



COLBY FREE PRESS

Karen Hodson is easily confirmed as Chief Justice

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

One of the newest people appointed to the full membership board at Citizens Medical Center Inc. has tendered his resignation.

Joe McInay, who was nominated and accepted in April of 2002, along with Dave Jennings, Bob Standage and Sheila Frahm, said Wednesday he believes his presence on the membership board is ineffective.

Since becoming a new member, McInay said there has never been a meeting of the entire membership for consulting or their opinion as the full membership.

Although, he did say he is aware that in many cases the full membership normally meets once a year, McInay said he believes there are issues going on that should include updates with all the members.

"I have served on many boards," he said, "and the way I look at it, members should be informed."

McInay went on to say that under these circumstances and because the full membership board is uninformed, he cannot be liable for the decisions of seven, meaning those on the executive board of Citizens Medical Center, Inc.

It was also McInay's belief, and substantiated in a previous article by

Michael Boyles, chief executive officer at the Colby hospital, that his purpose on the membership board would be in representing the overall community in affairs relating to the hospital.

The letter of resignation from McInay was confirmed by Vern Schwanke, president of the Citizens Medical Center, Inc. board of directors, also on Wednesday.

Schwanke said he was unable to comment too much; however, since the seven-member board of directors has yet to accept the resignation as a whole.

Prior to McInay's tendered resignation, the membership board, which selects seven people to serve on the

executive board, was up to its maximum capacity of 21.

"For many years," said Schwanke, "we had anywhere from 16 to 18 or 19 people, but couldn't even get people to serve."

With McInay's pending resignation, the membership board could now be short one member.

Those serving on the seven-member executive board, which are chosen from the "pool" of members include: Schwanke; Terry Cousins, vice president; along with Curt Stephens, Judith Sears, Terry Wendall, Bob Standage and Frahm.

Both Frahm and Standage were

named to the executive board after Kay Weston and Doug Munderloh stepped down from those positions, but both of them are still part of the membership pool.

Other members in the entire group are Dave Jennings, Greg Schafer, Kevin Kriss, Evelyn Saddler, Donna Jennings, Lisa Wilson, Sharon Kriss, Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Craig Hills, Bud Van Horn and Tom Waldschmidt.

Under the by-laws, Schwanke has said in previous articles about the entire membership's mission is that one of the missions is in seeking out new members or arrange for committees

when necessary. In addition to getting together at the end of the year to review the financials, it was reported back in April that the full membership is also given updates on activities at the facility.

Yet it is only the seven-member board who is ultimately responsible for decision-making based on the representation of the entire membership, he said.

This was one of the primary reasons McInay said he tendered the resignation reiterating that being included and updated has not been done as an entire group since he was appointed last April.

Women's health topic of luncheon in Colby

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Heart of Women's Health will be the topic for this year's annual luncheon, co-sponsored by the Colby Area Chamber of Commerce Diplomats, on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Quality Inn, 1950 S. Range, Colby, with registration beginning at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon, and the presentation from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Organizers are encouraging anyone who has not made a reservation to do so soon, as the deadline is Thursday, Nov. 7.

The Heart of Women's Health will feature Marcia McCoy, RN, MSN, coordinator of the Women's Cardiac Center at St. Luke's-Shawnee Mission Health System, organizers said.

"Traditional research into the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention strategies of cardiovascular disease has been conducted predominantly on men," said McCoy.

As a result, women have not been viewed as being at risk, yet national

statistics continue to support that over 500,000 women die from heart disease annually, making it the leading cause of death for women in the United States, she said.

"This state of vulnerability warrants an emergent need to stimulate awareness, prompt early detection, education and prevention in addressing the magnitude of the 'Silent Epidemic' in women," McCoy said.

For those who would like to attend, organizers said that checks (\$10) can be made out to "Colby Diplomats" and mailed to the Chamber of Commerce, 350 S. Range., Colby, Kan., 67701 or to Betty Albers, one of the organizers, at the Thomas County Insurance Agency, P.O. Box 506, Colby, Kan., 67701.

In addition to the Diplomats, other sponsors for this year's event include the American Heart Association, the Northwest Kansas Area Health Education Center and Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories. For questions or information, call Albers at (785) 462-3939.

Actor Heston rallies NRA supporters at Wichita stop

WICHITA (AP)—More than 1,000 people turned out for a National Rifle Association get-out-the-vote rally Wednesday night to see actor Charlton Heston, the group's celebrity president.

Heston, who was diagnosed with symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's disease earlier this year, appeared tired and frail. His speech at times was disjointed and he spoke for only a couple of minutes.

"This election is very important — this next election just days away," Heston said. "And the reason it is important is it is a vote for freedom."

The famous actor has worked rope

lines and rallies for the NRA in New Hampshire, Missouri, Minnesota, South Dakota and Colorado — homes to some of the hottest Senate races. He was in Arizona just hours before his Wichita stop.

Heston and other NRA leaders urged Kansas gun owners to get out the vote for candidates willing to support the right to own guns.

Also speaking briefly at the rally were Tim Shallenburger, the Republican candidate for governor; Rep. Todd Tiaht, running for re-election to the 4th District; and Phill Kline, the Republican candidate for attorney general.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

During a dress rehearsal on Wednesday night, James Coplin of Colby (left), who plays Scapino, conversed with the character Ottavio, played by Uriah Williams of St. Francis. Amanda Albers of Colby, served as the waitress.

Colby College play set in the 'outlandish' 1970s

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Theater Department is gearing up for next week's performance of *Scapino*, to be presented Nov. 7, 8, and 9. All performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on campus.

Organizers say that although tickets may be purchased at the door, they are on sale now at the Campus Bookstore during regular business hours. Adult tickets are \$3 each, and for seniors, children and non-Colby Community College students \$2. All performances will be free for Colby Community College students, faculty and staff.

Scapino is inspired by French playwright Moliere. Colby Community College Theater instructor, Walter Yuhre, said that in the upcoming production, *Scapino* will be returning the play to its roots in Commedia dell'Arte with a broad and fast slapstick style. This will be done by larger than life clowns who revel in their craft and in

the joy of performing. Yuhre said the play originally opened on Broadway in 1975, and in the college production, the play is set in the "outlandish" 1970s.

For further information on tickets or the production, contact the campus bookstore at 462-3984 ext. 275 or the theater department at 462-4783.

Race for insurance commissioner is centering around industry money

TOPEKA (AP) — Republican Sandy Praeger received more than \$25,000 for her campaign for insurance commissioner from a network of Texas and Oklahoma insurance companies and their executives.

Democratic rival Jim Garner pointed to those contributions Wednesday as evidence that Praeger would be too

cozy with the industry if she were elected. He noted that one of the companies was the subject of a 1999 regulatory order issued by current Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius.

Garner has made Praeger's acceptance of insurance industry contributions the major issue of their campaign. Garner has promised not to accept money from companies or individuals licensed or regulated by the Insurance Department, a pledge Sebelius made in

winning two terms as commissioner.

Praeger said Garner is engaging in negative campaigning rather than talking about substantive issues. The company Garner mentioned by name, MEGA Life and Health Insurance Co., headquartered in North Richland Hills, Texas, objected to Garner's characterization of its business.

With only six days before Tuesday's general election, Garner acknowledged that his campaign might not

have enough time or money to raise the issue in television advertisements. He held a Statehouse news conference to criticize Praeger. "I believe this is information that the people of Kansas need to know about," said Garner, minority leader in the Kansas House.

Praeger has repeatedly said that contributions from insurance companies won't influence her decisions as commissioner and pointed to her record as a chairwoman of the Senate's Financial

Institutions and Insurance Committee, supporting, for example, health insurance coverage mandates opposed by the industry.

"I am extremely disappointed that, with only days remaining in this election, the House minority leader continues to run a campaign bereft of ideas and instead has been focusing on negative campaigning," she said.

A campaign finance report filed by Praeger's campaign with the secretary

of state's office showed that her campaign received nearly \$184,000 in contributions from July 26 through Oct. 24. The Garner campaign calculated that \$60,000 — roughly a third — came from the insurance industry.

On July 26, Praeger received \$25,600 MEGA; UICI, MEGA's parent company; four other affiliated companies; 12 UICI officials; one UICI official's spouse; and an attorney for MEGA.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 31
Low this morning, 18
Year ago today, 83 and 37
Soil temperature, 40
24-hr. precipitation, 0.03
Month's total, 3.13
Total snow for month, 1.8 in.
Temperature at 10:30 a.m. today, 30
Records for Oct. 31, 87 in 1950, 12 in 1905

The forecast

Cloudy tonight with some snow possible, lows near 20. Friday, cloudy, highs in the lower 30s. Friday night, cloudy, lows in the 20s. Saturday, some sun, highs in the mid 40s. Saturday night and Sunday, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 20s and highs in the lower 40s.

Briefly

No classes Friday at high school

Colby High School grades 9 through 12 will not have school on Friday due to the students going to state volleyball and cross country. For questions, call the school at 465-5300.

Wellness Fair set; coupons on sale

With the annual Wellness Fair nearing, businesses are being asked to take part in promoting community health and wellness by covering the cost of the fair registration and/or health screenings for their employees who may want to participate. The fair will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the student union on the Colby Community College campus. Blood work will be done on Saturdays, Jan. 4 and Jan. 11. The registration fee is \$5, with additional fees for some of the tests. For information about business coupons, call Wanda Davis at (785) 462-4797.

Singles dance Friday

The Colby Singles Group will hold its monthly dance from 8

p.m. to midnight, Friday, with entertainment provided by Off Limits featuring Dick and Maybelle Moore of Colby. The dance is open to all single people and alumni. For questions or details call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

Library 'site' benefit is underway

The Western Prairie RC&D is conducting its annual quilt raffle to benefit the "Cooperating Collection Site" at Colby's Pioneer Memorial Library. The site is a collection of reference materials for grant seekers to use to make searching for grant funding sources easier and more successful. The quilt was donated by the Kansas Prairie Quilter's Club and is on display at the library through the week and at various locations on the weekends. The drawing will be held Dec. 16. Tickets (\$1 each or 6 for \$5) can be purchased at the library or by calling Western Prairie RC&D at (785) 462-2602.

Cut-A-Thon to aid Colby woman

Carousel Beauty Salon, 1175 S. Range (next to Colby Bowl), is sponsoring a "Cut-A-Thon," with all proceeds going to Marcy

(Helus) Carter, who is employed at the salon, and was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's-Lymphoma Disease. The special donation drive at the salon is planned from 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 5, and all \$10 haircuts during that time will be donated to Carter. According to co-workers, she is currently taking daily treatments in Hays. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome the evening of the drive. Carter is a lifetime resident of Colby and she and her husband, Rick, have two sons, Shane, a junior at Colby High School and, Cade, a sixth grader at Colby Middle School. Donations are also welcome.

Methodist Ladies need your help

As part of their "Experience Christmas Tour" on Dec. 8, the Methodist Ladies of Colby hope to have a Christmas/Winter Art Show in the Fellowship Hall, and to that end they are asking anyone who has a Christmas or winter painting or other artwork — such as cross-stitch or embroidery pictures of that season of the year — if they would share those with the public. Please contact Marj Brown at 462-3515 as soon as you can. The artwork submitted does not have to be the work of the person sharing it.

