



COLBY FREE PRESS

Houston, we have a problem



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Freshman Kyle Molstad (wearing shorts) couldn't stop laughing after watching a fellow student's bottle rocket crash and burn during Gordon Rasmussen's freshman science class experiment Monday at Colby High School. During one of the launches, Tanner Corder's rocket paused, spewed water and then crashed not far from the launch pad. The students were asked to construct a rocket from a two-liter plastic bottle, which was filled with

one liter of water and had 40 psi of compressed air. The assignment was part of Rasmussen's curriculum dealing with Isaac Newton's three laws of motion. Standing left of Molstad are Kristina Kriby, Heather Binder, tech teacher Lamoreaux Fulwider, and Katelyn Schacher. Right of Molstad are Zeb Lynd, Jessica Leiker and high school math teacher Beau Sheets.

Colby Eagles have new football coach

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Colby High School has a new head football coach.

The Colby School Board approved Bob Ray at a special meeting Tuesday. Colby will be his first position as head football coach. Ray will also teach strength and weight training.

The board accepted the search committee's recommendation of Ray. Omar Weber, a member of the coach search committee, said Ray was the committee's unanimous choice.

"I was impressed with the number of applications, the good applications we received," Weber said.

The committee spent two months with the search process.

Ray replaces Greg Koenig, who coached the Eagles two seasons.

Ray has spent 10 years as a football coach.

For the past five years, he was an assistant coach at Missouri Southern State University, a four-year school in Joplin, Mo. He was wide receiver and running back coach the first two years, and coached the defensive line the past three years.

Before that, he spent two years at Baser Linwood in Kansas City. His first three years as a coach was at Hope.

He was a defensive coordinator at both schools.

Ray said he was ready to make the step up to head coach.

"I wanted to have a more stable coaching career than college, and spend more time with my family,"

he said.

He and wife Cindy have two children, Skyler, 3, and five-month-old daughter Brynn.

Ray will be in town by May 22 to take over the school's summer weight program.

"I think it's a great opportunity," he said.

"I think the community is hungry to get a winner. I want to help out the best I can.

"The kids are hungry too."

He wants to build up community support for the athletic program.

Ray is no stranger to adversity. His first season at Missouri Southern, the team went 1-10 and the coach quit.

New head coach John Ware died suddenly of a heart attack last September.

Ray grew up in Ulysses before moving to Hillsboro, graduating from high school there in 1990. Ray continued his education at Tabor College in Hillsboro.

He majored in elementary education at Tabor; received his secondary administration masters from William Woods, and his physical education certification from Missouri Southern.

Ray played football at Tabor, and was a running back.

He was All-Conference his junior and senior years. He also played baseball two years.



B. Ray

Mayor impressed with library, recreation department

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The viability of programs and services at the library and recreation department were analyzed by the Colby City Council Tuesday.

"In 2005, we added a video projector for the conference room, an mp3 player with audio books, a laptop checkout, and video games as some of our new services," Pioneer Memorial Library Director Jeff Friesen said.

"This goes hand-in-hand with the part of our mission that never changes — service."

Recreation Director Ryan Sturdy also spoke about services including young people and adults.

"Last year, we started an after-school program with help from 10 to 15 other groups and the numbers of participants continues to increase," he said.

Sturdy, who was accompanied by Assistant Recreation Director Josh Elliott, talked about the addition of new programs and ideas in 2005 to include dodgeball, kickball and organizing out-of-town trips.

Some of the ideas are still in the planning process, Sturdy said, but trips to Kansas City to watch NASCAR, along with casino and symphony trips are being discussed by



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Pioneer Memorial Library children's librarian Judy Kleinsorge, right, read to children during one of the many programming sessions held during the year.

his board.

Sturdy told the council one ongoing project for the past 10 years is the baseball fields.

Many projects completed in the past decade included grass work, picnic areas, adding new bleachers and in 2005 installing an underground sprinkler system. In January, the recreation board revised its five-year plan with continued emphasis on

baseball field beautification.

"It's a slow process, but we are continuing to move forward," he said.

The recreation department did away with one of the baseball divisions and changed the age limits within the divisions.

"Starting this summer, T-ball, which was open to 5 and 6-year-olds, is now for open to 4 and 5-year olds with the 6-year-olds going into the Rookie Division," he said.



J. Friesen



R. Sturdy

The junior boys division (ages 9-10) is now for ages 10-13 and the Rookie Division will include ages 6-9.

Middle and high school basketball and volleyball summer programs will continue. Something new for the rec department is mud volleyball for ages 16 and older.

Library

Friesen spoke of technology and how services are becoming user-centered with downloadable audio books, readily accessible databases through the Kansas Library Card and wireless internet access.

"Pioneer Memorial Library worked hard to underscore its commitment to the community, whether it was retrieving information, a readers' advisory or helping someone with technology," he said.

Friesen encouraged council members to

visit the library's Web site, online catalog or blog.

The website address is: www.colby-library.com

The library's basement and how the space can be used continues to be a discussion item.

"We received a \$10,000 Challenge Grant and with that \$35,000 is in the bank for finishing the basement."

The cost for finishing the basement is estimated at \$50,000 to \$60,000.

In his annual report, Friesen noted 38,000 books are available for lending, 119 magazine titles, 3,775 audio cassettes/CDs, 2,043 videos/DVDs, 92 cake pans, 24 puzzles and 13 video games.

For a small price, the library also rents slide projectors, a DVD player, movie projectors, 18-quart electric roaster, bread-making machine, 30-cup coffee percolator and an overhead projector.

Mayor Ken Bieber commended Friesen and Sturdy on how well they operate the respective departments.

"You are doing a great job," he said.

Friesen and Sturdy urge residents to call 460-4470 or 460-4440 respectively with questions about programs and services available in Colby.

Meditators to build

SMITH CENTER (AP) — Followers of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, known for founding the transcendental meditation movement, recently broke ground on a complex they are calling the World Capital of Peace.

The \$14 million project will sit on 480 acres of land in north-central Kansas, near the Nebraska border and close to the geographical center of the continental United States.

"I really felt good about it," said Smith Center Mayor Randy Archer, whose initial reservations about the Maharishi moving to the region were put to rest at the groundbreaking last week.

"I think they will blend and mesh

with the community and the county. But any time a change comes in, usually it's scary."

The transcendental meditation movement began in India in the 1950s and is best-known for celebrity disciples that included the Beatles, comedian Andy Kaufman and actor and director Clint Eastwood.

The Maharishi-affiliated groups at work in Smith Center are non-profit organizations known as the U.S. Peace Government and the Global Country of World Peace.

Officials said this week they chose Smith Center because of its quiet, rural setting in middle America.

Fatal I-70 wreck discovered in grass fire

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

What was initially believed to be a grass fire, turned out to be a fatal, one-vehicle accident late Sunday near Brewster.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, Dr. David G. Hof, 59, of Leawood apparently fell asleep at 11:54 p.m. while driving east on Interstate 70.

According to the report, Hof was driving a 2002 Land Rover and went off the roadway. The vehicle continued off the roadway, hit an embankment, became airborne, caught fire and started a

“He went to extraordinary lengths to take care of his patients . . .”

Colleagues said about deceased

grass fire.

Trooper Josh McQuitty said the time between when the accident happened and when it was reported isn't known.

"No one actually saw the accident occur," he said.

McQuitty said someone driving by saw the fire and called it in. According to Brewster Fire Chief Willard Krumrine, he thought they

were responding to a grass fire but discovered the car.

"At this time we don't know positively what caused the fire," McQuitty said.

The determination Hoff fell asleep at the wheel came from what appeared to be a gradual drift off the road. McQuitty said there were no signs Hof turned the wheel to bring the vehicle back onto the interstate.

According to the *Kansas City Star*, Hof was a lung specialist with Medical Plaza Consultants in Kansas City. He was also a clinical professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.

Colleagues said about him he "went to extraordinary lengths to take care of his patients' needs, purchasing medications for those who could no afford them, making house calls, lending money to patients, and even paying for insurance premiums."

The newspaper also stated Hof was coming home from Colorado.