



City vote confirms replacement

By Kayla Cornett
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Mayor Gary Adrian announced to the Colby City Council at a special meeting Tuesday night that Councilman Omar Weber had resigned his seat because he had been hired as the city's new public works director.

Adrian then said he had asked former Councilman Phil DeYoung, technology coordinator for the Colby Public Schools, to replace Weber on the council.

Councilman Pat Mallory made a motion to accept DeYoung as the new member, but Councilman Dave Voss asked when the council was officially notified that Weber accepted the position or even had been hired?

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the members hadn't been notified because she had been sick last week.

"I understand that ..." Voss said. "This is pretty short notice. We lost a councilman, nobody knew about it; we appointed somebody, nobody knew about it. I'm just a little stunned."

Adrian said it is the mayor's right to make an appointment under state law. Voss said he understood that, but he felt that it's a little unfair that the council, or at least certain members, was left out of the loop.

A few of the members said they

heard the news around town or "through the grapevine."

Councilman Fred Taylor then seconded Mallory's motion, but the members continued discussing the situation before voting on it.

There apparently was no public notice of the council vacancy or the special meeting. The Colby Free Press did not receive an agenda for the special meeting until it asked for one Tuesday. The paper usually gets an agenda by fax and e-mail. Mayor Adrian said he got one Thursday or Friday, however.

Advance notice of special meetings must go to news organizations and others who ask for it under provisions of the Kansas Open Meetings Law.

Voss said he certainly has no problem with DeYoung. He said that they are good friends and he thinks DeYoung would do a good job.

"I have a problem with the way this was handled, period," he said. "I'm very unhappy."

Mallory asked how Voss would have liked to see it happen, and Voss said he thinks the council should have received some type of notification.

Councilman Tim Hutfles said even a courtesy call would have been nice. Since the approval requires a majority of the council, why weren't the members at least somewhat kept in the loop? he

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Library reopens

The Pioneer Memorial Library celebrated the end of a month-long renovation Sunday with an open house. Patrons were invited to check out the new look while enjoying tea and cookies. Alica Unruh (above) checked out movies for Pat Criss. Kathy Diederich and her daughter Samantha (left) looked over the children's section of the library and checked out the educational games on one of two computers there. Many people checked out books, since the library had been closed for a month to get new paint, carpet, tile and upholstered furniture.

College board hears future plans for program

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The Colby Community College trustees received a check for \$60,000 from the EduKan online program Monday because enrollment for the program this semester was higher than the college had last semester and heard about plans the program has for improvements.

EduKan is an online education program that works with six community colleges in Kansas, including Colby, to give students the ability to complete their associate's degree online.

EduKan chief Mark Sarver told the board the program is up almost 21 percent from last year in enrollment and Colby is up 22 1/4 percent over last year, moving from 2,200 credit hours to almost 2,700.

Sarver said Colby is now third in credit

hours out of all colleges using EduKan, when it was at the bottom last year.

He said they are renegotiating their contract with eCollege, and the eCompanion product the college uses, for which it pays \$11,000 or \$12,000 per semester, will be free next term.

Sarver said EduKan is developing a "beta," or test, program where one institution would power a program with specific parameters about when to start and

stop the program. He said in the past, they would have to get approval from all the schools before trying out something new, so this process will make it much easier to try something new, and EduKan can work with just one school on a project.

"You guys haven't done that yet, but we have an opportunity with some international students," Sarver said. "There's a company in Turkey that wants to broker EduKan classes and we're meeting to

discuss the final (memorandum of agreement) next week, but the basic gist is they want a percentage ... to recruit the students, put all their files together, package it, put the check in the envelope and send it to us.

"Seems like a pretty good deal for 10 percent."

Sarver said the company anticipates

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Race to the finish



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Colby Middle and Grade schools celebrated the last day of school Tuesday with a picnic at the Fike Park. Students, pets and parents enjoyed the warm but breezy weather. After the picnic, these boys raced their toy cars down a slide with plastic wrist bands as obstacles.

Pakistan convicts doctor who helped find bin Laden

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) - A Pakistani doctor who helped the U.S. track down Osama bin Laden was sentenced to 33 years in prison on Wednesday for conspiring against the state, officials said, a verdict that's likely to further strain the country's relationship with Washington.

Shakil Afridi ran a vaccination program for the CIA to collect DNA and verify bin Laden's presence at the compound in the town of Abbottabad where U.S. commandos killed the al-Qaida chief last May in a unilateral raid.

The operation outraged Pakistani officials, who portrayed it as an act of treachery by a supposed ally.

Senior U.S. officials have called for Afridi to be

released. Pentagon press secretary George Little declined to talk about the specific case, but told reporters Wednesday in Washington that "anyone who supported the United States in finding Osama bin Laden was not working against Pakistan. They were working against al-Qaida."

But many Pakistani officials, especially those working for the country's powerful spy agency, do not see it that way.

"He was working for a foreign spy agency. We are looking after our national interests," said a Pakistani intelligence official, speaking on condition of that his name not be used in line with the agency's policy.

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Thieves steal trailer full of flagpoles

LAWRENCE (AP) - Memorial Park Cemetery in Lawrence will not have its traditional "avenue of flags" on Memorial Day because thieves stole a trailer full of flagpoles.

The Lawrence Veterans of Foreign Wars reported the theft of the trailer with 300 flagpoles to police last week. The trailer was stored

on the post's property.

Post Commander Fred Shockey says the VFW will still have its traditional Memorial Day ceremony and put flags on gravestones. The post will try to raise money in the next year to replace the flagpoles.

Shockey says some of the poles included brass plaques honoring veterans.

The Lawrence Journal-World reports (bit.ly/Jxbjea) post members have checked with area metal recycling businesses but no one has seen the plaques or flagpoles.

