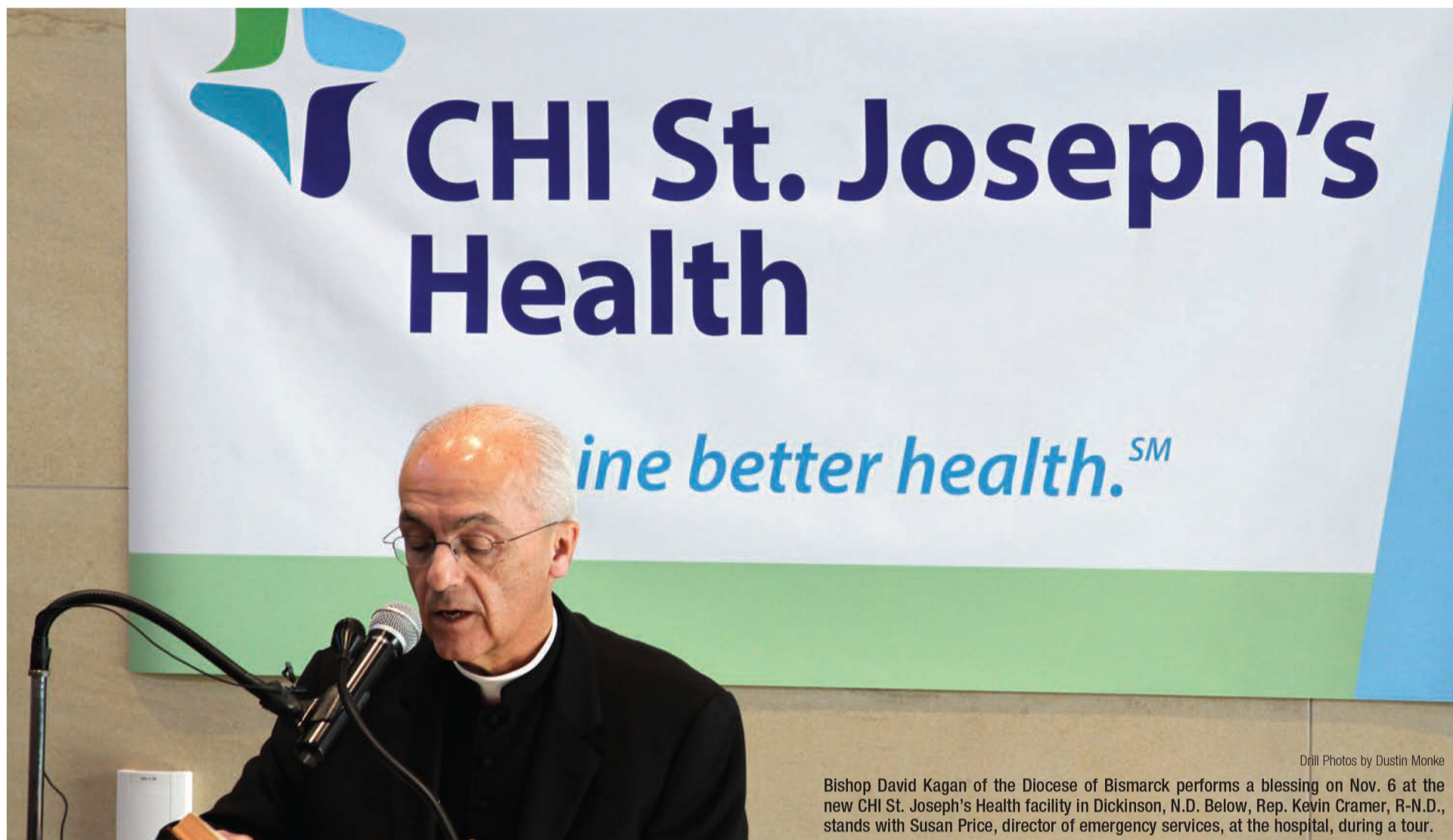


HEALTHY BLESSINGS



Drill Photos by Dustin Monke

Bishop David Kagan of the Diocese of Bismarck performs a blessing on Nov. 6 at the new CHI St. Joseph's Health facility in Dickinson, N.D. Below, Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., stands with Susan Price, director of emergency services, at the hospital, during a tour.

Dickinson's new hospital blessed a month before opening



By Nadya Faulx
Forum News Service

DICKINSON, N.D.

It was a time of blessings. Local community members, politicians and religious leaders gathered at the new Catholic Health Initiatives St. Joseph's Health hospital in Dickinson Nov. 6 for a blessing ceremony ahead of its Dec. 1 opening date.

Bishop David Kagan of the Diocese of Bismarck led a prayer service to bless what Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., called the "hospital on the prairie."

Cramer said the \$100 million, 25-bed hospital signifies that the region has a story that is "more than oil."

"It's a story about values. It's a story about work ethic. It's a story about success that's not accidental," he said.

The new St. Joseph's facility, which replaces a hospital more than 80 years old, will combine the medical clinic, women's clinic, surgical care clinic and the Dakota Bone and Joint clinic in one four-acre health-care campus. About 200 people attended one of the first official public showings of the state-of-the-art facility, where construction started about two years ago.

Besides Cramer, other guests included Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., a representative of Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., Dick-

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Valley Med Flight will work in conjunction with CHI St. Joseph's health and have a helipad at the hospital.

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inson Mayor Dennis Johnson and various leaders from CHI, the hospital's parent organization.

Hoeven, who worked with community leaders to help the facility receive a critical access hospital designation, said the hospital turned out even better than he had anticipated.

"This is a beautiful facility," Hoeven said. "I knew it was going to be pretty amazing. Anytime you spend \$100 million on a new medical center, you know it's going to be wonderful, so I expected it to be wonderful. It's more than I expected."

The facility is a testament to Dickinson's "strong, thriving community," he said.

As North Dakota grows, "we always have to be mindful of making that quality of life," Hoeven said. "Whether it's roads, whether it's health care facilities, whether it's schools, whether it's stores, whether it's the Blue Hawks stadium. It's vital."

Heitkamp's western area office manager Kaylen Morast, who spoke on her behalf,

said hospitals like CHI St. Joseph's — especially in rural areas like southwest North Dakota — are "so important."

"Talk about a beacon on the prairie," she said.

"This is a day I and many others have been looking forward to for a very, very long time," the mayor said.

The health-care facility will become the region's only critical access hospital after Richardton Memorial Hospital relinquished the designation in 2008. Federal law states that a critical access hospital can't be located within 35 miles of another.

St. Joseph's will offer a number of clinical services to provide focused preventive and outpatient care, including a therapy pool, infusion room and orthopaedic unit.

The current St. Joseph's hospital is too outdated to serve changing health care needs and a growing population, officials said.

The hospital reported 48,000 patients in 2012, and 55,000 in 2013.

St. Joseph's president Reed Reyman also reported this week that the hospital is on track to hit 644 births in 2014, and almost 750 births next year.

"We are here to stay," said Jeffrey Drop, senior vice president and executive officer at the Fargo division of Catholic Health Initiatives. "We're investing big in this community."

Innovations under foot, under rig

Engineering advancements in rig matting improves strength and remediation time

By Jason Spiess / For The Drill

FARGO

One thing many economic experts agree on is that this current shale revolution is driving America's economy.

Karen Alderman Harbert, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for 21st Century Energy, believes those who are actively seeking new technical information and applying it to traditional applications are driving the United States' economic rebound.

"There is no other industry in the nation today that is higher tech than the energy industry. ET is the new IT," Harbert said. "You look at the amount of change and the pace of change and the scale of change of what the energy industry has been able to unlock and getting more out of everything."

In a day and age where sterile charts, line graphs and hard science dominate the world of innovation, keeping a person's attention can be difficult. Still, there are stories where dry, boring numbers are combined when a company rolled up its sleeves, sharpened its pencils and solved one problem for the industry, and become a backyard entrepreneur in the process.

One story begins with BCE Structural, the largest structural engineering firm in Montana, which recently released a study involving rig mats and reported quite a jump in new load data.



Submitted Photo
This photo, courtesy of MT Rig Mats, shows rig mats on the ground where they are constructed in Charlo, Mont.