

Judge allows doctor to continue working despite hospital's suspension

HILDYARD, from Page 1

patients at the hospital who were also employees. Bonebrake said that all three were women.

O'Neal claims that on Sept. 3 Hildyard received a letter advising him of the hospital's intent to summarily suspend his privileges, unless proposed action was taken by Sept. 5. On the advice of counsel, Dr. Hildyard rejected the proposed action, saying he would have to waive his due process rights.

Bonebrake said that in front of four members of the hospital board,

Hildyard said he had no intention of participating (nor his associates, Dr. LaDonna Regier and Dr. Raymond Ketting) under the conditions that were being asked of him.

Bonebrake said Hildyard had convinced obstetrical nurses they are taking a risk by working with doctors hired by the hospital through *Docs Who Care*, since they are not properly licensed to deliver.

She said those doctors have been granted obstetrical privileges and have been approved by the hospital board.

"The hospital is within its right to

do what it has done," Bonebrake said. She said the hospital board "is made up of real people with real jobs who have real concerns about the health care in this community."

"The board does not want this to be a win/lose situation," she said. She concluded by saying that not every member of the community can be involved in the decision. During the board's private meeting where Dr. Hildyard was suspended for a second time, hundreds of people filled the hospital's parking lot to protest the suspension.

"No health care system can be man-

aged by the whole of community" Bonebrake said. "It is time for this matter to proceed."

O'Neal said, "The hospital adds new elements every time we turn around." He noted the original letter presented to Hildyard was based on a written complaint from a disgruntled employee.

In documents from O'Neal's office, it says the alleged complaints were the subject of the hospital's Human Resources department investigation, and did not involve patient care.

"They are scrambling to find patient care issues," O'Neal said. "It is a situ-

ation where the hospital has tried to create excuses to get rid of Dr. Hildyard."

O'Neal said they want the hospital board to be equitable and fair, and added he had three documented complaints against other physicians that were very serious patient care concerns.

He said those complaints were never investigated or disciplined.

"He wants to be treated no different than they treat any other physician," he said.

In her rebuttal, Bonebrake refuted by saying, "If I get a speeding ticket and

you don't, it is not fair, but I still must pay the piper."

O'Neal also addressed the fact that both Dr. Regier and Dr. Ketting have been left out of the investigation, presumably due to bias. He said the only person that could be left out of an investigation such as this, according to hospital bylaws, would be "a member of staff that would be in direct economic competition."

Burr said he had no authority to make an order for the two parties to find a compromise, but he encouraged both the hospital and Hildyard to "explore the middle ground."

Hospital stops releasing patient list to newspaper

HOSPITAL, from Page 1

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act privacy regulations are making it necessary for hospitals to evaluate policies regarding patient information."

The *Daily* questioned the need to eliminate the patient information because each person is asked when they are admitted if they are willing to have their name published in the hospital report.

"It is our position that the patient can approve release of their name to be

used in the hospital report," said Tom Betz, editor. "Looking at the mountains of pages of regulations, we do not see where there is anything that would prevent the patient from agreeing to the release for use in the newspaper."

"The law is designed to give people control of their medical information, and there is no reason why, if they want it released, the hospital can't continue to do so. We feel this is ending a service many people in Goodland depend on."

Betz said he offered to develop a release form for the patient to sign which

would comply with the new regulations. McCants said they would review it, and a draft was sent to the hospital on Thursday.

On Friday, McCants called and said that after consulting with Administrator Jay Jolly, they had decided to put the release question on hold.

"We have lots of things to handle in implementing these regulations and our whole patient system will have to be reviewed," McCants said. "We understand that this is only a portion of what we will have to deal with, and it is our decision to put the question on

hold while we evaluate our policies to comply with the privacy, confidentiality and security of patient health care information."

When asked if the release would be considered, McCants said the paper could take it to the next hospital board meeting on Monday, Oct. 28.

The federal regulations were issued under the law, passed in 1996. Congress gave the government two years to develop regulations, but it wound up taking nearly six, and the regulations don't actually go into effect until next spring.

matters of record

Municipal Traffic
Sept. 20 — Andrew Phillips, 18, of Goodland was fined \$136 for exhibition of speed and \$50 for careless driving.
Sept. 23 — Brent Linin of Goodland was fined \$46 for improper parking.
 Elizabeth A. Perez, 38, of Goodland was fined \$76 for second dog at large and \$20 for no dog license.
 Justin Sherwood, 19, of Goodland was fined \$84 for speeding, 32/20, and \$40 for disobeying stop sign.
Sept. 25 — Olin M. Small, 22, of Goodland was fined \$236 for furnishing alcohol to a minor.
 Kevin J. Isaac, 37, of Goodland was fined \$136 for driving while suspended.
 Shirley T. Walters, 52, of Goodland was fined \$56 for no dog license.

Elaine Larson, 71, of Goodland was fined \$136 for failure to report accident.
 Orlando Gonzalez, 25, of Goodland was fined \$76 for speeding, 40/30.

Accidents
 Accidents reported by the Goodland police department:

Sept. 19 — Elaine Larson was pulling into a parking space at Wal-Mart in a 1998 Ford when she hit a parked 2002 Chevy owned by Michelle L. Cooper and left the scene.
Sept. 28 — Adam S. Miller was northbound on Caldwell in a 1993 Mercury and drifted into a parked 1998 Chevy pickup owned by Cochran

Farm Supply. Miller was arrested for driving under the influence.

correction

In the Thursday, Oct. 10 edition of *The Goodland Daily News* a story listed Shay Miller's parents as Cesar and Starla Miller. His parents are actually Sean and Sandi Miller. This was a reporting error.

☆☆☆☆
 The Goodland Daily News will cor-

rect any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard

School meeting

At its meeting on Monday, the Goodland School Board will:

- Talk about bids on the Edson gym, which the board wants to sell.
- Hear an annual audit report from the district's accountant.
- Hear reports from Superintendent Marvin Selby and school principals.
- Discuss holding a joint board meeting with the Northwest Kansas Technical College board on Saturday, Oct. 26.
- Talk to band director Deandra Wirth

about how to get band students to San Antonio for the Alamo Bowl in December.

- Hear a request for Palm Pilots from Jim Mull, Grant Junior High principal.
- Discuss a technology plan with Karla Murray, the district's technology coordinator.
- Hear results of the recent Eco-Meet from Dennis Friedrichs, technology teacher, and his students.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. at the district office on Main Avenue.



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303 E. 11th St.	1016 E. 10th	321 Broadway
2810 Commerce Rd #2	1608 Main (commercial)	402 Grand
916 College	1224 Main (mixed use)	724 Main
1008 Main (commercial)		209 E. 15th

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