

**Pet Adoption**

Two cats looking for a home

The Colby Animal Clinic has two cats ready for adoption. One is a domestic short hair, tabby color, male with no collar. The other cat is also a domestic short hair, all black and male. Both are adult cats. Anyone interested in adopting either of these two animals is asked to call the clinic at 460-8621 or stop by the facility, 810 E. 4th, Colby. The only cost for adoption is updated immunization shots.



**Farm raises free-range turkeys**

NEW CARLISLE, Ohio (AP) — It's not easy raising turkeys in the great outdoors. Coyotes like to stop by for a snack, and even thunderstorms can pose a threat. But Bowman & Landes has been steadily carving out a market for free-range turkeys, resisting the trend toward indoor-raised birds to stick with the old-fashioned way. "They're just a healthier, happier turkey when they're running around," said co-owner Carl Bowman. "We think it's a more tender, juicy taste." Bowman & Landes has one of the largest free-range turkey operations in the state. About 60,000 turkeys are raised on a 140-acre farm near this western Ohio town and another 13,000 at a farm in north central Ohio. The white-feathered birds prowl the grassy fields, pecking at cracked corn and filling the air with clucks, chirps and gobbles. "A stressed-out animal is releasing all those bad hormones just like they do in people," Bowman said. "So our object is to keep the turkey as stress-free as possible." Most turkeys in the United States were raised outdoors in the 1940s and '50s, when turkeys were consumed primarily at Thanksgiving. The young turkeys could be raised in the warm-weather months and be

ready for slaughter by November, before cold weather moved in. But as turkey began to be consumed year-round, many farmers chose to raise the birds year-round and shield them from winter weather in barns and other enclosures. Mike Lilburn, a nutritionist at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, said more than 90 percent of U.S. turkeys are currently raised indoors. Indoor-raised turkeys are generally larger, have more breast meat and sell for about half the price of free-range birds, which consume more food, take more labor to raise, and can suffer a higher mortality rate because of predators. Even Bowman keeps his turkeys inside for the first six weeks of their lives, in part so the youngsters don't get carried away by owls. But coyotes are always a threat. "If they're really hungry, they can jump over the fence; or they go under," Bowman said of coyotes. "It's pretty hard to keep them out." Bowman uses llamas, a Great Pyrenees dog and even a donkey to try to keep the coyotes at bay. But there's little he can do about the weather. Earlier this summer hundreds of his turkeys died when a freak thunderstorm kicked up,

bringing driving rain and 40 mile-an-hour winds. "They just kind of get behind the feeder and start piling up on top of one another," Bowman said. "The ones underneath smothered." However, Bowman's turkey operation has never lost money and has grown 3 percent to 5 percent each year. Most of his customers are in southwest Ohio, but he also sells in Toledo, Cleveland and other areas. He also sells to a few health-food stores in Texas, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi and Alabama and health store distributors. Wooster-based Buehler Foods, which supplies 11 supermarkets, ordered three times as many Bowman & Landes turkeys this year than last. David Graf, meat buyer for the company, attributes it to more health-conscious consumers and a desire to consume local products. "It's definitely something that's catching on," said Jill Moorhead, marketing director for Hills Market, a gourmet grocery in Columbus. Moorhead said the store ordered 1,100 of the turkeys this year, up from 800 last year. On the Net: <http://www.bowmanlandes.com>

**Course seeks to debunk creationism, intelligent design**

LAWRENCE (AP) — Creationism and intelligent design have found a home at the University of Kansas. But supporters of the two theories are none too happy that the home is in a course being offered next semester by the religion department, titled "Special Topics in Religion: Intelligent Design, Creationism and other Religious Mythologies."

"The KU faculty has had enough," said Paul Mirecki, chairman of the school's religious studies department. Earlier this month, the state Board of Education adopted new science standards that treat evolution as a flawed theory — defying the view of national science groups. Though local school boards still decide how science is taught in the classrooms, the vote was viewed as big win for proponents of intelligent design, which says that the universe is so complex that it must have been created by a higher power.

John Calvert, an attorney and managing director of the Intelligent Design Network in Johnson County, said Mirecki will go down in history as one of the greatest laughingstocks of the century. "To equate intelligent design to

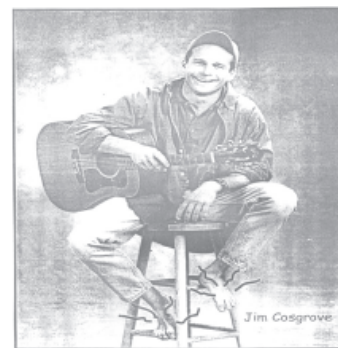
**“To equate intelligent design to mythology is really an absurdity, and it's just another example of labeling anybody who proposes intelligent design to be simply a religious nut.”**

John Calvert  
Intelligent Design Network

mythology is really an absurdity, and it's just another example of labeling anybody who proposes (intelligent design) to be simply a religious nut," Calvert said. "That's the reason for this little charade." Mirecki was untroubled. Limited to 120 students, he said his course would explore intelligent design as a modern American mythology. He said several faculty already have volunteered to be guest lecturers.

"Creationism is mythology," Mirecki said. "Intelligent design is mythology. It's not science. They try to make it sound like science. It clearly is not." Chancellor Robert Hemenway said Monday said he didn't know all the details about the new course. "If it's a course that's being offered in a serious and intellectually honest way, those are the kind of courses a university frequently offers," he said.

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