

Colby hospital bars doctor for third time

By Patty Decker
Colby Free Press
Following news that a Colby doctor had been permanently suspended, the president of the Citizens Medical Center board of trustees talked about what that means and how it could affect the medical community in the future.

Vern Schwanke said that Dr. Victor H. Hildyard of Colby Medical and Surgical Center had exhausted all avenues of appeal through the hospital's peer review process stemming from the original allegations of improper conduct made by an employee of the hospital nearly

a year ago.
"The peer review process is completed, and pursuant to the fair hearing requirements," said Carol Bonebrake, attorney for the hospital board.
When asked if Dr. Hildyard had any other avenues available to retain his privileges at the hospital, Bonebrake said the medical staff bylaws explain the process, but did not elaborate.
Dr. Hildyard was suspended twice last year by the hospital board. He was allowed to continue seeing patients at the hospital following a ruling by District Judge Jack Burr

of Goodland in early May that the administrative process needed to be carried out before he could be suspended.
Schwanke said the hospital board have reviewed the management contract, professional leadership and alternative procedures to ensure a viable hospital.
"We look forward to working with the local media, community groups and individual citizens," he said. "There are many restraints on the board's ability to respond to each and every question because of all of the federal and state laws that restrict the dissemination of information."

Schwanke said that the first priority is setting health care policy for those they serve.
Michael O'Neal of Hutchinson, Dr. Hildyard's attorney, was unavailable to comment, but his associate said he would be making a statement. O'Neal did say late last week that written arguments in the administrative process were due on Tuesday, April 8, two days before the decision was made to terminate Dr. Hildyard's privileges.
Michael Boyles, chief executive officer at Citizens Medical Center, resigned his position last Friday.

Schwanke said today that Kevan Trenkle is the acting administrator. "He is working closely with Dr. LaDonna Regier, chief of the medical staff at the hospital, Dr. Raymond Ketting and the Docs Who Care physicians to assure continuity of quality patient care," Schwanke said.
In addition, Schwanke said that there is a "transition team" made up of hospital staff in place to act on directives of the board and chief executive officer.
When asked about some people's fear regarding the hospital becoming or being taken over by an HMO,

Schwanke said that first of all an HMO is more like an insurance company than a hospital.
"The challenge that Citizens Medical Center faces are not unique to Colby," he said. "Affordable health care is a national issue and rural hospital face special challenges, and we are continuing our physician recruitment efforts and addressing reimbursement issues."
Even though Dr. Hildyard cannot see patients at the Colby hospital, he does have privileges at the Logan County Hospital in Oakley and at the Goodland Regional Medical Center in Goodland.

Storm spotter training offered in area towns

By Kimberly Brandt
Oberlin Herald
With storm season here, the National Weather Service office in Goodland has started to take storm spotter training to counties in the area to show people the basics and more about tornadoes and other severe storms.

Dave Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist with the service, said he has already completed nine classes and has about 10 left.
Each class, he said, starts at 7 p.m. and is open to anyone who wants to come. He said the classes are free and there are no requirements. In the past, he said, he has had third and fourth graders because they had a special interest in weather.
During severe weather, people go storm spotting and let the weather service know what is going on in their area. Floyd said the classes are pretty much a spring thing, since that is the storm season.
The service offers basic classes, which include the basic building blocks of thunderstorm structure, types of storms and where to look around the storm for severe weather. The class also covers safety, he said.
The information in the class also covers different kinds of clouds seen beneath the storms.
The advance class, such as the one that will be offered at 7 p.m. on April 30, at The Gateway in

Oberlin, will go into more detail on thunderstorm structure. Floyd said spotters will learn why some storms produce more rain and why some produce hail. The class will also cover theories on why and what it takes for a tornado to develop.
Floyd said the service suggests that spotters take the basic class before the advanced class.
The classes take about two hours and 15 minutes.
The class is mainly a computer presentation, he said, which includes about 40 minutes of video. There will be a lot slides from storms in the area. With the computer, the class has become more entertaining, he said.
Floyd said the spotter classes became important after a big outbreak of tornadoes in the area in 1974 when there were 149 in two days.
Classes in the area will be held at 7 p.m. tonight at the Hoxie Bowen Scout House in Sheridan County, Wednesday at the Cheyenne Wells Town Hall Auditorium in Colorado, Friday in the Benkelman High School in Dund County, Neb., Monday at the Atwood Prairie Development Center in Rawlins County, Tuesday at the St. Francis High School in Cheyenne County, Thursday, April 17, at the Leoti firehouse in Wichita County and Tuesday, April 22, at the McCook Library in Red Willow County, Neb.

Council tables changes

UTILITY, from Page 1
"We are getting into the watering season," Commissioner Dean Blume noted.
"This clarifies what is in the current code that was not spelled out," Pickman said.
Mayor Rick Billinger said he did not see what waiting two weeks would matter.
I don't know what we will change," Commissioner Chuck Lutters said. "I'd rather do it tonight. I think this gives more leniency on allowing people to water on their own."
"It is not the city telling people when they can water," Blume said. "It is a little more freedom for the people."
Commissioner John Garcia said

he felt the rates were penalizing people unnecessarily because the city was under the 700 million a year allowed by the state in it's well permits, and that he would like time to look at the options and learn more about the background of the proposed water rates.
Billinger asked if there was a consensus about tabling the ordinance for two weeks to give the new commissioners a chance to learn more about the specific items included.
"I don't want to get into the habit of tabling things," Lutters said.
A motion to table for two weeks was made by Daniels and seconded by Garcia, though, and it passed unanimously.
The ordinance will come back up at next commission meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 21.

Spring clean up



Snow covered the lawns last Monday when the Grant Junior High cleanup was scheduled, but it was sunny Friday when 169 students accompanied by teachers and Principal Jim Mull fanned out to clean 43 yards. Lisa Carson, Brittney Ford and Brian Boyce (top) shoved leaves into a bag in the back yard of Ruth Morton at 307 East 9th. Robert Borneman and Toni Becke (right) cleaned the back yard at Camilla McCoy's home at 317 East 9th. Dustin Pennington, Cody Engel and Ty Becvar (left) stuffed leaves into bags. Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

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"Policy doesn't fit every individual situation and it never will."

Ken Grecian
Cow-calf operator, backgrounder
KLA member
Palco, Kansas

KLA isn't looking for quick fixes. Members bring policies forward that make sense for producers as a whole.

Ken Grecian says that when times are tough people look for someone to blame. "KLA has become the focal point and if we have some disagreement on a policy or issue, it's easy to blame our association," he says. But, according to Grecian, blaming KLA isn't the answer. "If you don't agree with a certain policy, then become actively involved instead of firing shots and placing blame. With an industry as diverse as ours, total agreement on every policy is impossible. Even though I don't agree with every policy, I know that it was adopted by the majority of the membership. We all have to be in this together to make it work."



Find us on the Web at www.kla.org

Hear how the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and KLA are working to implement policy adopted by producers like you. Attend the Cheyenne, Greeley, Sherman and Wallace Counties KLA Meeting, April 22 in Goodland. For more information, contact Cora House, Sherman County (785) 899-6551; Mark Smith, Wallace County (785) 852-4653; Todd Neitzel, Cheyenne County (785) 332-2164; or Jerry Young, Greeley County (620) 376-4958.

Tuesday, April 22nd

Sign up for drawings
Ribbon Cutting at 11am
Tours
Appearance from Fiber Freddie (S&T Mascot)
BBQ from 11am-2pm (Brautwurst & Hotdogs)

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