



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Board tables Hildyard decision until June

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor



V. Hildyard



M. O'Neal

The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts made no decision Saturday regarding a case against a Colby doctor — opting to take the issue under advisement and wait until their June meeting to decide.

Dr. Victor Hildyard of Colby and his attorney, Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson, appeared at the hearing via telephone, with board attorneys, David Steed, Diane Bellquist and the 15-member board present in Topeka.

"The hearing was about one hour in duration," O'Neal said, "then went into closed session to consider the case."

The board's decision to "take it under advisement," according to O'Neal, dealt with Steed and Bellquist's request for the board to consider modifying Presiding Officer Edward Gaschler's decision on some of the charges against Hildyard. The proposed modification also includes asking Hildyard to pay \$70,000 for costs of the state board of healing art's investigation and nine-day hearing held in October.

In Gaschler's initial order released in January, he found 16 of the 19 allegations involving misconduct against Hildyard did not violate any provisions of the Healing Art Act. The three counts alleging language and inappropriate behavior had some merit, but as for the other 16 medical-related incompetencies, Hildyard was exonerated of

any and all wrongdoing.

Gaschler's initial order went so far as to criticize certain tactics used by Citizens Medical Center in bringing medical-related charges forward, O'Neal said.

"The three counts where the hearing officer found violations were minor in nature and didn't involve patient care," O'Neal said. "He (Gaschler) wants Dr. Hildyard to refrain from some of his language and putting criticisms of (CMC) administration in patient charts."

As for the third violation involving blank progress notes being placed on the chart, O'Neal again said this was minor.

"All the hearing officer recommended was public censure, no discipline involving licensure or limitation of practice," he said.

After hearing from the attorneys and following the board's closed session, members returned to open session.

The Colby Free Press twice called Mark Stafford, general counsel, and Larry Buening, executive director, with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts were called today. Calls were not returned.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press



And
they're
off...

ABOVE: Brielle Lynn, left, Eli Koerperich, center, and Dylan Koehn, left, searched for Easter eggs during the annual Kiwanis Easter Egg hunt at Fike Park Saturday. LEFT: Children in the 7- to 9-year old group ran to find eggs. Rick Dickman, a member of the Kiwanis Club, which sponsors the event, was the 31st year for the egg hunt. More than 1,800 eggs were filled for the hunt.

Hearing set for abandoned child

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

A hearing will be held 10 a.m. Tuesday in Thomas County District Court in a case of a handicapped child that was abandoned last week.

Colby Police Department Det. Gary Shull said the hearing is to determine if the child, who cannot walk or talk, should stay in protective custody. Because the case involves a juvenile, the hear-

ing will be closed.

According to the Colby Police Department Friday, a grade-school aged handicapped child was found home alone by a police officer and a relative at about 1:30 a.m. Thursday.

The child's mother was arrested in Ellsworth County Wednesday, and after that, a search for the child began.

After being found the child was placed in a foster home.

Move it and they will come

Restaurant owner relocates to Colby

By John Van Nostrand

Colby Free Press

For years, a majority of Shelly Plummer's customers always went to her.

Now, she has gone to those customers.

After three years, Plummer closed her Prairie Skillet restaurant in Winona and moved into the Quality Inn in Colby. She opened April 1.

"Most of my customers are from Colby," Plummer said. "And I have always treated them with an extra cinnamon roll or piece of pie, especially considering the gas prices." Twenty-three miles separate Winona and Colby.

Her Winona restaurant was also constantly packed with customers from northwest Kansas.

"I would call it wall-to-wall people," she said, "bursting at the seams." Seating capacity was becoming a concern.

Earlier this year, Plummer was in Colby and noticed the Prairie Rose restaurant within the Quality Inn had recently closed. A bigger facility in a town closer to her customer base, tempted Plummer to relocate the Prairie Skillet.

Plummer, 46, and the Quality Inn realized the win-win situation for each of them.

"I needed the space," Plummer said.

And the Quality Inn needed a restaurant.

Her facility in Winona had a 30-seat capacity. In Colby, she has room for 60 seats. Quality Inn management also gave her access to the banquet rooms that can hold up to 250. She has already booked several large group banquets and meetings for clubs.

"So did I multiply my seating by six or so," she asked.

As the seating grows, so did the employees. She had five employees in Winona. Since relocating to Colby, she has a total of 24 employees. Nine employees make up each day's two shifts.

Quality Inn also asked Plummer to provide for the hotel's lounge, continental breakfast and room service for guests. Prairie Skillet also has carry-out. All of Plummer's facilities are smoke-free except for the lounge.

"They are so grateful," Plummer said. "And I am so grateful to the Quality Inn."

Plummer said she was given total control of the restaurant space.

"I personalized this restaurant," she said. "If I would have changed anything, my customers would have noticed. It is the same prices, menu and decorations."

The Prairie Skillet menu is a combination of traditional American and Mexican entrees. The Prairie Skillet is known for its Mexican



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Prairie Skillet restaurant owner Shelly Plummer reopened her business April 1 in Colby. After three years in Winona, she moved to Colby to be closer to a majority of her customers.

dishes. Plummer does not have formal training in restaurant service. She learned how to cook from her grandmother.

Knowing Mexican is what many Prairie Skillet customers desire, Plummer does not consider herself competition to the other restaurants

in Colby. Although there are Mexican entrees at other restaurants, Plummer said Prairie Skillet has more to offer.

"I'm not competition, just something different," she said. "I know what I had worked, so I wasn't afraid."

Wreck sends two to Colby hospital

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

An accident Sunday morning sent two people to Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, the one-car accident took place at 2:27 a.m. on Interstate 70 at mile marker 63, about nine miles east of Colby.

Amy A. Richard, 34, of Chanderville, Ill., was driving a 2004 Chevy pickup eastbound on I-70 when she left the road-

way and went into the median. She overcorrected and went into the south ditch. The pickup rolled a half-turn and landed on its top.

Richard and passenger Mark Richard, 12, of Chanderville, Ill., were transported to Citizens Medical Center. A third passenger, Hagen L. Frank, 44, of Pleasant Plains, Ill., was not injured.

An update on the Richards' condition this morning was they were treated and released, according to Citizens Medical Center.