

COLBY FREE PRESS

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Holton pins Colby coach

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Colby High School teacher and head wrestling coach Mitch Beims got the position he wanted, just not in Colby.

Beims accepted the position of activities director and assistant principal at Holton High School. He will start Aug. 1.

"I was offered the job three weeks ago and the board approved that Monday night," Beims said. The Holton school board's decision was unanimous.



M. Beims

Beims was one of five people invited to Holton for the first round of interviews, and was later asked back as one of the top two candidates. The final interview took place May 19, and he was offered the job by the Holton board May 23.

Beims had applied for the same position at Colby High School. He was the search committee's recommendation to the school board. However, when the board was to vote on the recommendation April 17, the motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Beims, 33, said becoming an activities director wasn't originally a career goal. But over the past two years, he has seen the impact administrators can make in a school, both positive and negative.

"I would like to impact more kids and make things better," he said.

Beims said he is excited about the challenge, and looks forward to working with Holton's staff and he has already met many of them.

"I'm working with some great people who have lots of honesty and integrity, so that's going to be really nice," he said.

Holton, with a population of about 3,500 people is north of Topeka and is a 4A school. Holton High's enrollment is about 400 students compared to Colby's average of 350 students.

Though moving on, he and his wife, Courtney, will miss Colby.

"I've had a great time here and we had hoped to stay a long time, but it didn't work out," he said. Beims started teaching and coaching in Colby in 2000. Beims said his family appreciated the help, support and generosity of the community when his son Braden was born.

In addition to his work at Colby High, Beims farmed near Colby and served on city council. He said he will miss coaching the most. Beims' wrestling team was always a potential to qualify for the state tournament. This past season, Colby finished fifth as a team and Cole Garcia won a state title.

Beims said he coached some "unbelievable" kids in Colby and his program had great support from the community.

"We didn't place as high as we hoped sometimes but we were always a contender," he said. "We've done some good things since we've been here. The memories on the mat will be there forever."

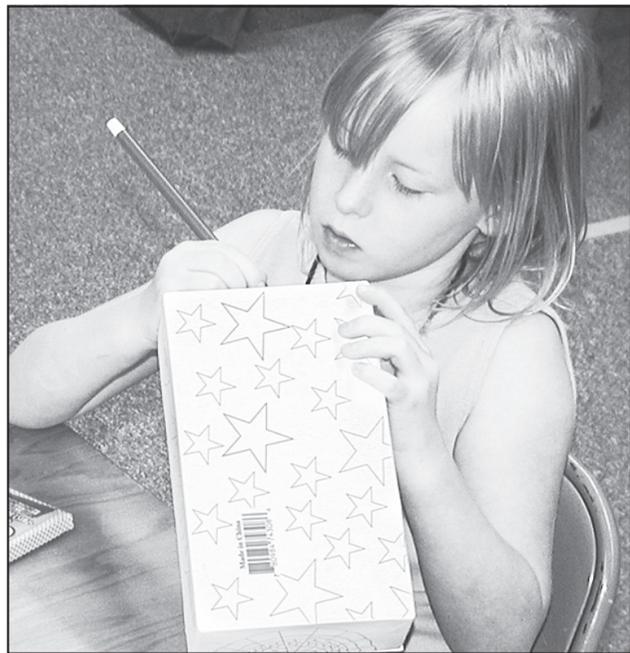
He said the wrestling program is much stronger now than when he first came. "If it gets a good coach the athletes like, nothing much will change. Colby will win lots of trophies in the years to come," Beims said. At its June 5 board meeting, the Colby School Board approved Larry Gabel of St. Francis as activities director and assistant high school principal. Gabel replaces Jeff Quenzer, whose contract was not renewed. Gable has been the grade school principal in St. Francis for 20 years.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Crafty projects

ABOVE: Lori Wilson, left, helped Clayton Riney with a craft project Wednesday during Vacation Bible School at Colby Berean Church. The theme of the event is B.O.O.T. Camp, Biblical Outlook Outreach Training and runs through Friday. **RIGHT:** Courtney Tinkham worked on her pencil box coloring project.



Aug. 1 primary election ballot set

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Names of who will be in the Aug. 1 primary election have been determined.

The deadline to file to run for positions in Thomas, Logan and Sheridan counties was Monday.

Byron D. Sowers, a Republican, will challenge incumbent Ron Evans, also a Republican, for district one Thomas County Commissioner.

A farmer and resident of North Randall Township, Sowers wants the seat Evans has held for the past 12 years.

Also filing in Thomas County for township clerk positions were Loren E. Guill, Menlo Township; Wilburn Holloway and Patrick Tinkham, Barrett Township; Arnold Wehkamp, Rovohl Township; Pete Ziegelmeier, Lacey Township; Linda M. Sowers, North Randall Township; Shawn Sammons, Kingery Township; Kenneth A. Johnston, Wendell Township; Gene Huelsman, South Randall Township and Dee Olson, Summers Township.

Filing for committee positions were Jay Kelley, Stephen W. Myers, Kathy Myers for Precinct One; Judy R. Kistler, Kenneth Frahm and Joshua Faaber for Precinct Two; Fred Miller, Marvia Miller, Michael W. Brown and Jeanene B. Brown for Precinct Three; and Paul M. Steele, Bill Adams and Jerrilee Shuman for Precinct Four.

Those filing for township precinct positions were Brenda Clasen, Michael Baughn and David Bowman, West Hale; Rosalie Seemann, East Hale; Ruth Clark and Robert M. Renner, South Randall; Robert M. Riccitelli and Kelly R. Riccitelli, Wendell; Steve Ziegelmeier and Tamara Ziegelmeier, East Morgan; D. Kriss Schroeder and Lisa Schroeder, West Morgan; Lyman Goetsch and JoAnne Goetsch, Barrett; Shirley L. Bourquin and Dan Bourquin, Rovohl; Stephen R. Allen and Terri H. Allen, Smith; Lonnie D. Wilson and Lori A. Wilson, North Randall; and Margaret Flanagan and John Flanagan, Lacey; and Randall Regier of Summers Township.

Logan County

Incumbent Carl Uhrich, filing for

the District One commission seat, will run unopposed in the Aug. 1 primary.

The only other candidate to file was Bob Amberger, an incumbent seeking re-election as clerk for Winona Township.

Sheridan County

First-term incumbent District One Commissioner Ron Schamberger, a Democrat, will be opposed by Hoxie resident Vic Bielser, a Republican.

Others to file for precinct committee positions in Sheridan County were Wilma Mader of Jenning for Adell Township; Tim D. Frazey and Shirley Kahle both of Hoxie for East Kenneth Township; Doren Follis and Irene Follis of Hoxie for Logan Township; Edwin Simon of Hoxie for East Saline Township; Alice Ziegler of Hoxie for West Saline Township; Dennis Rogers of Selden for Prairie Dog Township; Joe Broeckelman and Cathy Broeckelman both of Selden for Sheridan Township; Greg Haffner and Heidi Haffner of Grainfield for Springbrook Township; and Don Rowlison and Melanie Rowlison both of Studley for Valley Township.

Some for, against Hildyard ruling

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The Kansas Board of Healing Arts' decision to revoke Dr. Victor Hildyard's medical license prompted diverse reactions from the community.

In its decision Saturday, the board gave no reason for its action. Prior to the decision, initial findings generated from a nine-day hearing in October 2005 cleared Hildyard of 16 of the 19 charges against him.

Edward Gassler, the presiding officer at the October hearing, found in his initial order Hildyard had not violated any medical-related issues, but did rule sufficient evidence on inappropriate language and unsigned progress notes.

Mark Stafford, Board of Healing Arts general counsel, said the final order is expected to be given to Hildyard within the next two to four weeks.

In the meantime, some people offered their thoughts about the decision.

Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby said he has been receiving a lot of angry telephone calls regarding the state board's decision from people on both sides of the issue.

"People are telling me they are unhappy with the way this thing is going," he said. "Many still support Citizens Medical Center, but believe the need to pull the doctor's medical license has gotten out of hand."

Morrison said many people are concerned about the Colby hospital and how this decision could put it in danger for lawsuits.

Morrison said people have told him "which doctor or event will be the next thing to happen."

"I cannot advise them," Morrison said.

Janice McCart, the chief executive officer at Citizens Medical Center, said she respects the decision by the state board.

"You know that the Board of Healing Arts is composed of medical professionals and public members," she said.

"It's their job is to protect the public welfare and I am sure they are committed to doing a good job."

Paula McDaniel of Rexford said she agreed with the healing arts board.

She said they carried out their responsibility with integrity and in the best interest of its citizens.

"Whether in Kansas, or another state, the board has a fiduciary responsibility to protect its citizens from what they consider may be inappropriate behavior and/or practice," she said.

"Our northwest Kansas commu-

nity should appreciate that this decision was rendered with the community's welfare in mind."

Conversely, retired 15th Judicial District Judge Keith Willoughby and his wife, Pat, said Dr. Roger D. Warren of Hanover, president of the board of healing arts, must think he is above the law.

"He (Warren) seems to have thrown a temper tantrum and overstepped his authority when he threatened Dr. Hildyard with loss of his license," Keith said.

"This persecution of Dr. Hildyard has become ridiculous to the point of being obviously a personal vendetta by the president of the board as well as those bringing the charges."

Jan Helus admitted Hildyard was not her doctor, but believed what happened could have been avoided and the issue went way out of proportion.

"People should have sat down one or two years ago and worked this out," she said. "I thought 16 counts were settled and three were left."

She said the hospital and doctor should have settled this years ago, with Dr. Hildyard apologizing and everyone moving on.

"He (Hildyard) is good for the community and my family members and I think it's a crying shame to lose a good doctor."

Joan Albers said she cannot understand how those who are Hildyard's patients could have been wronged.

"As I am getting older, do I want to continue to live in Colby? This makes me doubtful."

"I feel like this is all politically oriented and cannot believe this happened."

A woman from Page City, also talked about the decision.

"I was shocked at the board's decision to revoke Dr. Hildyard's license," said Judy Collins.

"He has dedicated his life to the people of this area and has been our doctor for 28 years."

Don Birzer of Colby thought Hildyard would get a "slap on the wrist," but he didn't expect the board to take his medical license.

"I think we are going to lose a good doctor if we keep messing around with this."

Hildyard, 58, has served as a family practitioner at Colby Medical and Surgical Center for nearly 34 years.

In addition to his medical practice, Hildyard has served many years as Thomas County coroner and Thomas County Emergency Medical Service advisor.

Commissioner Ron Evans spoke about those positions.

"Right now Hildyard is the coroner of Thomas County and EMS advisor and nothing has changed," he said.

"Depending on what happens, myself and the other commissioners may have to address this with County Attorney Andrea Wyrick."

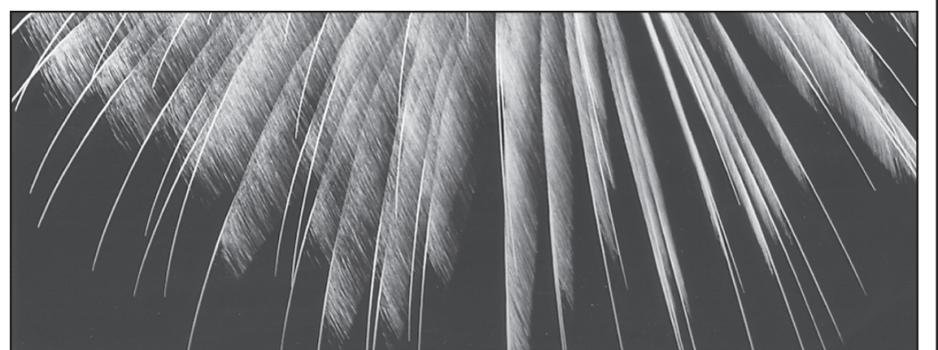
"Until we are in a position to have to do something, we are not planning to do anything right now," Evans said.



J. Morrison



J. McCart



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Colby's Kiwanis Club ready to explode on July Fourth

By John Van Nostrand

Colby Free Press

Colby's Kiwanis Club wants the town to get the best bang for the buck July 4.

The service organization will once again sponsor Colby's Fourth of July fireworks show.

In addition to the Kiwanis Club helping pay for the show, club member Rick Dickman said the club is asking for help from the community to ensure Colby will have a show.

"So far, donations are not too bad," he said. "We appreciate how the community always gets behind this." The show will begin at 10:15 p.m. Fireworks will be

shot from the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Parking will be allowed at the east end of the race track in the pit area and the parking lots north of the race track. No one will be allowed into the race track or infield. No private fireworks are allowed on the fairgrounds.

Dickman said people who want to watch the show, don't have to watch from the fairgrounds.

"We have heard some people watching from Kansas State's experiment station and some people park by Colby Bowl," he said.

People who watch from the fairgrounds will be able to "feel the louder booms" Dickman said.

Those interested in donating to the show are encouraged to send

payments to Kiwanis Club of Thomas County - Colby, P.O. Box 501,

Colby, Kan., 67701. Dickman said people can also drop off payments

at the Colby Fire Station, 585 N. Franklin.

Colby's July Fourth fireworks show will be sponsored by the Colby Kiwanis Club.