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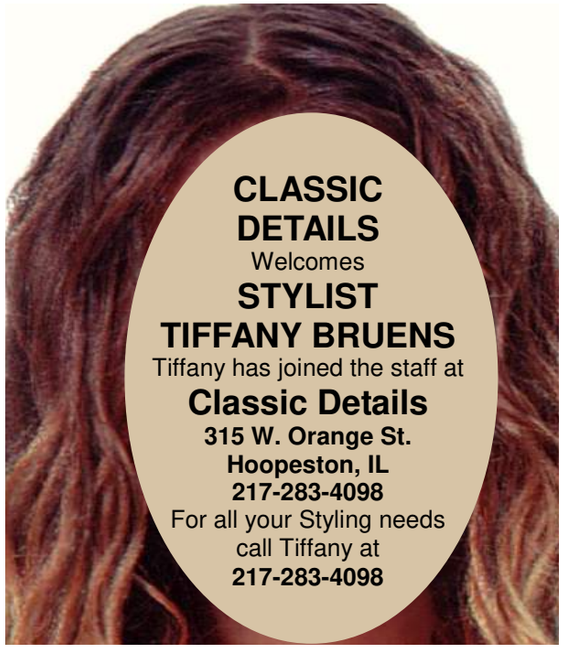

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Medical Center physician's contract terminated Friday

Doctor says he, attorney will meet with board to seek reinstatement of privileges

A Hoopeston doctor whose contract was terminated Friday plans to fight to get it reinstated.

Dr. Daniel R. Blizzard's contract with Hoopeston Regional Health Center was terminated at 5:15 p.m. Friday, January 12, by David Elliott, health center CEO.

"I feel it was a wrongful termination and per my attorney's advice, feel I shouldn't elaborate on that," Dr. Blizzard said in a telephone interview Tuesday morning. He added he felt he had made good relationships with patients he has seen. "I will miss caring for them," he said.

Dr. Blizzard said he plans to meet with his attorney and the hospital board about being reinstated. A date for the meeting has not been set.

Anna Viva Blizzard, Dr. Blizzard's wife, said her husband is represented by Rochelle Funderburg of Champaign-based Meyer Capel.

Dr. Blizzard's termination stemmed from his alleged treatment of a patient on December 15. The youngster was reportedly emotionally upset about a procedure when Blizzard allegedly tried to restrain and quiet the child, Elliott said..

The incident was reported to Elliott, who said he "investigated thoroughly," speaking with medical staff in the room at the time of the alleged incident.

Admitting it was a difficult decision to make, "I felt like I had to deal with it," Elliott said. He added that he offered Dr. Blizzard the opportunity to submit a written rebuttal to the board of directors concerning his termination.

Dr. Blizzard came to Hoopeston in 2005 and had about three years and eight months left on his five-year contract.

BLIZZARD

His time in Hoopeston has been marred by controversy, including a vehicle repossession and subsequent filing of Chapter 13 bankruptcy.

Filed in August 2006, the case seeks to discharge debt of between $500,001-$1 million, including claims from local financial institutions and contractors for the Blizzards' new home, vehicle financing, credit cards and the Washington state Department of Labor and Industries for 2005 Workman's Compensation insurance.

Under Chapter 13 bankruptcy, debtors work to come up with a plan to repay creditors. According to court records, the bankruptcy trustee has objected to two plans and major creditors have also filed objections.

Russell Clinic not closing

Speculation that the termination of Dr. Daniel R. Blizzard's contract will result in Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center closing is unfounded, said David Elliott, Hoopeston Regional Health Center CEO.

Dr. Hilary Frescoln will be working more hours and the health center is discussing options with another doctor and also with one of the hospital's emergency room physicians, he said.

While some patients may not be able to get same-day appointments for awhile, that is expected to be a short-term limitation. "I don't think there's going to be a big change," he said.

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Guerrilla Travel Tactics: Hundreds of Simple Strategies Guaranteed to Save Road Warriors Time and Money by Jay Conrad Levinson

The Penny Pincher's Passport to Luxury Travel by Joel L. Widzer

Ciao Asmara: a Classic Account of Contemporary Africa by Justin Hill

Jimmy Stewart, Bomber Pilot by Starr Smith

Understanding Iraq, the Whole Sweep of Iraqi History, from Ghengis Khan's Mogols to the Ottoman Turks to the British Mandate to the American Occupation by William R. Polk

The Gift of Valor: a War Story by Michael M. Phillips

My Detachment by Tracy Kidder

Non-Fiction

Legal Guide For Starting & Running a Small Business by Fred S. Steingold

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Spiders: a Portrait of the Animal World by Paul Sterry

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Police News

Eleaner M. Mann, 74, of Hoopeston was ticketed after an accident at 3:22 p.m. Monday at West Elm and South Second Ave.

Police said Mann, in a 1997 Ford, was eastbound when she allegedly disregarded a yield sign, causing Charlene Slaughter, also of Hoopeston, to swerve to avoid a collision. Slaughter's 2005 Chevrolet then hit a tree.

Slaughter was taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, then airlifted to Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, where she was listed in fair condition Tuesday morning.

Apolinar Solis, 45, of 38863 N 1830 East Rd., Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 12:50 a.m. Tuesday at Second Ave. and Chestnut.

He was charged with driving while license revoked and was released on $100 cash bond and a court date for Danville traffic court.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 28. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 18. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 34, low 20.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, **(217) 283-6221**.

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