

Big Brothers/Big Sisters director asks for money

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

The new executive director of the three-county Big Brothers/Big Sisters program asked the city for money last Monday to keep the project going in Sherman County.

Sara Thompson said the organization has lost about \$25,000 in start-up grants that got it going. She said the organization has applied for other grants, but did not get one. Commissioners made no commitments, but suggested that she fill out an application.

Thompson said she was asking for help on monthly operating costs, including support fees to Kansas Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

She said part of the expense is the cost of background checks done on the adults who are matched with young people. She said five checks are done on each person.

"I have brought our financial information," Thompson said. "We serve Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace counties. We have 56 matches in all three counties, and

in Sherman we have 24."

She said the program's one-on-one mentoring helps kids and the mentors.

"It helps down the road, and we are a benefit to the community," she said. "Sherman County is struggling. The other two counties will help pay for the director and the support fees, but we are struggling here."

Thompson introduced Ryan Scheopner, board president, and Burton Pinalto, a board member, who came with her. She said they had asked the county commissioners for help also.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked who is paying for the program in Cheyenne and Wallace counties.

She said in Wallace County, the county got a grant from Midwest Energy to help pay the monthly costs, including rent and utilities.

In Cheyenne County, she said, they have money from the Century Two Fund from Bird City.

Thompson said the program gets \$500 from the regional prevention center for all

three counties, but that group only has \$18,000 and that aid is coming to an end.

She said the only grant the organization has is for children of those who have a parent in prison.

The Bowl for Kids Sake is the main fund raiser of the year, Thompson said, and this year they raised \$13,000.

She said they are looking at a fall fund raiser for next year so they don't get into this situation again.

Billinger asked Thompson if she had gotten an application from the city office.

She said she had not because she just arrived in September and didn't know one was needed.

Billinger said the city look at the applications when they do the budget. He asked if the organization is paying rent.

Thompson said \$225 a month. She said they have adequate office space, and that they do not pay utilities.

"I think it is a very good service and a great organization," Billinger said. "I think the kids are benefiting a lot."

Billinger thanked Thompson for coming and suggested she get an application for next year's city budget for 2008.

In other business, the commission:

- Held a closed-door session with City Attorney Jeff Mason on an attorney client matter. No action was taken when the commission returned.
- Approved payment to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates \$980 for preliminary engineering for the "geometric improvement" project to add turning lanes on Business U.S. 24 at Cherry. The commission also approved a request to the Kansas Department of Transportation for \$735 as the state's share.
- Heard from City Manager Wayne Hill that the garage behind 1310 College has been cleaned up so no hearing will be needed. Hill said that Steve Criswell, city building inspector, is working on a list of other places to get cleaned up.
- Heard that the heat pump system at the Steever Water Park is closer to being done. Hill said the concrete has been poured and

the fence is up. He said the city crew is ready to set the units, which should be ready to heat the pool in the spring.

- Heard that Hill has talked to John Collette, airport fixed-base operator, about a lease on the old barrel hangar, but has not heard back from him. Hill said both Collette and John Topliff, owner of Mr. Jims His and Hers Shop, who has asked about buying the hangar, will get a copy of the building information from Darin Neufeld, who has inspected the old WPA building.
- Asked City Attorney Jeff Mason about the status of the lawsuit filed to force cleanup of the K-Inn Motel. Mason said the 10 days to object to the district court order allowing the city to demolish the motel has ended. Mason said Jeff Harsh, motel owner, has until Dec. 27 to file an appeal.

The next city commission meeting will be at 5 p.m. on Monday. The commission meets upstairs at the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th. To gain entrance, press the button on the wall inside the first set of double doors.

Court hears arguments on Colby doctor's appeal

By Patty Decker
Colby Free Press

A hearing Tuesday involving a Colby doctor and the state Board of Healing Arts concluded after two hours with no decision from the court.

Dr. Victor H. Hildyard's attorney, Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson, appealed to the Thomas County District Court to overturn an order issued by the board to revoke Hildyard's medical license.

Mark Stafford of Topeka, the board's general counsel, and Diane Bellquist, assistant to Stafford, defended the board's decision.

District Judge Jack Burr said he would make a decision as soon as possible, but until then, the doctor is without his medical license.

In determining not to reinstate the doctor's license before his decision, Burr reiterated his previous statement that he would not prejudge the case. That was the same decision he made earlier this month after the Kansas Supreme Court overturned his August ruling staying the board's revocation of Hildyard's license.

"This is not at all easy," Burr said, "and I will be but a brief stopover as one side or the other will take immediate appeal following my decision."

Before hearing from both sides, Burr said he had read more than 3,000 pages of transcripts and was familiar with the arguments.

Hildyard's defense

O'Neal spoke first in front of a standing-room-only courtroom.

"It is clear from those in attendance that this is much more than a disciplinary action," he said. "This is also about the availability of health care in northwest Kansas."

O'Neal spoke about Hildyard's character and integrity and how he has practiced 30-plus years with no malpractice claims, but rather a career filled with delivering hundreds of babies and serving as chief of staff at Citizens Medical Center at least on four or five occasions.

"Today, we find ourselves in a unique position to defend Hildyard's integrity," O'Neal said, "a nightmare that the doctor has lived through for the last four years."

O'Neal said it is important to review the actions of Citizens Medical Center as background leading to this proceeding.

"Dr. Hildyard has suffered penalties that were unlawful and unrea-

sonable sanctions by CMC in losing his hospital privileges," he said. "Then, the doctor went through a nine-day hearing to defend himself against 19 counts of wrongdoing."

Summarizing that hearing, O'Neal said the board of healing arts' presiding officer, Edward Gaschler, found no standard of care issues, no dangers to patients, but did say some of the doctor's behavior was worthy of public censure.

"Four years ago," he said, "the action by the hospital leading to the suspension of his privileges was based on actions of behavior, with the hospital's counsel stipulating that no standard of care issues were involved."

The suspension four years ago rested on the testimony of one witness, who was discredited and admitted committing perjury at the initial hearing by the board's presiding officer, O'Neal said.

"In Gaschler's findings during the nine-day hearing (Oct. 5-17, 2005), it was made clear to everyone that the hearing was fatally flawed in due process and was a proverbial house of cards."

Based on the hearing, O'Neal said, it was clear both the hospital's actions and the board's final order revoking the doctor's license were extreme.

As for the standard-of-care cases reviewed by the board, O'Neal said, the hospital had gone more than eight years, covering hundreds of obstetric cases, but picked only a handful.

He spoke about the three obstetric patients involving allegations that Hildyard deviated from the standard of care when he encouraged one of the patients to push; in another when the doctor failed to go to the hospital during complaints of back pain; and the third situation was over mode of transportation when the doctor believed the patient needed to go to Hays — ambulance or personal vehicle.

In the initial findings, the hearing officer ruled the standard of care had been met in all situations.

O'Neal also spoke about steroid use and how the usage was alleged to be excessive. Gaschler ruled that the standard of care was met, he claimed.

O'Neal said the board second guessed its own hearing officer finding the standard of care was not met.

"Arrogantly, the board said the

hearing officer was not a doctor and basically that the board should be trusted as always right," he said.

O'Neal spoke about Hildyard's competency and how the board apparently suspected he was mentally or physically impaired.

"At no time did the board ask about the Colorado evaluation, which Dr. Hildyard submitted to and was cleared as being physically and mentally safe to practice," he said.

The board's argument

Stafford said he wanted to make it clear that nobody celebrates when a doctor's license is revoked.

"But it's the board's role to protect the public," he added.

In addressing O'Neal's remark about healthcare in northwest Kansas, Stafford said he cannot answer whether or not there is an adequate number of.

"I would also like to make it clear that the board does not do something at the behest of Citizens Medical Center," he said. "We are neutral and do not take sides."

He also spoke about the board's structure and said he wanted to clarify the agency is not a single entity, but rather similar to a small city or county.

"We have investigators, prosecutors, and the board itself," he said.

Stafford said neither the board nor he had reviewed any of the documents until the case came before them after the initial order from the hearing officer.

He added that the board would have had no information about the Colorado evaluation, which did not come up during the hearings.

"I can assure you there was no impropriety here and had the Board of Healing Arts has had the evaluation information, the results may have been different," he said.

Stafford said the board tried to solicit more information from the doctor, but he chose not to participate.

High rescue for emergency personnel



An ambulance crew from Goodland Medical Center worked near the top of the Frontier Equity Elevator, west old U.S. Highway 24. Marty Johnson of Marty's Electric was working up there and ended up breaking his leg. Johnson was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center and transferred on Tuesday to Presbyterian/St. Luke's in Denver.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

corrections

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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.

student of the week



Name: Nathan Linin
Parents: Max & Brenda Linin
Grade: Senior
Age: 17
We've nominated this student because: Nathan is very conscientious about school and his school work. He works well with other students, as well by himself. He is polite to staff and other students. He is an excellent student to have in the classroom.

Student Comment: Math is my favorite subject and I hope to pursue a career involving this department.

Activities involved in at school: basketball and golf.

My choice of movies, books, and games: Favorite movies are Tin Cup, Caddyshack, and National Treasure.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: attend college hopefully on a golf scholarship.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: starting a family, with an enjoyable job (Lord willing)

Favorite Quote: There are some people who dream of being great and there are others who wake up each morning and work towards those goals.



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□ 50 Blk & Blk wf Hfrs	1100 Bred LBW Angus	Jan. 20
□ 100 Blk Cows	75 - 3-5 years old Bred Blk Angus	
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Cutoff Date for Fiscal Year 2007 EQUIP Sign-up

December 15, 2006, is the cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications in Kansas to be considered for Fiscal Year 2007 funding. Stop by your local United States Dept. of Agriculture service center and visit with the Natural Resources Conservation Service or local Conservation District Manager to get more information about addressing your resource concerns.

Resource concerns include: Air Quality, Grazing, Lands Health, Soil Quality, Water Quality, and Water Quantity including the **new Quick Response Area (QRA) for Sherman County.**

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