



Hildyard, hospital Hearing on restraining order scheduled

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor
A hearing to vacate or modify a temporary restraining order against Dr. Victor H. Hildyard II from seeing his patients or admitting new ones to the Colby hospital will be held in the Thomas County District Court at 9 a.m., Thursday, May 2.
As of today, and according to Michael Boyles, chief executive officer at Citizens Medical Center, the temporary restraining order continues to be in effect. Prior to receiving

notification on Friday, Dr. Hildyard was caring for six patients hospitalized at that time. Once the order was issued, Boyles made arrangements for another physician to continue their appropriate care, according to court documents.
The notice of a hearing to request modification or vacating the restraining order was filed at 2:25 p.m., Monday, April 29, by Ronald S. Shalz, who is representing Dr. Hildyard.
The restraining order was prompted following accusations by an employee at Citizens

Medical Center who alleges that Dr. Hildyard displayed improper conduct to include sexual harassment, the court document said.
Shalz, through legal documents filed earlier today, is also requesting Colby Police Department records from Sunday, April 28 involving information pertinent to the allegations pending between Citizens Medical Center and Dr. Hildyard.
In addition, subpoenas have been issued to have Colby Police Officer Ron Alexander, Yvonne Stroud, Janet Meyers and Boyles ap-

pear at the Thursday hearing.
Special instructions were also noted in the court records that Alexander bring with him any written statements or reports in the possession of the police department regarding the pending order and allegations.
The allegations against Dr. Hildyard were prompted by the employee's complaint, which violated a recently established policy at Citizens Medical Center known as the hostile work environment policy.
The policy, which is three pages long, noted

that it is the sole process for dealing with egregious incidents and disruptive behavior and shall be interpreted and enforced by the governing board. No other policy or procedure shall be applicable to egregious incidents or disruptive behavior except as designated by the board. The Citizens Medical Center governing board includes Vern Schwanke, president; Terry Cousins, vice-president; Doug Munderloh, treasurer; Kay Weston, secretary; along with members Curt Stephens, Judith Sears and Terry Wendall.

An 'UGLY' situation



Eighth grade students from Colby Middle School participated in U. G. L. Y. Day at the Bowhunter Club's archery range Monday. Students were assigned to small groups and given problems to solve. Above,

left to right, Zanae Baird, Matt Grove, Tyson Plumisto and Cierra Rous help Brandon Weichamp out of a canyon. The event is held annually for the purpose of hands-on problem solving.

DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Fertility study brings surprises

LONDON (AP) — New research has provided the most precise insight yet into when biological clocks start ticking loudly — and it's sooner than once thought: age 27 for women and 35 for men.
Until now, it was thought that women's fertility starts to drop significantly in the early 30s, with a big plunge after 35. But the new study indicates that, on average, female fertility begins its meaningful slide at age 27. And while the decline in human fertility tied to aging had traditionally been attributed to the female factor, the study, published Tuesday in the journal Human Reproduction, showed that men's fertility starts dwindling after 35. Nevertheless, experts said the findings should not raise undue concern. The results mean it may take a month or two longer to conceive than it does for younger people, they said. The ages at which declines were seen are only averages and there is a wide range in fertility at any specific age.
"Certainly very young women in their early 20s are more fertile than women in their late 20s and early 30s. But I suspect that the fertility of those women who are around 30 is high enough that it doesn't give them a real cause for concern or worry up to the age of 35," said Dr. Chris Ford, a re-

searcher at the University of Bristol in England who studies fertility and age, but was not involved with the study.
The study involved 782 healthy couples from across Europe who were using only the rhythm method of family planning. Women kept daily records of their body temperature, recorded the days they had sex and which days they had their menstrual periods.
The researchers then categorized the women into four age groups — 19-26, 27-29, 30-34 and 35-39 — and recorded the ages of their partners.
There were a total of 433 pregnancies. Women in the 27-29 age group had lower pregnancy chances on average than women aged 19-26. The likelihood of pregnancy did not noticeably decline between the age groups 27-29 and 30-34, but then dropped again from age 35.
The probability of getting pregnant on any specific day in the menstrual cycle was twice as high for women under 27 as it was for women 35 and older, the study found.
Assuming that the couples had sex at the best time for conception — two days before ovulation — and presuming that the men were the same age as the women, women younger than 27 had a 50 percent chance of conceiving during that menstrual cycle.

Fire damages church

MCDONALD (AP) — Authorities believe a group of young people set fire to a former church that was being used for storage.
McDonald Fire Chief Bruce Nickel said it appeared two young people had started the blaze Saturday afternoon at the former Church of God and two others knew about it. No one has been charged.
The building is privately owned and

is used as a storage facility.
No one was injured. But as a precaution, a block south of the old church was evacuated. Fire officials feared stiff north winds could have created a dangerous situation for residents.
Nickel said he has not yet determined the extent of the damage to the church. The walls remained upright but the roof caved in. Among the damaged items were three antique automobiles.

Reactions vary along US36 regarding tax hike to cure shortfall

By JOSHUA AKERS
Associated Press Writer
Two 72-year-old friends enjoyed an afternoon cup of coffee at the counter of Harsh Drug in downtown Seneca and argued about Kansas politics.
Gerald Hammes, a retired farmer, and Francis Schraad, a retired Allied Signal computer supervisor, sparred over whether the Legislature should raise taxes to cure a projected \$700 million budget shortfall.
No, said Hammes.
"Some say we got too many chickens that won't raise taxes so they can get elected," Hammes said. "I don't

want them to do it."
There's no choice, said Schraad.
"They're going to have to raise taxes," he said. "But it needs to be everyone. A half-percent sales tax is going to hurt everybody. Tax the vices — tax it all a little more."
The debate between the two men in Seneca, seat of Nemaha County, reflected the mix of opinions voiced by residents of many towns dotting U.S. 36, the highway that stretches along Kansas' northern tier from Colorado to the Missouri line.
Difficult decisions await legislators as they head into the wrap-up session

that starts Wednesday.
Many don't want to hurt public schools or government services but remain reluctant to increase taxes when the economy is slumping, particularly in rural areas.
The views are equally conflicted along U.S. 36. In Wathena, a town of about 1,350 people located six miles from the Missouri border, Mayor Jim McAnerney spoke up while working his day job on a recent afternoon in the post office.
He said cuts in the state budget would hurt his hometown. If state aid to cities and counties were reduced, as

the Legislature has contemplated, Wathena would be forced to consider raising its property taxes, McAnerney said.
Education officials have said the same thing will happen in local school districts unless state aid is increased.
Yet the Wathena mayor said any tax increase, even one at the state level, would be difficult for residents to handle.
"There is no such thing as an easy tax," he said.
"People might accept them, but levels of services would need to be the same or better."

In their own words . . .

By The Associated Press
Oberlin
Decatur County Sheriff Ken Badsky: "I don't know how they got in such a serious problem without anybody knowing about it or caring about it. And now nobody wants to run for governor — imagine that."
Bird City
Harold Johnson, retired trucker: "What happened to all that money a year ago? They were rolling in it and

now they don't got any. It's a lot easier to spend someone else's money. A lot of the problem is mismanagement."
St. Francis
Mark Keller, owner of the NAPA Auto Parts Store: "I'm sure against them raising taxes."
æMy opinion is, if we could cut the waste in government, there would be no need to raise taxes — and we cover the funding."

Briefly

Moisture...maybe

Chances for moisture remain at 30 percent for tonight and Wednesday, with lows tonight in the middle 40s, highs on Wednesday in the 50s and winds east-northeast 10-20 mph. Wednesday night, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 30s; Thursday, sunny, highs in the upper 50s to around 60; Thursday night, clear, lows in the upper 30s to around 40; and Friday, partly cloudy, highs in the lower 70s. Colby's high Monday was 79 and the overnight low this morning was 38, climbing to 46 by 8 a.m. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 61 degrees. Precipitation remains at 0.42 inches for the month. The records for April 30: 89 in 1967 and 5 in 1907. (The temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Rexford Pride plans flea market

Rexford Pride is sponsoring a flea and farmers market beginning on Saturday, May 4, with plans to have one the first Saturday of each month throughout the summer, said Kathi Hapke, one of the organizers. The events will be held at the Rexford City Park from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are open to everyone. For those wanting to sell merchandise, there will be 10' x 10' spots in the park for rent at a cost of \$10 with \$5 going back to the spot renter if the area is cleaned after use. Participants would need to bring their own tables and chairs. For questions, call (785) 687-3925.

Storm spotter training Wednesday

The Goodland National Weather Service office will

present an advanced storm spotter training session starting at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 1, in the Colby Community Building, 285 E. 5th St. The session is hosted by Thomas County Emergency Management and open to storm spotters wanting a more in-depth discussion of severe storms and spotting techniques. There is no fee; however, seating is limited so attendees are asked to pre-register by calling Joy Hayden, (785) 899-6412.

Youth workshop scheduled

Logan and Thomas County are sponsoring a hazardous occupational training workshop on Wednesday and Thursday, May 1 and 2, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Thomas County Extension Office. The event is open to all youth ages 14 and

15 who will be operating farm equipment for people other than their parents, said Dennis Chandler, Thomas County extension agent. Registration is \$8 and supper will be provided. For questions, call either the extension office in Oakley at (785) 672-3245 or in Colby at (785) 462-4582.

County hosts bike, safety fair

The Thomas County Health Department will be sponsoring a free bike Rodeo and Safety Fair from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, at the Thomas County Office Complex. The event is open to children ages 6-12 with supper served. Keyna Baalman, Colby Police dispatcher, will instruct the children on aspects of bicycle use and safety. For questions or to register, call 462-4596 and give the model and make of your child's bicycle.

