



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Emergency room issue

# Hildyard shocked at hospital board's decision

By JAY KELLEY  
*Colby Free Press*

After listening to both pro and con from local doctors, the Citizens Medical Center board of trustees voted to go ahead with a plan to contract with Staff Care, Inc., Irving, Tex. for emergency room physicians.

The plan would put a doctor in-house from noon until 8 p.m., the hospital's busiest hours, according to Michael Boyles, chief executive officer. Doctors would be on-call at other times.

Boyles said the board deliberated for more than an hour before deciding to go ahead with the plan. He declined to make the vote public.

Dr. Victor Hildyard II, of Colby Medical and Surgical Center, said most doctors are against the plan.

"Five out of seven local doctors were against it," he said. Hildyard also said the nursing staff and emergency medical services were not in support of the plan.

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services director Josh Buffington also told the *Free Press* Tuesday that the system he had previously worked in had full-time physician's assistants and nurse-practitioners working under local doctors. He said he was concerned about the cost and quality of service in the hospital plan here.

Hildyard said he thought all of the board's concerns had been addressed.

"I left the meeting feeling pretty good," he said. "Then I find out they voted for it, anyway. I'm in shock."

Hildyard said he, too, is concerned about the quality of care dropping as well as the costs going up.

"We had the cheapest system going with the best care," he said. "I thought it was a no-brainer."

Dr. Eric Jacobsen, of the Family Center for Health Care, disagreed, but also said he didn't

want the issue to be seen as a disagreement between clinics or doctors.

"It's not about personalities, it's about what is good for a strong hospital," he said.

Jacobsen said he supported the board's decision for the long-term health of the hospital.

"I don't want to leave Colby, ever," he said. "And I feel this is best for the long-term."

Other local doctors offered their opinions, both for and against.

Dr. Jeffrey Kasselmann said he had mixed emotions. "I'm going to lose some revenue, but the board is making what they feel to be the best decision."

He also said he supported the board decision and felt that they had looked at all angles. Kasselmann added that both hospital staff and local doctors will have adjustments to make.

"Patients who want it can still see their doctors in the ER," he said. But, according to Kasselmann, the doctors won't be reimbursed.

Dr. Ladonna Regier said the decision would affect the entire medical community. "Our patients are part of that community," she said.

"Obviously, I am very disappointed," she said. According to Regier, many of her patients are also expressing concern about being able to see their doctor.

Regier said she was concerned that the board wasn't listening to the medical staff.

Dr. Ray Ketting said the decision would cause him to leave Colby. "I can't afford to stay."

He also questioned the claim that the emergency room physicians would relieve the doctor's load. "Most of these contracts don't handle obstetrics, trauma or orthopedics," he said.

Ketting said local doctors would still have to be on-call to handle those cases.

The board's decision went against the recommendation of most of the local doctors, and

Ketting said that worries him. "I think they're doing the community a disservice."

Ketting said he wasn't aware of any problems before the board decision. "If there was a problem, then we would have to look at changes," he said.

Dr. Stephen Grillot, hospital chief of staff, said he was in favor of the decision. "This is a step forward for our community to become a medical center for northwest Kansas."

Grillot said the contract would not stop local doctors from working in the emergency room, they would just have to work under the Texas company's rules.

The in-house physicians would allow the hospital to go forward with plans for a cardiac and respiratory rehabilitation center, according to Grillot.

Grillot, who is leaving Colby on June 13, said he plans to work for the company during some vacation time.



VIRGINIA ARNBERGER/Colby Free Press

A world-traveler spent the night in Winona on Wednesday. The 392,000 pound transformer, being shipped from Israel to Arapahoe, Colo. had

to stop for the night in Winona because of regulations on moving over-size loads at night.

# Heavyweight visits Winona this week

By PATTY DECKER  
*Free Press Editor*

It's not every day that people anywhere see a tractor-trailer rig that weighs more than 392,000 lbs., has more than 70 tires, and is hauling a transformer shipped from Israel with a destination of Arapahoe, Colo.

Yet, that's exactly what many residents of Winona saw on Wednesday evening when the rig pulled into the local park area.

Bob and Virginia Arnberger said they spoke with the driver and learned that the transformer was so large that when it was first taken off the ship af-

ter arriving in this country, more ballast needed to be added to steady the vessel so as not to capsize.

"The trailer can expand to 21' wide and requires a second driver to control sections of it to make the curves while in motion," Bob said.

"I have never seen anything like this

before," Virginia said. "It would have been great if others could have seen the sight of this truck parked on the back side of the park, just beside U.S. Highway 40 — they would be totally in awe."

The rig left Winona on Thursday morning.

# Timothy McVeigh halts appeals, prepares to die Monday morning

DENVER (AP) — Ending three weeks of legal turmoil, Timothy McVeigh has halted all further appeals and says he is prepared to die by lethal injection Monday morning for the Oklahoma City bombing.

McVeigh's decision, which clears the way for his execution, came Thursday minutes after a three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected his request for an execution delay.

He could have petitioned for the full appeals court to consider his request, taken the case to the U.S. Supreme Court or asked President Bush for clemency.

Instead, McVeigh was prepared to die, said attorney Rob Nigh.

"He has family and friends that he must say his goodbyes to, the kind of introspection and psychological pre-

paration he has to go through only he can know and other people in his position can know," Nigh said outside the appeals court.

At the federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind., McVeigh could be moved as early as Friday from his cell to the execution building, a windowless, two-story brick structure surrounded by a fence topped with barbed wire. He would be the first federal prisoner executed since 1963.

In Oklahoma City, reaction was mixed among bombing victims' relatives and survivors.

"It's kind of like a burden lifted off my shoulders," said Paul Howell, whose daughter was killed in the bombing and who plans to witness the execution at the prison in Terre Haute. "I'm going to start preparing myself mentally for it now."

Jannie Coverdale, whose two grandsons were killed, wants McVeigh to remain alive because she does not believe the full truth has been told about the bombing.

She plans to begin writing letters next week to Attorney General John Ashcroft, congressmen and McVeigh's attorneys to try to get copies of court documents.

But first she will go to her grandsons' graves.

"I have to tell the boys the bad man is dead and he can't hurt anyone anymore," she said.

McVeigh was convicted of murder, conspiracy and mass weapons charges in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The blast killed 168 people and injured hundreds more.

He had stopped his appeals this year

and was preparing for his May 16 execution when the Justice Department announced in early May that nearly 4,500 pages and 11 CDs of FBI material had been found that should have been given to his attorneys before his 1997 trial. Ashcroft ordered the execution delayed to give the defense time to review the material.

A week ago, attorneys for McVeigh, a Gulf War veteran, began an aggressive campaign to delay the execution a second time, alleging in a court brief that the government committed a "fraud upon the court" by withholding documents.

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch denied McVeigh's request, saying it was clear he was "the instrument of death and destruction" in the bombing, the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

His attorneys appealed Thursday, but the three-judge panel ruled that McVeigh "utterly failed to demonstrate substantial grounds" why he should not be put to death.

The attorneys acknowledged that nothing in the FBI documents proves McVeigh is innocent.

In the book, "American Terrorist: Timothy McVeigh & the Oklahoma City Bombing," McVeigh admitted he carried out the attack to avenge government raids at the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, and the cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver at Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

McVeigh also said he has chosen his last words: "I am the master of my fate," an excerpt from William Ernest Henley's 19th-century poem "Invictus."

Nigh said Thursday that McVeigh

allowed his appeals to be renewed because he wanted to try to prove the FBI committed fraud by withholding the material. He said he didn't try to talk McVeigh out of his decision because "his mind was resolved."

In a statement, Ashcroft said: "Timothy McVeigh is responsible for the brutal murder of 168 people, including 19 children, and he will now be brought to justice."

Stephen Jones, who represented McVeigh at trial, said McVeigh prohibited his lawyers from pursuing other suspects before the trial and insisted on managing his own defense.

Jones said he was saddened by the court's refusal to delay the execution, set for 8 a.m. EDT Monday.

"I believe he has humanity, and I think the death penalty is inappropriate," Jones said.

# A bird's apartment causes excitement

By JAY KELLEY  
*Colby Free Press*

Colby firefighters responded to an unusual fire about 9:45 p.m. Thursday at Dillons.

According to fire department Service Officer J.L. Ellis, a bird had built a nest in a loose light fixture. Dillons employees noticed a small fire and called 911.

The fire department was able to extinguish the fire by removing the light cover and pulling the nest out.

According to Ellis, there was no fire

damage outside the fixture and no danger to the building itself because the fire was detected early.

"There was a lot of hay behind the light," said Ellis. He warned other business and homeowners to inspect outdoor light fixtures.

When birds and other animals build nests near heat sources like the light at the (Dillons) pharmacy, they can smolder for hours before breaking into flame.

Ellis recommended that those areas be sealed and inspected periodically.

# Rod Run begins today

By PATTY DECKER  
*Free Press Editor*

Rod Run activities begin today at 5 p.m. when an estimated 200 classic, custom and muscle cars converge in Colby for the eighth annual event.

Spectators are encouraged to stop by the Sonic Drive-Inn as participants sign in at the registration area, said Bev Biel, one of the organizers.

"There will be 50s style rock and roll music and time for visiting and cruising tonight," she said.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, the event will be in full swing at Fike Park with cars on display to allow visitors a chance to see these vintage cars up close, she said.

In addition, there will be other attrac-

tions throughout the day to include scores of vendors, demonstrations by the Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club, pedal car displays and at 3:30 p.m., Colby's canine patrol plans to entertain with Blitz giving his final performance prior to retirement and the introduction of Capone, the newest canine member.

Everyone is welcome on Sunday to attend the church service from 9 to 10 a.m. and stick around to see who will receive the many awards offered this year.

"We hope everyone will come out and extend our visitors a 'real Colby welcome,' along with enjoying the many things available this weekend," Biel said.

## Briefly

### Weather: Continued warm

Warm weather will continue through Monday, at least, according to the forecast for the Colby area issued this morning by the National Weather Service. Tonight, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, low near 65 and southeast winds 5-15 mph. Saturday, mostly sunny, warm, high 90-95 and south winds 15-25 mph. Saturday night, clear, low 60-65. And Sunday and Monday, continued dry, clear, low 55-65 and high in the 90s. Thursday's high in Colby was 77 and the overnight low this morning was 59. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 80 degrees. There was no additional precipitation, leaving the month's total at 0.09 inches. The records for June 8: 102 in 1911 and the 40 in 1906. (The daily temperatures,

precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Craft fair expanding

The Colby Girl Scouts are once again organizing the October Craft-a-Ganza craft fair. This year, said Jan Barnum, one of the organizers, the scouts are adding antique dealers to have a wider variety of vendors. Crafters and antique dealers can call Barnum at 462-6503 for additional information.

### Group needs officers

Colby Secondary Parent Teacher Student Association still need officers for the year 2001-2002. Call 462-7188.

# Here's to you...

✓*Lon Sowers* — and 'Gabe' & 'Rick' for the unusual mode of transportation provided for the kick-off of Vacation Bible School at the Levant Community Church.

✓*Rod Run Organizers* — for your dedication and hard work; the big weekend is at hand!

✓*Participants* — and visitors; welcome to Colby for the Rod Run.

✓*Fr. Galen Long* — Sacred Heart Church pastor, on your 10th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

✓*Marc Valentine* — for treating the community to the National Flag Truck.

✓*Reverends Terry Turner and Suze Talbot* — Colby United Methodist Church pastors, best wishes in your new assignments, and thanks for your presence in our community.

✓*Sacred Heart School* — on your 40th anniversary.

✓*C. W. Cheney* — and crew, it looks like you've got the recreation program up and running smoothly for another summer.

(Give us a call at 462-3963 to have names of individuals or groups recognized in this weekly salute.)

✓*Happy Birthday* — (June 8) *Clarence West*/78, *Jay Griffin, Mary Carman*; (June 9) *Esther R. Johnson*/90, *Denise Repshire, Jessica Cox*; (June 10), *Regena Barnum, Jakalyn Barnhart*; (June 11) *Wyatt Werth, Matthew Kaus, Shirley Coleman, Jordan Cranston*; (June 12) *Steve Arendt*. There were no anniversaries for these dates in our book. These generally appear in the My Turn column on page 2, but TD's mind temporarily went south.

