

## Calhoun clinic to go full-time

*By Rich Suwanski*

*McLean County News*

*April 16, 2009*

The Trover Clinic in Calhoun will get a full-time physician and two new staff members starting July 1 thanks to a \$1.3 million stimulus bill grant, making primary care available to the uninsured or underinsured.

The grant, announced Friday and received by Madisonville's Trover Health System on behalf of Regional Healthcare Affiliates Inc., will be shared by its clinics in McLean and Webster counties.



The Trover Clinic will become a community health center in July, operated by Regional Healthcare Affiliates, a not-for-profit corporation.

Calhoun's clinic currently has one nurse practitioner and two staff members. It provides primary care and makes referrals for dental and mental health services for Medicare, Medicaid and private pay patients.

On July 1, the new community health center will have a doctor, nurse practitioner and four staff members. It will continue to accept Medicare, Medicaid and private pay patients, but will also offer services to those who have no insurance or are underinsured.

"The community health center grant could not have come at a better time due to the economic downturn," said Bob Brooks, Trover's vice president of education. "It's the perfect time for the government to subsidize free care and care on a sliding fee scale for the underinsured and the working poor.

"For example, depending on your income and the number of people in your family, you may only pay \$15 for a \$100 office visit with the government subsidizing the difference of \$85, although some may pay more, depending on their income, or less if they have no income."

People living outside of McLean and Webster counties will also be accepted.

"This increases the number of health care providers and increases access to care," Brooks said.