

Colby doctor may lose license

By Patty Decker
Colby Free Press

A Colby doctor's license to practice medicine may be revoked following a decision Saturday by the state Board of Healing Arts, the agency that regulates physicians' licenses.

Dr. Victor H. Hildyard, who has practiced in Colby for more than 30 years, will lose his medical license once the final order is released, said Mark Stafford, the board's general counsel. Hildyard was accused of 19 violations regarding misconduct and patient care.

When that final order will be served to Hildyard wasn't known Monday, but Stafford said it will take several days. The doctor's attorney vowed to appeal the decision, calling it improper. Hildyard has been in a long fight with the Citizens Medical Center board over his right to practice at the Colby hospital.

The doctor's attorney, Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson, said the board didn't advise Hildyard of the reasons for what he called a "shocking departure" from the detailed decision of a state hearing examiner.

"Without stating their reasoning for the decision, as required by state law, the board voted to revoke Hildyard's license, which is now subject to appeal and review by the District Court of Thomas County," O'Neal said.

Stafford said if the district court were to overturn the board's decision, the board would then appeal

to the Kansas Court of Appeals.

O'Neal said the board had asked Hildyard to testify Saturday, which he said was "inappropriate."

"This hearing was marked by the board's attempt to reopen the record of the administrative hearing by requiring additional testimony from Dr. Hildyard," O'Neal said.

He said the agenda for the meeting was posted as "deliberation on Review of Initial Order and Issue Final Order." O'Neal said nothing was said about seeking additional evidence or testimony.

In January, a state hearing officer, Edward Gaschler, recommended dismissing 16 of the 19 charges against Hildyard, all those involving medical decisions and patient care.

Stafford said the board had asked Hildyard to appear at the meeting.

"The board did not see their request as out of the ordinary," Stafford said. "The board's final order said Hildyard needed to be there."

O'Neal refused the request, saying the board had no legal authority to take testimony. Quoting from state law, O'Neal said findings of fact by the board are to be based "exclusively upon the evidence of record in the adjudicative proceeding."

"State law requires that their decision when reviewing the hearing officer's initial order must be limited to the record before them," he said.

O'Neal said he thought board Chairman Roger D. Warren of Hanover was not happy with his

assertion of Hildyard's right to have the review limited to the record created during a nine-day hearing last fall.

Warren threatened license revocation as a remedy should Hildyard not testify, O'Neal said.

Stafford said that it's not unusual for the board to request testimony "peer to peer."

Had Hildyard agreed to testify in front, Stafford said, it would have centered around "peer cases," adding that he could not be more specific.

O'Neal said he thought the board was "unpleasantly surprised" that their \$70,000-plus investment in the case had turned out in Hildyard's favor after the nine-day hearing.

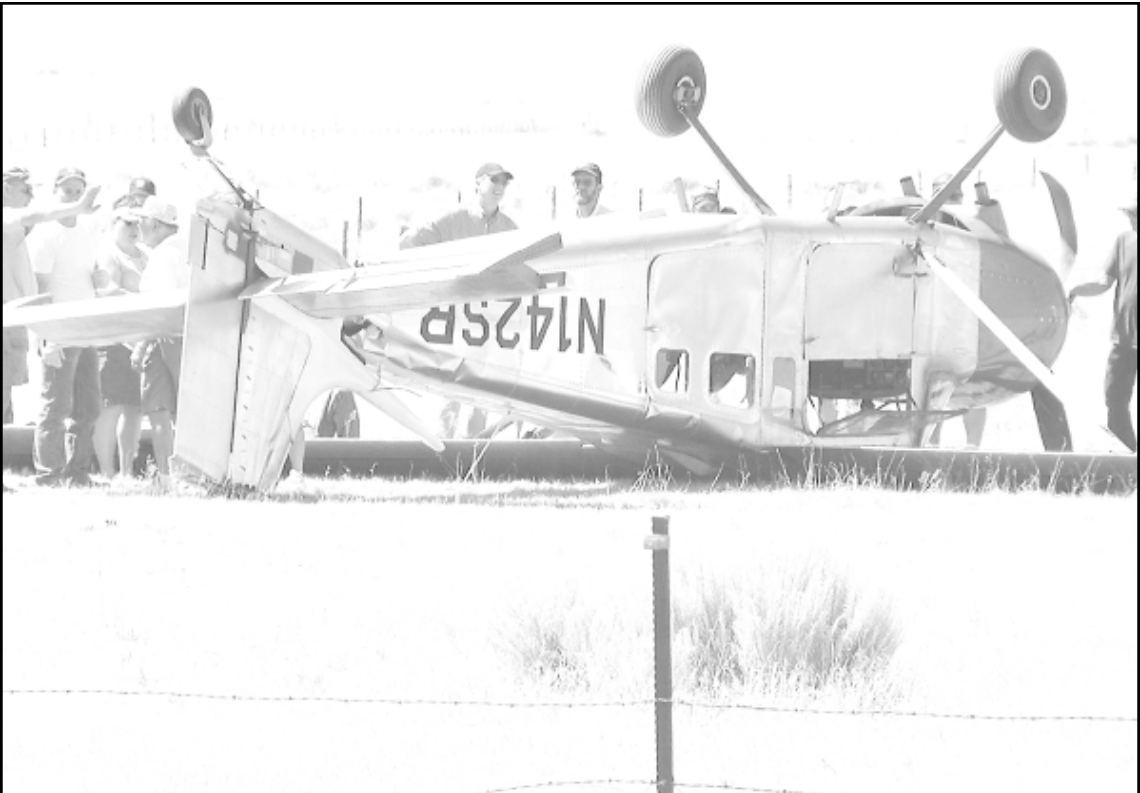
"I believe the board was looking for something they could add to the record to justify altering the hearing officer's decision," O'Neal charged.

Stafford said he would not comment on that.

"I need to wait to discuss this until after the final order is served," he said.

O'Neal said, by state law, the board's final order must identify any difference between the final order and the hearing officer's initial order. It must include conclusions of law and any policy reasons for the decision, including the sanction.

Hildyard may seek a stay of the board's decision, he said, either from the board or the Thomas County District Court, and can appeal the final decision.



Ted Waltman of Lakewood, Colo., took off from the Cheyenne County Airport in St. Francis on Saturday during the Stearman Fly-in but didn't get far in his homemade plane before hitting a barbed wire fence and flipping the plane onto its top. Waltman and his two passengers escaped without injury.

Photo by Casey McCormick/The St. Francis Herald

Plane crashes at Stearman Fly-In

By Karen Krien
The St. Francis Herald

A home-built plane left the runway during the Stearman Fly-In in St. Francis about 11 a.m. on Saturday. The plane ended up on its top, but the pilot and two passengers were able to walk away from the accident.

Ted Waltman, Lakewood, Colo., was flying the Murphy Moose plane. He said he built the plan about two years ago and this was his first trip to the Fly-In.

Bob Bixler, St. Francis, and his wife Colleen Shannon, were standing near the end the north/south runway where Waltman's plane was taking off. Bixler said the plane was about 50 feet in the air heading north when it passed them. He noticed that the engine was losing power and slowing down.

"I said I wonder what he is do-

ing," Bixler said. "He went a little farther and I could tell he was in trouble and was going to have to go down."

Planes taking off need to be at full speed when they reach the end of the runway, he said.

Bixler said the plane landed at the end of the runway still going at a pretty good speed. The plane hit a barbed wire fence which, Bixler said slowed it down, and then the nose hit the dirt and flipped the plane over on its top.

"I thought the pilot did a remarkable job of stopping the plane," Bixler said, adding that hitting the fence kept the plane from going onto U.S. 36.

Gary Rogers, Cheyenne County emergency preparedness manager, was the first to reach the plane, followed by volunteer firemen, police and state troopers. He said there

were no fuel spills and no injuries.

Federal Aviation Administration officials were contacted. Since there were no injuries and photos were available, they allowed the plane to be removed but it was four hours before the approval came through.

Rogers said expected an FAA official to be in St. Francis sometime this week to investigate the accident and check out the plane, which is in a hanger at the airport. The National Transportation Safety Board also was contacted.

Officials will have to make their investigation, then fill out a report. Until then, the reason for the engine failure is not known and, and Robert Grace, manager of the Cheyenne County Airport, said that report may take months before it is completed.



"Grandma" (above) sitting in her chair with a crocheted doily in her lap, a doll by Shirley Houston, was one of the pieces in the Goodland Art Walk. She sat on a dresser in Garcia's Home Furnishings last week but has been replaced by a trompe l'oeil for this week. The displays on the art walk will change pieces each week this month. Finding "Artie" (below) in a business that is not displaying art will win you another chance in the drawing for a basket of art by Northwest Kansas Artists' Roundtable members.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Art walk provides fun way to exercise

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

It's a woman's dream — art, shopping and music, and you can even get exercise while having so much fun you don't notice.

Not that there's nothing for men — the art includes items for form and function in the office and themes that include sports and the outdoors. And then there's a contest for everyone.

Whether you prefer watercolors, drawings or woodworking, collect dolls, love stained glass or can't get enough crafts, there is something for you to see on the Goodland Area Art Walk downtown this month.

The pieces are for sale, and if you take in the mile-long walk each week, you will see different pieces each time you make the trek down Main. If you stop on Saturday morning, you can enjoy live entertainment as well.

As you go through the Art Walk, be sure to pick up a copy of the map and have someone working at each business initial it when you stop in, so you can enter the drawing for a basket of original art work donated by participating members of the

Northwest Kansas Artists' Round Table.

You can turn in an initialed map each time you complete the walk, and if you find "Artie," you win an extra entry in the drawing. Artie, a metal sculpture, will be hiding in a different business each week, one on Main that is not part of the Art Walk.

It is a way to include all of the downtown businesses, said Kay Younger, economic development council project coordinator, who helped organize the walk.

The businesses on the walk are the Antique Warehouse, watercolors and oil paintings by Elwyn Vatcher; Carnegie Arts Center, woodwork by George Adelgren; El Dorado Western Wear, stained glass by Gary and Cynthia Kickler; Garcia's Home Furnishings, soft sculpture and trompe l'oeil by Shirley Houston; the Goodland Activities Center, hand-painted windows by Linda Foster; High Plains Office Supply, hand-carved items by Doug Hilty; Melody's Picnic in the Park, craft items by Melody Hartzler; Mr. Jim's His Shop, drawings and paintings by Steve Guenther and watercolors by Cally Krallman; and Sherman



County Economic Development, Native American-inspired art by Marilyn Cooper.

Musical performances are set for 10 a.m. on Saturdays at the corner of 11th and Main. Larry and Taylor McLemore and then Jillian Parker are scheduled for Saturday in front of El Dorado Western Wear. Parker will also perform on June 24.

Joseph Eli played the acoustic guitar and sang on June 3. Parker and Janet Redlin performed on June 10.

Atwood woman dies in crash near Colby

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

An Atwood woman was killed in a two-car accident Sunday night at the deadly "Nine-Mile" corner east of Colby.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Constance S. Lillich, 50, of Atwood, died in the wreck, which happened at 10:33 p.m. at the intersection of U.S. 83 and U.S. 24. The intersection is nine miles east of Colby.

Friends said Lillich had been to a church service in Hoxie and apparently was on her way home. The patrol said Lillich was driving west on U.S. 24 in a 2000 Buick when her car was hit by a 1995 Chevy driven by Josefa Alanis, 46, of Lexington, Neb.

Alanis was southbound on U.S. 83 and failed to stop at a stop sign, the

patrol said. She and a passenger, Selena Martinez, 24, also of Lexington, were ejected from the vehicle, the patrol said. Both were taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

Neither Alanis nor Martinez was wearing a seat belt, the patrol said.

Gwen Young, administrative assistant at the Colby hospital, said both were later taken to another hospital. She refused to say where.

Kristen Brands, public affairs manager for District 3 of the Kansas Department of Transportation in

Norton, said the last fatality at the intersection was about 18 months ago.

There have been many accidents at the intersection over the years, most involving drivers who run the stop signs for north-south traffic. Traffic on U.S. 83 is supposed to stop, while U.S. 24 running east-west is a through route. Brands said a study of the intersection resulted in installation of flashing lights on the stop signs, special signs and markings and rumble strips to improve safety.

County commissioners to meet Wednesday

The scheduled meeting of the Sherman County commissioners for Tuesday has been moved to 8 a.m. Wednesday in the commis-

corrections

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sioners room at the Sherman County Courthouse, 813 Broadway.


The meeting was delayed because a telephone conference about insurance had to be rescheduled.

On the agenda, the commissioners will approve the minutes from the previous meeting, open mail and look at the claims vouchers for payment.

At 8:15 a.m., a telephone conference is scheduled with Tom Job, administrator for the Kansas County Association Multi-Line Pool to discuss coverage for firemen who are paramedics.

KISS THE DONKEY

Relay for Life Fundraiser



Who would you like to see kiss a live donkey on stage at the Relay for Life?

Josh Dechant
Harvey Swager
Larry McCants
Dr. Travis Daise or
Trooper Joe Greene

To decide the winner, there are coin banks at First National Bank, Western State Bank, People's State Bank, BANKWEST and Rubidoll's Cowboy Loop.

The coin bank with the most change is the winner!

Thursday, June 15rd, Only

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Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Bedding Plants, Hanging Baskets, Planters and More!

Buy 1st plant at regular price, get 2nd plant of equal or lesser value FREE!

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