



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Longtime Colby physician dies

"He will be missed here in Colby," said Colby Mayor Gary Adrian. "Physicians always play a prominent role in rural Kansas."

An advocate for his patients and a longtime physician, father and husband, Dr. Victor H. Hildyard II, died Tuesday, July 3, 2012, at the Logan County Hospital in Oakley. He was 65.

"His number one priority was patient care," said his wife Brenda Hildyard. "He never gave up on a patient."

Brenda said even doctors in Denver called him with questions and for advice, which he happily gave. "He was one of the most optimistic and happiest people I have ever met," she added.

She said that when faced with problems, he would always look to "do the next thing right."

Many of his patients and colleagues, friends and family have shown how much they meant to them by leaving flowers and memorabilia in his honor on the grounds of his clinic, Colby Medical and Surgical Center at 175 S. Range Ave.

"I was saddened by the news of Vic Hildyard's passing," said Kansas Speaker of the House Mike O'Neal, "... I represented Vic for a number of years with regard to his ongoing disputes with the local hospital board and administration.

"During that time, we became good friends and I became a great fan of his, especially when I saw how loved he was by his patients in Colby and surrounding areas. He had an infectious personality, great spirit and an endearing country-style sense of humor.

"It's easy to see why his pa-



tients loved and respected him. The community has lost a great doctor and great friend. Brenda and family are in our thoughts and prayers," said O'Neal.

Hildyard was born March 22, 1947, in Baldwin, the son of Victor H. and Vivian Aleen (Henderson) Hildyard.

He married Brenda K. Prather on Aug. 21, 1982, in Colby.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; a daughter, Krystal E. (Dr. W. Seth) Bolling of Beverly Hills, Calif.; and two sisters, Karen Conner of Montrose, Colo., and Sandra Hildyard Squibb of Colby.

There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m. Monday, July 9, 2012, at the Colby High School Auditorium, with Pastor Mark Carlton officiating.

There will be no visitation.

The family suggests memorials in his name to be designated at a later date, in care of the Kersen-

brook Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Hildyard was a 1965 graduate of Cherry Creek High School in Denver and in 1969, received his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas. Following his father's footsteps as a doctor, Hildyard graduated from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver in 1973 and completed an internship at the Hennepin County Medical Center at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis.

He came to Colby in 1974, where he practiced until his death.

In 2002, he became embroiled in legal battles with Citizens Medical Center. The hospital suspended his privileges after receiving complaints about his behavior in front of patients.

The court ordered he be allowed a full peer review hearing

under hospital bylaws. The peer reviewers ordered Hildyard to make an agreement in writing to cooperate with the staff to "ensure delivery of quality patient care," and to attend a professional boundaries program, but he appealed their decision.

After an appellate review committee decided against him, he filed another lawsuit against the hospital alleging breach of contract and violation of antitrust laws.

In November 2010, the District Court ruled in favor of Citizens Medical Center. Hildyard appealed the decision, and the case was heard by three Appellate Court judges in Larned in May. The court has yet to issue an opinion.

He remained barred from practice at the hospital here, but continued to admit patients at hospitals in Goodland and Oakley.

Memorials (above) have been placed outside of the Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range Ave., to remember Dr. Victor H. Hildyard, who died Tuesday at Logan County Hospital in Oakley at age 65. Hildyard is shown at left shortly after his arrival in Colby in 1974, and below, he was photographed at an event at the clinic.

FILE PHOTOS



Breast cancer charity event planned

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkansas.com

People of Colby are coming together for a Zumbathon Charity Event to support breast cancer awareness, raise money for the cause and benefit a woman who was recently diagnosed with the disease.

From 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, July

27, the Colby Fire Department and Nicole's School of Dance will have items to raffle, food, fun, Zumba fitness dancing and other activities at the fire station at 1125 S. Country Club Dr. Everyone is invited to come join the fun.

Pre-registration by Wednesday, July 11, for \$10 allows you to participate in Zumba fitness activities. If you pay at the door, it'll be \$10 to watch and \$15 to partici-

pate, said Nicole Weigel, owner of the dance school.

Kids age 12 and under can attend for free.

Zumba T-shirts will also be sold for \$10 each, Weigel said. People who pre-register can order one to guarantee the right size, but shirts will be sold at the event, too, while they last.

Half of the day's proceeds will go to the Susan G. Komen for the

Cure nonprofit organization, a global leader in the fight against breast-cancer, said Weigel, and half will help pay medical expenses for Colby resident Cathy Carney.

"Cathy is enrolled in Zumba," said Weigel, "and knows about the many causes that Zumba benefits, including breast cancer. She

See "CHARITY," Page 2

Reconstruction complete on K-25

Detour signs came down Friday in Logan County as a rebuilt section of K-25 from Russell Springs to U.S. 40 opened to traffic.

The 11-mile stretch was closed March 5 for reconstruction. The "official" detour route took travelers on K-96, U.S. 83 and Interstate 70 between Leoti and Colby, though most people used county roads.

Workers removed the old pavement, lowered and widened the grade, stabilized the road base and put down new, wider pavement with six inches of asphalt.

The highway now has paved shoulders with rumble strips, a safety feature that alerts trav-

elers who get too close to the road's edge.

A bridge replacement project on K-25 in Thomas County took advantage of the same detour route. That section reopened last month.

"With both projects complete, I want to thank the locals who found their way around each closure" said Jeff Stewart, district engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton.

Venture Corp. of Great Bend was the contractor on the \$5.6 million paving project. For information, call Stewart or Kristen Brands, district public affairs manager, at (785) 877-3315.

Road construction begins on U.S. 24

Workers began resurfacing U.S. 24 from the Nine-Mile junction east of Colby through Sheridan County to the Graham County line last week under a contract with the Kansas Department of Transporta-

tion.

The project also includes work on K-186 from Seguin to U.S. 24 and K-188 from Menlo to U.S. 24. Workers started milling along the bridge locations last week. They will remove three quarters of an inch of the driving lanes beginning this week.

Later, another crew will put

down 1.5 inches of new asphalt along the milled surface.

Flaggers and a pilot car will guide one-lane traffic through the work zone. Delays of 15 minutes or less may be expected.

Drivers should slow down, pay attention to the work-zone signs and look out for workers, said Kristen Brands, district manager

of public affairs for the department in Norton.

Venture Corp. of Great Bend has a \$4.2 million contract for the project, which is part of T-Works, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in 2010. Weather permitting, the job should be done by the first part of September.

