



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Hearing returns to Colby today More witnesses testify in physician's case

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

After two days in the state's capital, a local doctor's hearing returned to Colby this morning.

Witnesses called by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts, as well as those testifying on behalf of Dr. Victor H. Hildyard II, were in Topeka Monday and Tuesday. Testimony in the 10-day hearing resumed in Colby at 9 a.m. this morning and is expected to finish up sometime on Friday.

Initially expected to be open to the public, administrative law judge and presiding officer Edward Gaschler closed the hearing shortly after 3 p.m. on Oct. 5. Gaschler



Mike O'Neal



David Steed

made the ruling after both sides agreed for the need to protect the rights of patients and peer review issues about which testimony would be given. Gaschler will make a ruling in the case 30 days after both sides have

time to file final motions regarding testimony.

Testifying today for the board were Jeff Paulsen, former lab director at Citizens Medical Center, Inc.; Carol McGuire, former medical transcriptionist at the hospital; Carolyn Call, former medical records department director at the hospital; and Kevan Trenkle, twice interim administrator and current chief financial officer at Citizens Medical Center.

Testifying on Hildyard's behalf were Dr. Michael Machen, Quinter, testifying as an expert witness, and Hildyard's clinic nurse manager, Patty Stevens.

Representing the state in the process have

been Diane L. Bellquist, Topeka, and David Steed, Wichita, a special prosecutor hired after Stacy Cook, Topeka, resigned from the case to further her law education. Hutchinson attorney Mike O'Neal is representing Hildyard.

At issue is Hildyard's 30 year-old Kansas medical license which could be revoked, suspended, censured, fined or otherwise limited. A petition filed by staff attorneys at the Board of Healing Arts in August 2004 alleges Hildyard violated the Kansas Healing Arts Act from 1996 to 2003. According to Gaschler, those who testified in Topeka were Dr. Stephen Grillo, formerly a doctor in Colby; Rich-

ard Gamel, formerly an administrator at Citizens Medical Center; Annette Zerby, an auditor for Medicare; Dr. David Hanson, a Salina doctor called as an expert witness; Paula Buchele, a human resource professional testifying as an expert witness; and Janine Colson, an employee at the hospital. Individuals testifying Oct. 5, 6 and 7 in Colby were Yolanda Suiter, Kathy Bissett, Kerri Schippers, Renee Ochsner, Cindy Carmichael, Duane Wright, Marie McVay, Shane Benham, Dr. Robert Vogt, a physician with Olathe-based Docs Who Care and

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## Fair board to talk about rodeo, races

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Fair Board has a full agenda for its Thursday meeting. The board will meet at 8 p.m. at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Two of the main topics of discussion will be the fair races and the rodeo, said board secretary Audrey Hines.

Hines said the board will discuss renewing Kerry Wark's contract to lease the track for summer races. She said the contract comes up for renewal every three years and the public is welcome to come provide input and support. The board will

also discuss changing the fair rodeo from a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association-sanctioned event to a Kansas Professional Rodeo Association rodeo.

Hines said Clair Schrock, who is affiliated with the association, will give a presentation.

Other items on the agenda include: approval of the Thursday, Sept. 8 minutes; Thomas County extension agent report; financial report and bills; committee reports on the buildings and grounds, carnival, fair book changes and advertising expenses.

The meeting is open to the public.

## Interstate 70 closes Monday to Oakley

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Travelers headed westbound on I-70 late Monday afternoon got a rude surprise. The interstate's westbound lanes were closed from Oakley west by the Kansas Department of Transportation because of a Colorado snow storm on Monday, said Jerry Moritz, district maintenance engineer at the district office in Norton.

He said the area between Burlington and Limon, Colo. received almost two feet of snow, making driving conditions unsafe.

"That made it impassable for any traffic to go into Colorado," Moritz said. The interstate reopened at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

When the interstate is closed, he said they wait for the hotels in a community to almost fill up before moving on down the line. For example, he said Goodland usually closes first, followed by Colby, and so on. They keep in touch with emergency management personnel or chamber employees in each com-

munity to find out how fast the hotels are filling up before making the decision to close the road further on.

He said they don't want to pack people in and when the number of rooms starts to get low, they close the road so people still on the road still have a chance to get a room when they pull into town.

Sometimes, though, emergency shelters have to be opened to accommodate travelers when there are no rooms available.

Closing the road because of inclement weather isn't an unusual occurrence, but the time of year in this case was.

"This is early for this time of year," Moritz said.

However, he added this is the time of year they can start to expect closings due to weather.

No problems resulted from the road closing, he said, and they got the word out quickly enough that people pulled off before the road was closed before Oakley.

"That helped some of the accommodation problems," Moritz said.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Author Thomas Frank signed autographs for Caitlyn Gordon and Rachel Lamm after his presentation as part of the Max Pickerill

Lecture Series at Colby Community College Tuesday while student Kimberly Chase went to get in line.

## Author discusses 'class wars' Tuesday

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

A different point of view was on display in Colby Monday night.

Thomas Frank, author of "What's the Matter With Kansas? How Conservatives Won the Heart of America," was the featured speaker at Colby Community College's Cultural Arts Center. Frank's presentation was part of the Max Pickerill Lecture Series.

Frank talked about class wars in the United States and its cause.

He said the "root cause" of factionalism is class.

"This is the basic source of the political faction," he said — how people relate to money.

America, he said, considers itself "classless" when in reality the class divide is getting worse.

Republicans are blaming everything on liberalism while at the same time diverting attention from the actual problem and getting people to vote against their own self-interests.

There's no more shared affluence and the new distinguishing characteristic of America is the tolerance

and acceptance of the extremes between wealth and poverty.

Frank said the disparity in wealth equality in the United States is unique among industrialized nations, and it's worse than it's been since the 1920s.

He said Americans work more and are exposed to more ads than ever before, and have to take drug and personality tests in the workplace, and have less power over the conditions under which they live and work.

And, Frank said, corporations now hold the positions once held by the church in medieval times.

The media is also part of the mix. He said the nation is divided between the blue and red states — the "elite blue state snobs" and "prairie populists."

Frank said the blue states are supposed to trust the government while the red states trust the people.

People are encouraged to vote for the wrong candidate, and defeat their own best self-interests in doing so.

"It's the French Revolution in reverse," he said.

Conservatism has become the "doctrine of the oppressed majority," Frank said they've perpetuated the myth that those who run the country are an overeducated ruling class who are "arrogant snobs."

The conservatives, he said, speculate about ways the liberals are supposed to look down on them and think they are subversive.

"They revel in fantasies of their own marginality and persecution," Frank said. They use what he called the backlash movement, or crusading for vague cultural grievances that can never be achieved.

An example is during the last election, he said fliers were circulated in Arkansas and West Virginia that John Kerry would ban the Bible if he was elected, and people in those states subsequently voted for George W. Bush.

"The backlash was born to lose," Frank said, adding the objective is to take offense at everything, and blame it all on liberalism.

He said they now control all three branches of government and things have gone good for those who are in charge.

"It's been fantastically rewarding for them," he said.

Frank said if one takes economics out of the equation, there is no way for conservatives to explain the world around them. Instead, they reject standard methods of understanding.

The truth, he said, is culture now is largely the product of business — profits above everything else.

"We live in a free market economy," Frank said.

Now, everything is so extreme, and counter culture has become ordinary and the free market doesn't respect anything. Frank called it a "destroyer, not a conservator." He said ordinary working class people have the right to hate this culture.

He said the only way to beat fake populism is with the "real deal." Frank said it would take making issues live for people.

The Democrats, he said, could take the lead on the issue, but it's "a very painful subject for them." Frank doubts they will, but he said if the Democrats would get the message out about what is going on, the media would follow.

## Testing for health



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Riley Kraft, 3-years-old, right, watched his mother, Erma Kraft, left, fill out forms Tuesday at the Colby United Methodist Church before going back for his screening. The early childhood screenings were held Tuesday and Wednesday for preschool-aged children.

## Archdiocese of Los Angeles releases abuse files

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After nearly three years of legal wrangling, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles has released information from the personnel files of 126 clergy accused of sexual abuse.

The confidential records show that for more than 75 years the nation's largest archdiocese shipped accused priests between therapy and new assignments, often ignoring parishioners' complaints.

And, in many cases, there was little mention of child molestation.

Instead, euphemisms such as "boundary violations" were used to describe the conduct.

The documents were released to The Associated Press late Tuesday as part of settlement talks with lawyers for more than 50 accusers in a civil lawsuit. The records, which summarize clergy personnel files, offer details in numerous cases, though much of the information has

already been published in various forms. Raymond P. Boucher, the plaintiffs' lead attorney, said the newly released information was a first step but that complete personnel files, including letters of transfer and other confidential documents, should be made public.

"The significance of these files is that they provide a little more information for the public about the church's knowledge and frankly their participation in the molesta-

tion of children, but until the files are made public, we're not going to be satisfied," he said. Archdiocese attorney J. Michael Hennigan called Boucher's concerns that the summaries might be whitewashed "nonsense. Ray has not seen the files themselves and has no basis to say that beyond speculation," he said.

"These are accurate descriptions of the content of the files, without disclosing confidential communication."

