



COLBY FREE PRESS

Hundreds rally on doctor's behalf

Hildyard's hospital privileges are revoked

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

While the board of directors at Citizens Medical Center met inside the hospital late Thursday afternoon, hundreds of supporters were outside rallying for Dr. Victor Hildyard who they believed was about to lose his hospital privileges.

As the majority outside waited in hopes that the board would make some sort of announcement to ease those fears, the board relayed to Colby Police Chief Randy Jones that no official statements would be made.

Some two hours after the hospital board meeting convened, an official press release was handed out to media sources present which read, in part, that while the board appreciated input from the community, it was not appropriate for them to issue any further comments at that time based on state and federal laws, along with hospital and medical bylaws.

"Issues have arisen within the medical staff structure and the board has been dealing with those issues," the release went on to say.

Although the hospital board or its attorney, Carol Bonebrake of Topeka, did not comment, it was substantiated by a spokesperson at Colby Medical and Surgical Center that Dr. Hildyard's privileges at Citizens Medical Center were revoked on Thursday beginning at 5 p.m. Bonebrake said today that she could neither confirm or deny that Hildyard's privileges had been suspended at the hospital.

"This is a very active (hospital) board," she said, "and they are moving forward and taking care of health care in this community."

Earlier this week, Bonebrake said that any issues relating to Dr. Hildyard or hospital personnel are "always confidential."

However, Bonebrake has reiterated in previous interviews that while it is necessary for the board and administration to maintain confidentiality to protect employees, there's always an opportunity for the "oppressed," to speak about those issues.

While the board and hospital administration remain silent, Hildyard's wife, Brenda, did speak briefly about the suspension today.

"We have been quiet," she said, "following the old rule that friends don't need to hear it and our enemies won't believe it."

Yet, she said, she knows that this has been a challenging time for not only her family, but for the people who her husband cares about the most — his pa-



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Courtney Beims of Colby was one of dozens of sign bearers at the rally held Thursday at the hospital. **AT RIGHT:** Robin Binder of Colby displayed her sign at Thursday's rally.

tients.

"This truly didn't start in April," she said, referring to the original restraining order that barred Hildyard from the hospital facility based on a single person's allegations of misconduct.

She did confirm that her husband did in fact receive a document early this week from the hospital board's president, Vern Schwanke, with an ex-

pressed deadline of Thursday at 5 p.m. or privileges would be revoked.

Not wanting to get too detailed as to the contents of the document, Mrs. Hildyard said it was something that he could not sign or agree with.

As for the board's position, Bonebrake said that if there were such a document that existed, it would not be a public document.

"If an issues arises, the entire process is confidential, pursuant to statutory provisions," she said.

Bonebrake also acknowledged that Dr. Hildyard is not privileged to have information about many aspects of the investigation as to the alleged misconduct. The incident arose more than four months ago when a hospital employee accused Dr. Hildyard of varying mis-

conduct. Citizens Medical Center's chief executive officer, Michael Boyles, after learning about the allegations then issued a restraining order toward the latter part of April of 2002.

The restraining order was lifted about one week later, pending an investigation into the allegations by an independent investigator hired by the hospital's board of directors.

The investigation was completed on July 8, 2002 and the board's determination based on the investigator's findings was forwarded to Dr. Hildyard.

Unsubstantiated by the hospital board or Bonebrake today, Mrs. Hildyard said that on Tuesday, Sept. 3, Dr. Hildyard was given two days to sign and agree to the findings and remedies outlined in the document.

How they feel: Quotes from people at hospital rally

By **PATTY DECKER and MICHELLE HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

Nearly 400 people took part in a rally on Thursday afternoon to support Dr. Victor Hildyard, saying that they were hoping to convince the Citizens Medical Center board of directors to reconsider suspending his hospital privileges.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones

said he had received calls from a spokesperson for the rally and hospital officials of plans to gather at the hospital.

"People were arriving as early as 4:45 p.m.," he said, "and I thought the gathering was great with everyone concerned and respectful of patients and staff who freely came and went."

Most of the people at the gathering began dispersing about one hour after

the rally officially started around 5 p.m., he said.

However, during the hour to two-hour time frame that people did attend the rally, many had something to say about the situation.

The following are some quotes:

"We have had dealings with the hospital where we have had the opportunity to sue and didn't. We were more interested in care," said Lori Ostmeyer,

of Grinnell. "They need to get rid of the administrator, that is the problem."

Vernon Wranosky said, "This is ridiculous, he has saved my wife's life and now they want to throw him out. It appears political value supersedes health care."

"I don't know how the hospital board can think the community is supporting their decision," said Donna Bennett.

"This is the only man I have ever gone to see and I believe he saved my life 12 years ago," said George Wiens of Colby. "The issues going on are nonsense and I don't think what's going on needs to be."

"I will continue to stand behind him as long as I'm here and I believe that without Dr. Hildyard, we might as well

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All's go for Saturday's big Chamber of Commerce celebration

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Everything's ready to go for the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce first ever "Celebration on the High Plains," on Saturday from 10 a.m. until midnight at Southwind Plaza, said Gerry Fulwider, executive director and one of the coordinators of the event.

Fulwider said the idea behind the celebration is to offer a regional event to showcase all the good things about living on the high plains, while at the same time involving other towns in the

area. "We are making this a family event to celebrate what we are in north-west Kansas," Fulwider said today.

Feature performers will include Ty England at 7 p.m., who is originally from Oklahoma and at one time was the lead guitarist for Garth Brooks. England now performs with his own band and many might remember his performance in Colby during the mid-1990s at the Thomas County Fair when he pleased the crowd with his country-style music, Fulwider said.

Cyndi Thomson will take the stage at 8:30 p.m. The widely known signer

was recently recognized with her first gold album in country music, Fulwider said. "This 24-year-old country singer and songwriter spent her childhood years in Tifton, Ga., and is looking forward to performing here," he said.

Along with the featured performers, Jada Johnson-Tubbs, with Chamber promotions, said there will be lots of other activities throughout the day to interest the entire family.

Among the activities, she mentioned skydiving demonstrations, taekwondo demos, dancers, Buffalo Soldiers, old-west gun shows, regional performers

singing every hour for 45 minutes, a beer garden, food vendors, carnival and business vendors.

All the daytime entertainment is free, Johnson-Tubbs said, but at 5 p.m. for the evening concerts, there will be an admission charge.

The entertainment scheduled includes Shawna Eberle at 10 a.m.; the McLemore Family at noon; The Happy Wanderer at 1 p.m.; Margie Broeckelman at 2 p.m.; Anna Peptis at 3 p.m.; Shannon Myers at 4 p.m.; and tickets for the concerts begin at 5 p.m. with Lipriddle; 6 p.m., Beach; fol-

lowed by England and Thomson.

The entertainment tickets are \$15 in advance for adults, \$5 for youth; and \$40 for the entire family. At the gate, ticket prices will increase to \$20, \$8 and \$50 respectively.

"We urge everyone to come out on Saturday and celebrate this very special event," Fulwider said.

The National Weather Service said today the outlook for the big celebration calls for hot and breezy conditions, with highs in the middle 90s and south winds at Southwind Plaza at 15-25 miles per hour, with gusts up to 35 mph.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Thursday's high, 93
Low this morning, 58
Year ago today, 94 and 59
Temperature at 11:30a.m. today, 84
Colby's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00
Oakley's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 77
Records for Sept. 6, 105 in 1931 and 39 in 1956

The forecast

Look for today's temperature to top out at around 93. Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 60s. Saturday, sunny, hot and breezy, highs in the middle 90s, south winds 15-25 mph, gusting to 35. Saturday night, clear, lows in the lower 60s. Sunday, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 80s. Much cooler on Monday with highs only in the 70s, cloudy conditions with a chance for showers. Bring it on! (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Colby Water Usage

•Sept. 5=2.539 million gallons
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

Briefly

Fund-raising efforts planned Saturday

Among the various activities to be held Saturday during the Celebration on the High Plains, one non-profit group will offer visitors a chance to test their luck at the dunk tank, free-throw and three-point shooting contests, along with hair braiding, and selling beaded orange and black bracelets. All proceeds from those particular games and food booths will go to help Ivy Ramsey, a Colby High School junior, with medical bills incurred from knee surgery, said Carla Sharp, treasurer of the fund-raising project.

Arts Association plans first concert

The Steve Miller Cabaret Band will be performing in the Hoxie High School auditorium at 3 p.m., Sunday. The Sunday concert will be the first event of the 2002-03 schedule sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$5 for students and season tickets are still available, said Vicky Waldschmidt, media correspondent. This annual series of programs is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. For questions, call Waldschmidt at (785) 462-6620.

Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet Monday at 9 a.m. in the courthouse. The agenda includes Larry Jumper, Thaniel

Monaco and O D Calhoon to discuss landfill issues. The meeting is open to the public.

Colby grad to sing at state fair

Mark Schultz, son of Gary and Ronnie Schultz of Colby, recognized as one of this country's leading Christian singers, will be performing at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. Schultz graduated from Colby High School in 1989, where he was a member of the Colby High School Singers. He went on to Colby Community College's Sunflower Singers and from there to the Kansas State Singers. He will be performing at the Farm Bureau Arena on Sept. 9.

Singles dance scheduled tonight

The Colby Singles Group is sponsoring its monthly dance tonight from 8 p.m. to midnight. Entertainment will be provided by Swingin' Country of Imperial, Neb. The event is open to all single people, alumni and guests. For information, call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

Scholarship offering at high school

The Colby High School Career Center recently announced a scholarship opening with Discover Card Tribute Awards. To be eligible for this offering, said Joni-Clark Leiker, counselor, students must be currently a junior in high school with a grade point

average of at least 2.75. In addition, applicants must excel in three out of four areas to include special talents, leadership, obstacles overcome and community service. The deadline for filing this scholarship application is Jan. 10, 2003. For questions, call 465-5300.

Community invited to play game

Everyone is invited to take part in a special game known as "Cashflow," on Monday, Sept. 9 beginning at 7 p.m. in the commons area of Colby High School. The event is being sponsored by Liz Strand, a math teacher at the school, along with students in her new Wallet Wisdom class. The purpose behind this special program, she said, is to help others learn more about raising their financial I.Q., what the rich teach their kids about money and how anyone can become rich and financially free even on a small salary. For questions, call Strand at 465-5300.

Commodity distribution set Monday

There is a limited amount of commodities left from the September distribution. In addition, eligible persons in the program can receive commodities again on Monday, Sept. 9, at the RSVP office in the Senior Progress Center. Distribution times, said Laura Withington, one of the coordinators, are from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with expected commodities to include tomato sauce, salmon, applesauce and peaches. For information or to see if someone qualifies, call 462-6744.

