

# FREMONT TRIBUNE

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Tuesday, March 10, 2026

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## METHODIST FREMONT HEALTH

# TAKING CARE ON THE ROAD



METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEM

Methodist Fremont Health's Dr. Ashley Sawtelle is visiting CHI Health Schuyler twice a month to provide OB-GYN care so patients don't have to spend time or money traveling to Columbus or Fremont.

## Dr. Sawtelle takes OB-GYN services to Schuyler

DAVID GOLBITZ  
Fremont Tribune

Thanks to a new partnership between Methodist Fremont Health and CHI Health Schuyler, Schuyler residents are able to receive pregnancy and other women's health care services without having to travel miles outside of town.

Methodist OB-GYN Dr. Ashley Sawtelle began seeing patients in Schuyler in January in an effort to ensure patients in more rural communities have the same access to and quality of care that patients in larger communities receive.

"We have quite a large, especially obstetric, community of patients who come from all over the area and I would say a good 50% of our patients who are OB patients are more low-income patients who use Medicaid services and have a lot of financial concerns, not only just in general, but being able to afford gas or transportation to come to their appointments," Sawtelle

said. "We were noticing that people were either presenting very late in their pregnancy for OB care or missing appointments and that has a huge impact on the quality of care that they're receiving and the potential outcomes for their own health and for their baby's health, and so we are hoping that by improving access to care, we can have better outcomes for moms and babies in our local communities."

CHI Health Schuyler stopped delivering babies several years ago, Sawtelle said. And the hospital does not currently employ an OB-GYN.

"(They) had just been making best with family medicine doctors who felt comfortable, being willing to see patients if they presented for care during their pregnancy early on," Sawtelle said. "Being kind of midway between Columbus and Fremont, patients definitely have options pretty well equidistant and so our hope is that by me going there, it will improve access to care

and hopefully encourage those patients to come deliver their babies with us."

Currently, Sawtelle, a Fremont native, is seeing patients at CHI Health Schuyler twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays, though that schedule is flexible depending on the number of patients she might have.

So far, Sawtelle has seen three patients in Schuyler — two pregnancies and one gynecological patient.

"I'm not limited to seeing only pregnant patients out there in Schuyler," Sawtelle said. "If a patient needs an annual well-woman exam, has a history of abnormal Pap smears, any kind of routine gynecologic care. Things like contraception or heavier, painful periods or chronic pelvic pain. Any kind of routine office visit that we typically would see (in Fremont), I can do those things in Schuyler as well."

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# Fertilizer costs skyrocket due to Iran war

MARJIE DUCEY  
Omaha World-Herald

As growing season nears, Nebraska's farmers are facing an unexpected challenge: the military conflict in Iran.

While the bombing of that country by Israel and the United States might seem far away from the fields of the Midwest, Iran happens to be one of the world's biggest producers of fertilizers, a crucial component for farmers.

The spreading conflict has also limited shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key artery for other suppliers in the area.

Andy Jobman, a farmer near Gothenburg, said prices for nitrogen fertilizer, both liquid and the concentrated form commonly called urea, have jumped since the operation in Iran began last Saturday.

"Earlier this week, you couldn't even get a quote on urea from my local co-op," Jobman said, "because they couldn't get a quote from their supplier."

The price for urea was below \$400 a ton



Jobman



Beckman

late last year and into January, said Jayson Beckman, an associate professor and the Michael Yanney Chair of International Trade and Finance at the University of Nebraska.

The cost of urea started to creep up in February and last Friday reached \$457 a ton. By Monday, it was \$550 and by Thursday, \$574.

"Even slightly under \$400 is more than farmers want to pay, especially with

stagnant corn prices," Beckman said. "They would be hoping to pay in the low \$300s."

Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) solution is the main type of fertilizer used in Nebraska.

Natural gas is required to make the formula. For example, India, another supplier, typically gets its natural gas from Qatar.

That supply normally travels through the Strait of Hormuz, but Qatar has shut down production along with many other fertilizer plants in the area.

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