin Thompson** see patients for office visits at West Valley Hospital at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. For more heart health information, call 503-623-7304.

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Call the Itemizer-Observer at 503-623-2373 for more information or to have your business listed in this directory.