



COLBY FREE PRESS

New group is peppered with ideas

An open board meeting attracts good size crowd

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Area Citizens for Healthcare held its first open board meeting Wednesday night at the Colby Community Building, with 75-100 people present. Seven of the nine board members were there, including Jennifer Woofter, Dennis Horney, Hank Vette, John Kern, Carol Voisin, Angie Jennings, and Dave Jennings.

Board resident John Kern read the by-laws of the newly formed group, then mentioned that the group had received many favorable suggestions from the meeting on Oct. 10. Cards had been handed out at that meeting, and those in attendance had been encouraged to make positive suggestions on what to do about the health care situation in Colby.

"We got a lot of good responses from you folks," Kern said. "The three that we liked the best were 'Fight fair, and fight clean', 'Work to get a new administrator at Citizens Medical Center', and 'Get the Colby City Council and Thomas County Commissioners involved'. Those are great suggestions, and that's what we need from you folks."

Kern then turned over the podium to Carol Voisin, chairman of the Action committee, who outlined five immediate goals.

"First, we need people to sign up for a miscellaneous action group. We also need people to post flyers. We need people to call the trustees of the hospital and tell them to start running the hospital right. We need people that will write to our legislators. And we need people to sign petitions that we're going to post around town," she said. "We need help if we're going to be effective," Voisin said.

Kern then opened the meeting to suggestions from the audience, which varied from questions about who owned and operated the hospital to suggestions about getting rid of the administrator, Michael Boyles.

Kern said, "I think that if we put enough pressure on the board, we'll get some action."

It was also suggested that someone get the group onto the Thomas County Commissioners' agenda. "That's the only way the county is going to listen to us," the audience member said.

Kern closed the meeting by telling the crowd, "I think we've had some really good ideas here tonight. Now we need to get started on them."

The board plans to meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theater downstairs at the Colby Community Building.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 29
Low this morning, 21
Year ago today, 59 and 35
Colby's 24-hr. moisture, 0.17
Month's total, 1.39
Snowfall, 1 inch
Soil temperature, 44
Temperature at 11:30 today, 32
Records for Oct. 24, 86 in 1921, 19 in 1980

The forecast

Tonight, cloudy, lows in the mid 20s, south winds up to 10 miles per hour. Friday, partly sunny, highs in the lower 50s, light winds out of the south. Friday night, clear, lows in the lower 30s, light winds. Saturday, cloudy, highs in the lower 50s, light winds, a 30 percent chance for showers. Saturday night, cloudy, another 30 percent chance for showers, turning to snow late. Sunday, continued cloudy with a chance for showers, changing to snow during the night, highs in the 50s, and overnight lows in the 30-degree range.

The gang's all here



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim Shallenburger, spoke this morning in front of the Thomas County Courthouse to a crowd who braved the cold and flurries. Shallenburger introduced many of the Republican candidates for office who were joining him on the Repub-

lican Bus Tour. Pictured to the right of Shallenburger is Lynn Jenkins who is running for state treasurer and Connie Morris, of St. Francis, who is running for the Kansas State Board of Education to represent District #5.

Next hospital-doctor date is set for November

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

An administrative hearing between selected board members of Citizens Medical Center, Inc., and a medical attorney, along with Dr. Victor Hildyard, his attorney and possibly witnesses plan to meet in late November, said Vern Schwanke, president of the hospital board.

The purpose of the hearing next month, he said, was due to a recent decision by District Judge Jack L. Burr denying the injunction against Dr. Hildyard thus allowing him to continue to see patients at the Colby hospital.

During the telephone conference that morning with attorneys, Burr said that while it is not his intent to take over the Colby hospital board's role, he did believe there "is still a lot of middle ground," that both parties can consider to reach an equitable agreement. In addition, Burr added that he would leave the temporary restraining order

in effect until the hearing and the Colby hospital board took action.

As a result of Burr's decision, Schwanke said an appeals process will occur and involve two Colby hospital board members and a medical attorney, adding that at this point the selection of those involved in the hearing were not as yet certain.

Schwanke said that along with the three-person panel representing the Colby hospital, he would serve as the provider of facts pertinent to the subject of the hearing.

"This will not be an open meeting and will be treated in-house as an internal administrative grievance with subject matter specific only to the original allegations of sexual harassment," he said.

Those allegations, Schwanke referred to stemmed from a situation in April when a hospital employee filed a complaint against the doctor claiming he violated a hostile work environ-

ment policy.

Schwanke said the reason a medical attorney from outside the area and not a local physician was selected to sit on the three-person panel in the appeals process was decided on was because both Dr. LaDonna Regier and Dr. Raymond Ketting are members of the same medical staff as Dr. Hildyard. Efforts to recruit a local dentist or one of the consulting physicians was also ruled out for various reasons, he said.

Michael O'Neal of Hutchinson, who represents Dr. Hildyard, although unavailable for comment today, said in a previous interview that he and his client have always said they intended to exercise the doctor's due-process rights under Colby hospital's own by-laws. Following the decision by Judge Burr, he also said that he was unsure at that point what he planned to present at this first hearing in November.

Although, Schwanke could not confirm or deny a date for the administra-

tive hearing, Wednesday, Nov. 20, has been mentioned. He also said the location for the hearing was not available as well.

In addition, should the November hearing determine the doctor is innocent of the April allegations, the process ends. However, Schwanke said that should the three-person panel determine the facts are sufficient to support immediate suspension of hospital privileges on Dr. Hildyard, then he will still have the option for another administrative appeal before the entire hospital board.

He added, though, that in the second appeal to the entire board, it would be more of a review from the November hearing.

When asked how quickly the entire board would convene in the event that the first panel finds the facts sufficient to suspend Dr. Hildyard's privileges, Schwanke said the board would meet and review the material immediately.

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Here's how school closings will be handled

The earlier than expected arrival of winter has prompted Colby School District officials to dust off the procedures used for dismissals and cancellations — due to weather and other emergency situations — and to get the word out to parents and other interested parties.

According to the district's "Dismissal Procedures," if it becomes nec-

essary to dismiss or cancel school due to inclement weather, power failure, or any other emergency, the superintendent or his designee will notify local and area television and radio stations. Every effort will be made to notify the public as quickly as possible after the decision to cancel/dismiss school has been made.

Here is the procedure for **Early Dismissal**: If school is dismissed early, the Colby School District will attempt to

have a media announcement with a minimum of one hour prior to the scheduled dismissal time. Parents are encouraged to monitor local radio and television stations on days of inclement weather when school is in session.

As for **Canceling School**, the procedure involves a media announcement to be run no later than 7 o'clock in the morning. If the announcement is not made, school will be held and busses will run.

Parents and guardians are asked to familiarize themselves with these two important procedures.

Radio stations to be notified include: KQLS/KXXX and KTCC, Colby; KKCI/KWGB, Goodland; KFNF, Oberlin; KGCR, Brewster; and KKYT, McCook, Neb.

Television stations to be notified are: NBC (Oberlin) cable channel 9; CBS (Goodland) cable channel 11; and ABC (Colby) cable channel 6.

Briefly

Landfill to begin winter hours

The Thomas County landfill will begin its winter hours of operation on Monday, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. The winter hours are: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

It's report card time

The Colby School District will be sending report cards home with students for grades K-12. If you do not get a report card, please send the school a note with your child and they will send another report card home with him/her.

Paintings on exhibit through Friday

A reminder was issued today that the exhibit of paintings by Marlene Carpenter and Fritz Ostmeyer is still in place and the public is invited to drop in to see their creations. The paintings are at the Cultural Arts Center Gallery at Colby Community College. The last day to view them is Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Advanced voting option mentioned

Tracey Perkins, Thomas County Clerk/Election Officer said today that voters taking advantage of *advanced voting* may mark their ballots at the courthouse at the time they pick them up. She said it is not necessary that they take their ballots home to mark them, unless they desire to do it that way.

'Recognition Night' is Friday

The final reminder was issued today by Colby High School officials to all parents of seniors who participated in football, volleyball, cross country, girls' golf, girls' tennis, marching band, drill team, managers and athletic trainers, that Friday night is "Senior/Parent Recognition Night." As in the past the ceremony will be held prior to the football game at 7 p.m. Parents are asked to meet at the east end of the football field at 6:45 p.m.

Boy Scouts selling popcorn

Boy Scouts are going door-to-door in the Colby area taking popcorn orders as part of their annual fund raising effort. Deliv-

ery will be in November around Thanksgiving. Call 694-2599 for additional information.

EMTB Course continues

Kathi Wright, Thomas County EMS director, said the EMTB (basic) Course is continuing on Mondays and Wednesdays — through April and additional information is available by calling her at 462-4585.

School fun night getting closer

The public is invited to the Fall Festival and Family Fun Night hosted by Heartland Christian School in Colby on Thursday, Oct. 31 from 6:30-9 p.m.. "Join us for an evening of games, prizes, and fun for the entire family at 1995 West Fourth Street," said a school spokesman. For more information call the school at 462-6419.

SHARE delivery is Saturday

SHARE delivery is Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Sacred Heart School gym. If interested in ordering an October share, call 462-3579.

Arrests are made in hunt

FREDERICK, Md. (AP) — Two men wanted for questioning in the wave of deadly sniper attacks were arrested early this morning after they were found sleeping in their car at a Maryland rest stop, authorities said.

The arrests came amid a flurry of activity in the investigation of the attacks that have killed 10 people and wounded three others since Oct. 2.

The break occurred hours after authorities descended on a home in Tacoma, Wash., that was believed to hold clues important to the investigation. They then issued a nationwide alert for the car, spotted by a motorist and an attendant at the rest stop.

Members of the sniper task force arrested the men without incident at 3:19 a.m. off I-70 in Frederick County, Md., about 50 miles northwest of the nation's capital, said Larry Scott, an agent for the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The men were arrested in a car that matched a description police gave at a midnight press briefing, said Maj. Greg Shipley, a spokesman for the Maryland State Police.

"I don't know what their reaction was," Shipley said. "It wasn't an aggressive one."

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, who is leading the investigation, said John Allen Muhammad, 42, was being sought for questioning in the slayings and called him "armed and dangerous." Muhammad was said to be traveling with a juvenile, identified by a law enforcement source as 17-year-old Lee Malvo.

The relationship between Muhammad, who also goes by the name John Allen Williams, and the teen was not clear, but several newspapers reported that Malvo is Muhammad's stepson.

A law enforcement source close to the investigation told The Associated Press that "I'm confident that these are indeed the people" sought in the killings.

"The evidence is all there and because of things we've received in the communications," the source said on the condition on anonymity.

"It fits together with evidence they've collected in the last couple days."

Several federal sources told the Seattle Times that Muhammad and Malvo may have been motivated by anti-American sentiments in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Both were known to speak sympathetically about the men who hijacked jetliners over Washington, New York and Pennsylvania, the sources said.

