

Boxes and boxes of the good stuff



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Girl Scout Troop leaders and helpers Jan Barnum, Penny Cline, Mint Culver and Diane Carter went over the Scout cookie inventory list Wednesday after they were delivered to TNT Auction. The leaders were there to pick up the cookies for distribu-

tion to their troops for delivery through March 11. The Girl Scouts sold 867 cases of cookies, or 10,404 boxes, which was 16 more cases than last year. Many of the girls have already been out delivering the cookies.

Board tables policy dealing with doctors

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

HOXIE — A board policy which could define how doctors are disciplined at Sheridan County Health Complex has been tabled until the March trustee meeting.

Complex trustees tabled the proposed policy regarding disruptive physician conduct until Jim Turnbull, interim administrator, can amend the policy to include a due process clause and have it reviewed by hospital attorneys.

Former administrator Kyle Hahn presented the policy to trustees last week at the last meeting he attended before moving on to become administrator at Logan County Hospital, Oakley.

Turnbull is scheduled to present the policy to the medical staff for its review when it meets on Monday, Feb. 28.

"It's been tabled until Jim (Turnbull) can put a due process clause in it and take it to the medical staff and bring it back to the Board to be discussed," Trustee Ross Carder said Monday.

The three-strikes-you're out policy would give the board its first policy to deal with physician behavior deemed "disruptive, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate" toward hospital patients, long-term care residents, associates, other doctors, or visitors.

Trustees for the past six years have debated how to resolve differences among themselves regarding discipline of any physician who disrupts the function of the complex or meets disciplinary criteria outlined in the policy.

Should the policy come back to the table as currently proposed, any physician violating it would face an initial discipline as light as a meeting with the chief of staff and chief executive officer. During that meeting, it would be emphasized that the disruptive behavior must stop or the doctor could lose medical staff privileges for two weeks.

After a second incident, a doctor could lose privileges for one month. A third confirmed violation could result in permanent suspension of privileges.

Stopping just short of calling Dr.

John Rand Neuenschwander unprofessional during the January Board meeting, Hahn told the doctor his behavior needs to improve.

"We've had patients cry in the ER when you've seen them and (I've) had nurses and employees come to me and complain about how you've treated them," Hahn said at that time.

Since 1999, trustees have debated at what level of involvement Neuenschwander should have at the complex.

In late 1999, Neuenschwander's independent contact was not renewed following a lengthy battle involving trustees, former administrator Brian Kirk and the doctor.

The conflict included Neuenschwander filing a \$1 million lawsuit against Kirk. The suit was later dismissed and Kirk resigned in 2001, and the complex is now looking for its fourth administrator in a four-year period.

Neuenschwander, who has staff privileges at the hospital and long-term care facility, has not been included in the emergency room rotation since 1999. However, the doctor does see his own patients in the ER when called to do so.

Last May, trustees at the time which included Betty James, voted to return Neuenschwander to the emergency room rotation. James resigned only months after taking office and was replaced by former trustee Craig Cooper.

Despite trustees voting to return Neuenschwander to ER rotation, he has not yet done so because of a risk management issue currently under investigation.

On Monday, trustees met for 45-minutes in executive session to discuss the doctor's ER contract. They met another 40-minute executive session with Nurse Practitioner Kaylee Watkins to discuss risk management issues. No action was taken on the doctor's ER contract when they returned to open session.

The board is scheduled to take the policy up again at the March 21 meeting, which will begin at 10 a.m.

At noon, the board will meet with John Harris, accountant with BKD, the accounting firm from Wichita which prepares the annual audit.

Sheridan County has March 1 primary election

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

HOXIE — A primary election will take place Tuesday in Sheridan County to narrow the field of names for Hoxie City Water Commissioner.

Three Hoxie residents registered for the commissioner seat. They are incumbent Harold L. Timken, Troy Dewey, and Dawn Marie Jones.

Timken would like a second term as commissioner in order to "continue the project the commission has started."

"I will also listen to the people of the community on ideas and suggestions that will better the community for everyone," he said.

Timken attended grade school and earned his general equivalency diploma. He brings to the commis-

sion table a 60-year work experience which includes both military and civil work.

A retired laborer, Timken also serves the Hoxie community by being a public transportation driver.

If elected, Timken said his goal would be to "work on the betterment of the community."

Troy Dewey said he decided to run for office to "help serve the people of Hoxie, move forward and take advantage of any, and all, opportunities for the city of Hoxie."

Dewey graduated from Mankato High School and from Beloit Vocational Technical College with honors in electricity.

His work experience includes being transportation director for USD 278 Mankato School District, Sheridan County's county engineer,

a laborer with Woofter Pump and Well in Hoxie, and is now self-employed.

"Being self-employed has been a personal goal that was finally achieved," Dewey said.

If elected, Dewey said he would "help serve the citizens of Hoxie in making the city the best it can be."

Jones did not respond to questions posed by the Colby Free Press.

According to Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser, party affilia-

tion is not required to file for city office. Likewise, party affiliation is not required when a person files for a seat on a school board or hospital board.

She said the only office for which a party must be noted is for county, state or federal elected office.

Bielser said the top two vote recipients in the March 1 primary will advance to the April 5 general election for the water commission position

Cool schools discussed

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

GOODLAND — Students and teachers at North and West Elementary are looking forward to the Goodland School Board's efforts to cool their schools.

Sweltering summer school, hot springs and warm falls are forcing the board to look into installing air conditioning in the two buildings.

"Right now we're at the point where we can hardly use the buildings at all in June, July and August," said Superintendent Marvin Selby.

At a board meeting Monday, Glen Strait, owner of Strait Associates Architects in Colby, presented an air conditioning feasibility study to the board. Strait said he worked with Selby to tour West Elementary to check out the pipes and heating units.

"It's a really good building," he said. "It really is well maintained."

Strait presented an option to use the school's current hot water heating system by adding a water chiller to create cool air. The second option would be to install roof air conditioning units on each group of two classrooms.

The heating system at West, which is identical to North, uses coils carrying hot water to warm the air. A chiller would work on the same principal, Strait said, with the cool water chilling the air in the entire building.

Strait said the only drawback to the chiller system is the turnaround time. In spring or fall when the weather changes quickly, the system needs about a day to switch from heating to cooling.

He said if the day gets hot and classrooms need air conditioning, but the nights remain cold, it may be a problem to warm the water back up.

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"Good Times"

March 12, 2005

Goodland Elks Lodge

5:30 Social

7:00 Dinner/Auction/Drawings

\$30 single

\$45 couple

For more information contact

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