



COLBY FREE PRESS

6 pages

Colby child learns lesson hard way

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

A 2 1/2-year-old Colby girl will probably pay closer attention to her parents following an ordeal at an area cemetery on Memorial Day.

A grave marker she was climbing on at the Gem Cemetery fell on her, breaking her leg. Madysyn Haggard was with her parents, Carla and Jared, putting flowers on graves when the accident occurred.

"Her parents had just warned her about playing around," said cemetery secretary Margaret Flanagin. "They just turned their backs for a second."

Madysyn climbed up on a marker sitting on a double base. As she pulled herself up, the mortar apparently came loose and the marker fell on her. Her parents took her to the emergency room at Citizens Medical Center where she was splinted.

The leg was put in a cast five days later and she will be fitted for a walking cast next week. "She's learning to scoot around pretty good," said her mother.

They (parents) just turned their backs for a second."

Margaret Flanagin
secretary, Gem Cemetery

Flanagin said she and her husband, John, inspected the other stones after the accident and found three others loose.

"We took them down and put them next to their base until we can get something to repair them," she said.

Carla Haggard said she thought the stone was from the 1800s. Flanagin said she didn't know how old the stone was, but Gem was the first cemetery in Thomas County and that stone had been there since "before I was alive."

The cemetery district includes Lacy and the western part of Wendell township and also encompasses the Cumberland Cemetery, north of Gem.

Higher oil prices spur ethanol demand

WICHITA (AP)—Higher oil prices and lower grain prices have combined to spur demand for ethanol, a grain alcohol fuel additive that makes gasoline burn more cleanly.

"It seems like we just get done loading rail cars and somebody is on the phone saying, 'Send us more,'" said Luke Reichenberger, operations coordinator at the High Plains Corp. plant in Colwich, which produces about 20 million gallons of ethanol a year.

Ethanol is made by fermenting grain and distilling the alcohol. It can be produced from almost anything with

starch content. Corn is the favorite feedstock in the United States, though Kansas plants primarily use grain sorghum because it is in good supply and is usually cheaper than corn.

The Colwich plant is one of four ethanol plants in Kansas. Others are in Leoti, Garden City and Atchison, and collectively they produce about 50 million gallons a year.

A fifth plant will have a 25-million-gallon capacity when it comes online in November in Russell, and a group of investors is beginning plans for a sixth plant in Garnett.



MAXINE NELSON/Colby Free Press

Lon Sowers provided the team for the oxen rides Sunday for the kickoff for Vacation Bible School at the Levant Community Church. Over 100 children and 34 helpers are participating in the school from 9 a.m. - noon through Thursday.

Local man offers kids unique experience

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Lon Sowers didn't go traditional in giving rides on Sunday for the kickoff of the Levant Community Church Vacation Bible School.

Instead, he turned to a team of oxen.

He said the Scottish Highland oxen are 3-years-old and that he got them two years ago in Laveda, Colo.

Their names are Gabriel the Golden and Eric the Red — Gabe and Rick

for short. In Scotland, the breed is called Kylie Koos.

Sowers said that he has had them in many parades, and that he always draws a crowd wherever he stops with the animals.

They participated in a parade at Russell on June 2, and in the Miles City, Mont., Bucking Horse Sale Parade in 2000.

Sowers had driven a team in a cattle drive from Texas to Montana in 1995, and was invited to participate in the parade in Montana. He also used the ox team to haul the wagon he had driven in the cattle drive.

Numerous athletic, activity contracts get school board's okay

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby Board of Education approved supplemental contracts for athletics and other activities during its regular meeting Monday night — but not before holding two closed-door sessions on the subject.

After 30 minutes the board returned to open session voting to approve the contracts 4-2. The two dissenting votes came from Wilburn Holloway and Bill Miller. Board member Cindi Kriss was absent.

"I would just like to note that I have a problem with two people in the contracts," Miller said following the vote.

According to information provided by Jeff Quenzer, activities director and assistant principal at Colby High School, there are 93 positions available

and of those 81 are filled for next year. "As an open position is filled," Quenzer said, "the respective supplemental contract will be brought to the board for approval."

The total cost, including current vacancies, for the 2001-02 school year was approved at \$172,762. Breakdowns in athletic supplemental contracts is \$133,153 and \$39,609 for activity totals. In most areas, the head coaching positions did not change from the previous year. Positions currently vacant at the high school include baseball assistant coach, cheerleading sponsor, football assistant coach, two junior class co-sponsors, science club advisor, and Technology Student Association advisor. At the middle school vacant positions include 8th grade basketball assistant coach for girls, 8th

grade football assistant coach, Technology Student Association advisor, and assistant coach in wrestling.

The following high school coaches/advisors were approved, unless otherwise indicated: Bernadine Samson, head coach academic bowl and senior class sponsor; Bill Weber, assistant coach academic bowl, assistant coach tennis, assistant coach 7th basketball boys, and assistant coach girls tennis; Kevin Cox, head coach baseball; Derek Bissett, head coach boys basketball and assistant coach middle school track; Tom Bowen, assistant coach boys basketball and head coach boys golf; Jack Elliott, head coach C-Team boys basketball and head coach softball; Tom Beckman, head coach girls basketball; Shaun Kidder, assistant girls basketball; Liz Gottsch, head

coach C-team basketball, assistant coach volleyball, head coach 8th girls basketball and assistant coach softball; Carla Cranston, cheerleading head coach; Donna Roberts, cosmic crayon advisor; Linda O'Connor, head coach drama and forensics; Ashley Guy, head coach drill team; Mike Gottsch, head coach football, assistant coach track, weights advisor and Letterman's Club; Troy Rall, assistant coach football; Brad Wildeman, assistant coach football, head coach 7th boys basketball, middle school head coach boys track; Eric Hemmert, head coach C-Team football and FFA sponsor; Mark Wahlmeier, assistant coach C-Team football; Nancy Rundel, assistant coach forensics; Leanna Wylie, French club advisor, co-advisor Spanish Club; and Ray Higley, assistant coach boys

golf, head coach girls golf, and middle school assistant coach wrestling.

More appointments included Julie Groom, instrumental music; Shirley Faber, National Honor Society sponsor, Spanish Club co-sponsor; Roni Dietz, service club sponsor, assistant coach softball; Brette Pfeifer, Stucco advisor; Mike Sprenkel, head coach boys and girls tennis; Gordon Rasmussen, head coach boys track; Lesley Wagoner, head coach girls track and volleyball head coach; Dee Hovda, assistant coach track; John Miles, assistant coach track and head coach 7th football; Brandi Gabel, volleyball C-team head coach and middle school assistant coach track; Chris Latta, vocal music; Mitch Beims, wrestling head coach; Scott Urban, assistant coach wrestling; Bob Mannebach,

head coach cross country; Norm Behring, head coach 7th girls basketball, head coach 7th volleyball; Dean Anderson, assistant coach 7th girls basketball; Clayton Hill, assistant coach 7th football; Shonna Davis, assistant coach 7th volleyball; Wayne Wiens, head coach 8th boys basketball; Justin Lane, assistant coach 8th boys basketball; Don Balluch, head coach 8th football; Liz Strand, head coach 8th volleyball and head coach middle school girls track; Karla Denny, middle school cheerleading; Cathy Cash, instrumental music; Joyce Mahin and Kyle Shiveley, Kids-In-Charge co-sponsors; Alec Bliss, middle school assistant coach track; Del Dack, middle school head coach wrestling; and Bert Stramel, middle school assistant coach wrestling.

Briefly

Weather: Much warmer

The National Weather Service sees temperatures in the mid-80s and perhaps even in the lower 90s in the Colby area as the week wears on. Tonight, mostly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, low 50-55 and southeast winds 5-15 mph. Wednesday, partly sunny, high 80-85 and east winds 5-15 mph. Wednesday night, partly cloudy, low 50-55. Thursday through Sunday, some thunderstorms likely, the low in the middle 50s and the high in the upper 80s to lower 90s. Monday's high in Colby was 67 and the overnight low this morning was 47. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 60 degrees. There was 0.01 inches additional precipitation during the past 24 hours, leaving the month's total to date at 0.09 inches. The records for June 5: 98 in 1960 and 39 in 1970. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

City council meets tonight

Approval of an airport management agreement will top the list of old business on the Colby City Council agenda tonight at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Warren Hixson directed airport board chairman Paul Steele at the last council meeting, May 22, to come back with a proposal that met the budget after the board requested an increase of \$400 per month immediately and another \$130 in June of 2002 for a fixed base operator. City manager Carolyn Armstrong told the board in the agenda that she hoped to have a final proposal by their meeting.

The council will also look at specifications for a new parks dept. mower and the purchase of a vibrating plow for the electric department, as well as the proposed schedule

for city budgets. There will also be a report on the wellhead protection plan, a new contract with Midwest Energy, a management committee meeting on the Ogallala Aquifer, and an upcoming increase in electric rates.

Jaycees plan fundraiser

The Colby Jaycees are holding a fundraising event with first prize being a 2000 Grand Prix, along with second and third place winners receiving cash. All proceeds from the event, organizers said, will help defray medical expenses for local resident, Adaline Delzeit, along with assisting programs at Colby Public Schools, Puddle Duck Preschool, Heartland Christian School, Sacred Heart School and the Kansas Jaycee Cerebral Palsy Ranch. For information or to request tickets, call 462-6557.

Craft fair expanding

The Colby Girl Scouts are once again organizing the October Craft-a-Ganza craft fair. This year, said Jan Barnum, one of the organizers, the scouts are adding antique dealers to have a wider variety of vendors. Crafters and antique dealers can call Barnum at 462-6503 for additional information.

Head Start seeks applications

Thomas County Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2001-2002 school year. This is a free preschool program for 3- and 4-year olds of income eligible families residing in Thomas County. Morning and afternoon sessions are available; the classroom is located at Colby Elementary School. For questions or information, call Julie Brown at 462-6067.

College accepts Internet access bid

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees voted Monday night, subject to approval by their attorney, to accept Southwestern Bell's Internet access bid for the college.

Southwestern Bell submitted a bid of \$14,388 per year to provide a full T1 line to the college. Setup date is July 2, which will give the college time to get the program up and running before school starts on Aug. 16.

The bid was approved over bids from NexTech for \$14,235, with set up costs of \$7,109.31; S&T Telephone for \$29,245.20, with set up costs of \$90 per hour, time not specified; and KanREN for \$23,940, with set up costs of \$3,600. All bids included a firewall.

The board instructed its attorney, Dave Starkey, to review the proposed contract and bring it back for the board's approval to be effective for three years, beginning in July.

The board accepted the recommendation of September Lee, computer specialist for the college, who said the college had been receiving free Internet access from IXKS because it housed some equipment at the college. However, there had been some

changes, and IXKS wanted \$900 per month for a 384K frame relay.

In other business:

• The board approved a contract with Dr. David M. Mruzek as instrumental band instructor.

He has a doctorate from Ohio State, and comes to Colby from Dodge City Community College. Mruzek was recommended by a committee appointed to select the instructor from several applicants.

• The board chose a mural on education to be painted by Ken Mitchell of Washington state for the Bedker Memorial Complex. Mitchell had sent two selections to choose from — one on education and one on agriculture. He is expected to fly into Denver about June 16.

Ken Krehbiel, board chairman, said he hopes to frame the two proposed drawings and sell them at the Endowment Auction.

• The board discussed the recent student-trustee dinner at which the trustees asked students for their comments on the college. Comments ranged from a perpetual complaint about the college library not being open enough hours, and lack of social activities; to praise for quality of teachers and generosity

of scholarships. Skip Sharp, dean of student activities, said social activities were provided, which were mostly attended by the dorm students. He said they were working on better communications with the off-campus students.

• The board approved installation of two starting blocks at the swimming pool. They will be situated on either side of the diving board, and will be of stainless steel. Two six-inch holes will be drilled two feet back from the edge of the pool and a sleeve inserted. The starting blocks will sit in the holes, and can be removed, and the holes covered when not in use. The board had approved the idea at a previous meeting subject to the approval of the architect Glen Strait, that it will not harm the pool plumbing. Gordon Rasmussen came on behalf of the Swim Club.

• The board went into a 30-minute executive session to discuss negotiations in preparation for a negotiating meeting. Offers and counter-offers were made by the board and Faculty Alliance at the negotiating meeting, but nothing was decided. The parties are at an impasse.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for June 18, and is open to the public.

