

weather report

73°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 7:07 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:23 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:05 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 79 degrees

• Humidity 70 percent

• Sky overcast

• Winds south 13 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.16 inches

and falling

• Record High 102° (1931)

• Record Low 34° (1941)

Last 24 Hours*

High 89°

Low 67°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: 70 percent chance of thunderstorms, low mid 50s, winds north 10-15. Tomorrow: cloudy becoming partly sunny, high upper 60s, low lower 50s. winds north 10-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: cloudy with 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, high lower 70s, low lower 50s. Thursday: cloudy with chance of rain at night. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.62 bushel

Posted county price — \$4.38

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.80 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.57

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Milo — \$2.55 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.02 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.16

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Millet — \$13.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$10.85 cwt.

Oil new crop — \$10.70 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢

Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$25

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Canada hears Bush on Iraq

WASHINGTON — President Bush pressed the U.S. case against Iraq's Saddam Hussein with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien today, but won no commitments, Bush's spokesman said.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, talking to reporters after Bush and Chretien held private talks in Detroit following a public border-security appearance, said that Bush "didn't ask him for anything in the meeting."

Fleischer's description came as the Bush administration continued its attempt to build a case for action against Iraq. Top administration officials toured the Sunday news programs to argue the case.

Fleischer said today Bush presented his case to Chretien by pointing out Iraq remains in violation of U.N. resolutions. But Bush's spokesman said he could report no progress in swaying Chretien.

Judge's order halts doctor's suspension

COLBY — The Citizens Medical Center board suspended a longtime Colby physician for a second time Thursday, despite a protest which overflowed the hospital parking lot, but a judge lifted the ban Friday.

About 5:15 p.m. Friday, after a telephone conference with attorneys for both sides, District Judge Jack Burr of Goodland signed a temporary restraining order against the summary suspension of Dr. Victor Hildyard by the hospital.

The hospital board, meeting behind closed doors, had suspended Hildyard on Thursday afternoon despite almost 400 protesters and picketers outside. The board not only refused to admit Hildyard's supporters, but sent a message saying it would make no comment to the patients.

Hildyard was suspended in April, but that ban also was lifted by the court. An employee of the center had filed several complaints against him, including sexual harassment.

The employee, who was never named, rescinded the complaint, however, and on May 2 the first suspension was lifted by Judge Burr. The hospital, which is a private non-profit corporation, said it would keep looking into the matter, and hired an independent investigator to check the allegations.

On July 8, the findings of that investigation were sent to Hildyard. His wife Brenda said he was given a proposed agreement on Tuesday, which he was told to sign by 5 p.m. Thursday or face suspension again. She didn't describe the document in detail, saying only that it listed the investigation's results and proposed remedies, and it was not something she or her husband could agree to.

She implied that her husband has had troubles with the hospital for some time, saying, "This truly didn't start in April," but wouldn't go into detail.

About 4:45 p.m. Thursday, people started showing up outside the hospital for a rally supporting the doctor. By 6 p.m., nearly 400 people were gathered in what the Colby police chief called "a polite and respectful protest rally."

The protesters said they wanted the

hospital board to open their meeting to the public or to at least speak to the crowd. The board's only statement was relayed through the police, and it said no official statement would be made. Since the hospital is private, not public, there is no requirement that any meetings be open.

A hospital spokesman later confirmed that Hildyard's privileges had been suspended at 5 p.m.

After the meeting, the board sent out a statements which said it appreciated the "input" of Colby's residents, but there would be no comments. The board keeps all its meeting closed to the public, and the hospital has not admitted that the document Brenda Hildyard described even exists.

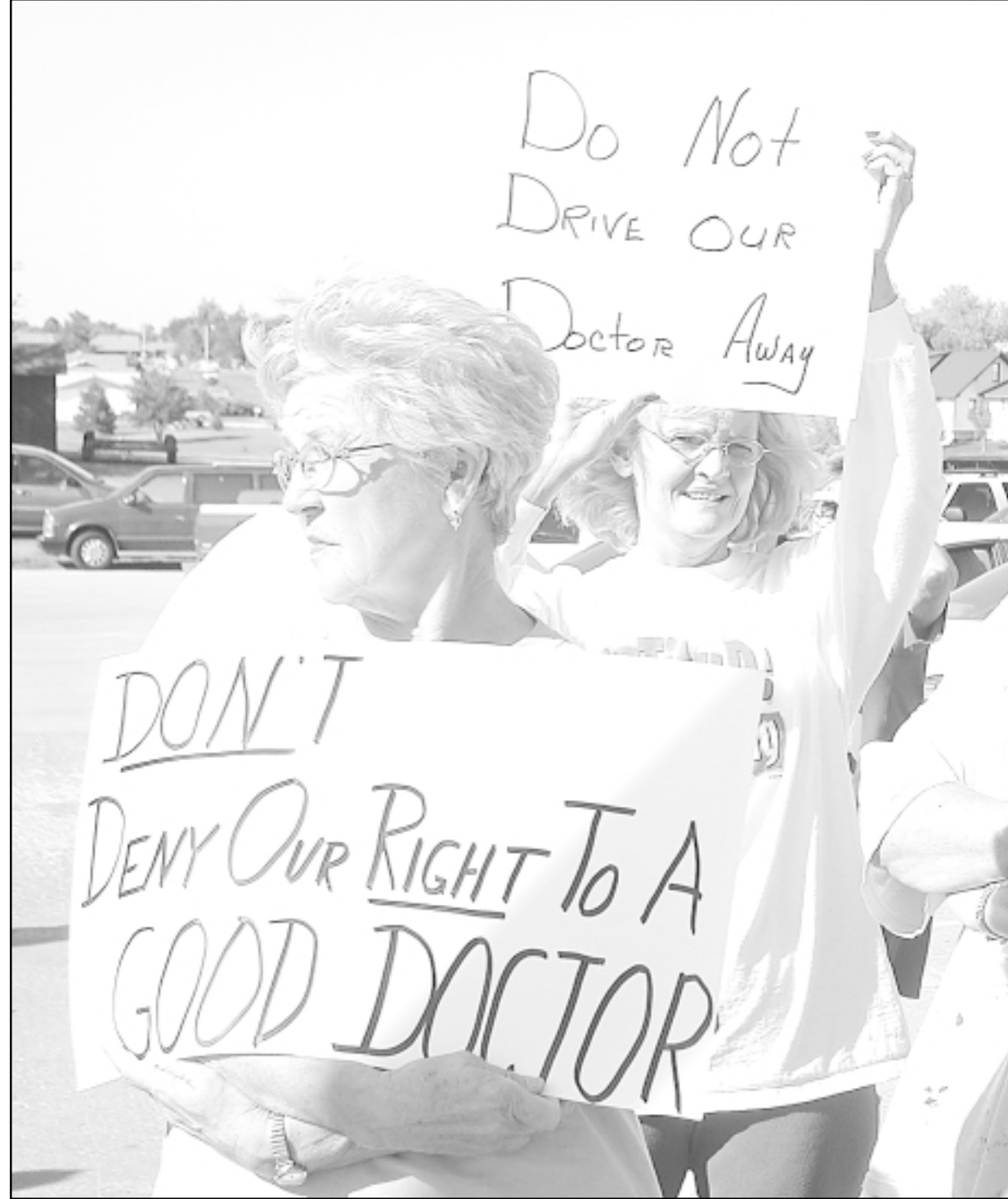
Carol Bonebrake, attorney for Citizens Medical Center from Topeka, said that if the document existed, it would not be for public consumption. Some things need to be confidential, the hospital maintains, to protect its employees.

Hildyard and his attorney, Michael O'Neal of Hutchinson, asked Judge Burr for a restraining order against the suspension. Burr agreed there would be no danger which justified summary suspension if Hildyard saw his patients, and issued a temporary order, pending a hearing which hasn't been scheduled yet.

Burr started the hearing over the telephone at 4:15 p.m. in his chambers. Ronald Vignery, attorney for the hospital, and lawyer Scott Beims were in the room with the judge. Beims said he was representing his daughter-in-law, Cortney Beims, a patient of Hildyard who is pregnant and could go into labor at any time.

The judge said he usually doesn't hold hearings over the phone, but O'Neal was in Hutchinson and couldn't get to Goodland for a hearing in time for a Friday meeting. The parties wanted to get the matter taken care of before the weekend, the judge said.

Burr said is handling the hearings because Judge Glenn D. Schiffner of Colby is a patient of Hildyard.



Shirley Coleman (front) and Marilyn VanHorn were part of the crowd that assembled Thursday at the Colby hospital to protest board action taking privileges away from Dr. Victor Hildyard. The action has been put on hold by a temporary restraining order issued Friday afternoon in Thomas County District Court.

Photo by Patty Decker / The Colby Free Press

West Nile virus expanding faster than expected

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The West Nile virus is spreading through Kansas faster than expected by wildlife officials, and is now present in the counties north, south and west of Goodland.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, now lists 63 counties in the state where the virus has been found, including Thomas, Cheyenne and Wallace, but not Sherman. That includes 55 counties where horses have been found with the disease, and 23

with infected birds. One batch of mosquitoes in Barton County has been found with the disease out of 132 groups tested in the past two months.

The virus is spread by mosquito bites, said Stan Wiley, a biologist at the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in Topeka. Many animals can carry the disease, he said, but the only ones that become sick are birds and horses.

Humans can get sick, Wiley said, but the disease usually is mild and feels like the flu. In rare cases, people can suffer

encephalitis or meningitis, swellings of the brain, and some die. Older people are the most at risk, he said. A 75-year-old Missouri woman died of the disease Aug. 7.

At first, the only proven way of spreading the disease was when a mosquito bit an infected bird and passed it on to another animal. Last week, health officials in Atlanta say a woman got the virus through a blood transfusion, and passed it along to four people who got her organs after she died.

Last month, Wiley said the disease

would probably not spread to Goodland until the summer of 2004, but he now admits he was wrong.

"Judging by what we knew, that was a reasonable guess," he said. "Unfortunately, there seem to be more vectors than we at first took into consideration."

Mosquitoes do most of the dirty work spreading the disease, Wiley said, but humans have their hand in it. Infected animals are brought into the area, like the recovering horse in Wallace County, and mosquitoes can hitch a ride

with people driving through infected areas.

It's possible the virus is in Sherman County now, and it just hasn't been found, Wiley said, but there is no real need for concern.

"People — even infected people — have a low chance of becoming seriously sick," he said, "and horses can get this disease and still live through it. There is even a vaccine for horses, and it seems to work."

See WEST NILE, Page 4



Crystal Linsner and William McKnight put clamps on one half of the metal gate being installed on the south side of the county's household hazardous waste facility at 1820 Cherry. The first collection is to be from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Building being readied for Saturday's collection

Sherman County's first household hazardous waste collection to be held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the county's new facility at 1820 Cherry, aiming to keep nasty chemicals out of the new county landfill.

Crystal Linsner, who heads the county program, said the building should be ready by Friday, and several volunteers have called about helping with the collection.

"I have had a lot of calls from people about what we will take," she said, adding that many have been about paint. "I think we will have lots of paint to sort through and see what is good and what will have to be thrown."

She said someone dropped off a box of paint at the south door some night last week. This was one of the problems she and William McKnight, county maintenance supervisor, set out to solve Friday as they took two metal gates built by students at the Northwest Kansas Technical College to close off the area south of the building.

She said they have been working on inside details that were pointed out by city inspectors during a recent visit, caulking cracks and covering a hole in the ceiling.

Linsner said the major point is the doors, and a special fire resistant door is to be installed Friday to isolate the hazardous waste area from the rest of

the building. "I think we will be ready," she said, "and I expect quite a crowd from the calls I have had so far."

Linsner has a list of what people can bring and what the collection program

See COLLECTION, Page 4

Junk parade is canceled

Schlyer Goodwin, organizer of the Junk Parade, called this morning to say it has been canceled because there were only six entries.

"We couldn't have much of a parade with only six entries," he said. "I am disappointed, because I had lots of people who called about having stuff picked up, but there were not enough who were willing to get a trailer together."

The parade, an old Goodland tradition, was revived last year by a committee headed by Goodwin. It was the focus of a community-wide cleanup that gathered tons of trash to be taken to the county landfill.