

Weather

Kids prepare for after high school

Briefly

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have always been ready to do their college work each morning, and unlike other schools, they have never had behavior issues.

A \$50,000 "Tools for Success" grant awarded to Northwest Tech by the Dane. G. Hansen Foundation will help these students get the tools they need for the classes, Clark-Leiker said, because the college does not normally give them tools.

Clark-Leiker said the high school has adopted the national "College and Career Ready" system of preparing students to be able to either enter the workforce or get additional training after graduating. This system organizes a student's preparation for a job or training according to their area of interest, and includes a wide range of methods to prepare kids as they go through high school, including keeping a career portfolio, preparing for college tests, and having parent-teacher conferences in which they lead the discussion.

In other business, the board heard reports from administrators:

• Activities Director Larry Gabel said that Abby Friesen and Alex Juenemann went to

a state piano competition the weekend before the meeting. The first Great Western Activities Conference Music Festival was held Valentine's Day, and four students went on to the Kansas Music Educators' Association honor band and choir last weekend.

• Grade School Principal Lance Krannawiter said the site council, a group of parents, faculty and community leaders, talked about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act flexibility waiver at the fourth of its six yearly meetings. The grade school got a 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant, worth just under \$600,000, for after-school activities. It will pay for businesses that teach things like dance, gym and martial arts to give kids a chance to participate for five years. He gave "99.9 percent" of the credit for getting the grant to Curriculum Director Diana Weiland, who said later that the school hopes to start the program a week after spring break. Kathy Vaughn, a retired teacher, volunteered as the coordinator, she said.

• Middle School Principal Rob Ross said the school's basketball season was scheduled to finish up last weekend, and warned the board he might have to ask for another tempo-

rary coach, because over 90 kids signed up for the track team, which starts its season Friday. He congratulated the students for their participation at the Great Western Activities Conference Music Festival and the Thomas County Spelling Bee, where Tanner Reed placed third and Peyton Ortnor fourth.

• High School Principal Jeff Wallingford said he was at the USA/Kansas conference Jan. 23 to 25 in Wichita. It was sponsored in part by a company owned by the Discovery Channel, which Wallingford said offered some good technology to use in classrooms, including video that allowed him to talk to teachers in California.

All the high school students were bused to the National Guard armory for a career fair Feb. 6, he said. A Fort Hays State University student recognition event was Feb. 11. Donna Henry was selected as Teacher of the Year. The second lockdown drill of the year was on Jan. 24, he said. Law enforcement officers came to the school with a drug dog, which, yet again, did not find anything, even though it also searched the parking lot this time.

"It was dead quiet, which is how it should be," Wallingford said.

• Curriculum Director Weiland reported that the district got or is applying for several grants. This included \$400 from the Thomas County Community Foundation for the school's MyON reader program, allowing them to by some additional online books. The wellness committee got a \$1,000 grant to provide kids with healthy snacks. The school is also up for either a \$10,000 or a \$25,000 "GrowAmerica" grant from Monsanto, and she hopes to get nominations from area farmers, which are due April 15. Farmers must be at least 25 years old and actively farming at least 250 acres. Weiland also said she will apply to get the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant for middle school students.

• Superintendent Terrel Harrison said the board will have a training April 29 for Board Docs, software that it voted to purchase at its last meeting. Each board member will get an iPad to start the training at the April 15 meeting. She said 360 Energy Engineers, a company the district hired to audit the heating and cooling systems school buildings, would like to present its final plan in April if it is hired to upgrade the buildings.

Annual formal dress sale begins Monday

It is time again for the annual formal dress sale, featuring "gently-used dresses in a wide array of colors, styles and sizes." The sale will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, March 8, at the First Presbyterian Church in Colby, 414 West Fourth St. All proceeds go to support the Genesis-Thomas County food bank. For information, call Sue Draper at 460-6332.

World Day of Prayer luncheon planned

"I was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me" is the theme for the World Day of Prayer luncheon and worship service at noon Friday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Members from several Colby churches will present the program. Offerings will be taken for lunch and for grants. For information, call Millie Horlach, chair of Colby Church Women United, at 462-3104.

Library to put on murder mystery on Saturday

You are invited "To Wake the Dead" at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library Murder Mystery performance at the library, 375 W. Fourth St. in Colby. Tickets for dinner and fun, \$25, are on sale now. For information, call Melany Wilks at 460-4470.

Group plans dance at American Legion

A public dance is planned for 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Colby American Legion Hall. Ray and Pauletta Gerver will provide music. Everyone is welcome. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

Gem Lions Club plans annual winter soup day

The Gem Lions Club will have its annual winter soup day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Gem Community Building. Your donations and recycled eyeglasses and hearing aids go to help people in need. Serving homemade veggie, chili or potato soup and good conversation. For information, call Ken Poland at 462-7809.

Gem 4-H Club will have bake sale Saturday

The Gem 4-H Club will have a bake sale Saturday at the same time as the Gem Lions Club's annual soup day. Come by and get treats that will help raise money for the club. For information, call Carmen Cornell at (785) 217-7094.

Veteran's commission will help with benefits

Veterans can get help obtaining benefits from the federal government when the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Mobile Office will be at the Orscheln parking lot in Colby from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday. Benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs could include disability compensation, improved pensions, death pensions, health care and more. Call (785) 220-8900 for information.

College to replace leaking fitness roof

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Approved the minutes of the Jan. 21 meeting with a correction. College attorney John Gatz said the reason of a closed session at the beginning of the meeting was not for agreements; it was for attorney/client privilege.

Approved agreements, contracts and payment of claims.

Approved seven resignations: Joe Kreutzer, maintenance technician; Kelsey Monahan, assistant volleyball coach; Alan Waites, chief financial officer and vice president of business affairs; Sandy Hill, anatomy and physiology instructor; Diane Williams, business instructor; LaDonna Dempewolf, financial aid counselor and associate registrar; and Dr. Marcy Ward, beef cattle program director and instructor.

Filled out a Higher Learning Commis-

sion questionnaire. Vacik said the questionnaire he gave them was different from the one in their packets because it had been changed by the commission.

Approved the residence hall contract for next year. Vacik said there were only a few changes, including changing the student reservation fee from \$100 to \$25 so that it's more reasonable. Charles Keefer, director of campus life and residence life, said they also put three places on the contract for students to initial to help make it clear that it is a year-long contract.

Heard the January financial report from Alan Waites, chief financial officer and vice president of business affairs. He said year-to-date expenditures are on track, with \$248,400 of encumbrances as of Jan. 31. The annual budget forecast of \$13.880 million still holds, budget reports indicate \$6.2 million remaining and the cash balance at

Jan. 31 was \$1.95 million.

"January, of course, is our strongest cash flow month for the entire year," Waites said. "It won't last."

He said they are still watching cash flow and conserving cash because the cash they have now needs to last until May.

In other items, Waites said academic program review work continues, work has begun on the 2013-14 budget, cash management will remain critical for the foreseeable future, several data submittals and financial survey requirements are being met and work continues on a Higher Learning Commission financial review follow up, which needs to be filed by May 25.

He added that the audit report has finally been completed and was given to him and to Vacik on Friday. He said he will send the report to the trustees and the firm will be ready to present it at the March meeting.

Congress passes bill renewing anti-violence law

By Jim Abrams

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House today passed and sent to President Barack Obama a far-reaching extension of the Violence Against Women Act. The vote came after House Republican leaders, cognizant of divisions in their own ranks and the need to improve their faltering image among women voters, accepted a bill that cleared the Senate two weeks ago on a strong bipartisan vote.

The bill renews a 1994 law that has set the standard for how to protect women, and some men, from domestic abuse and prosecute abusers. Today's 286-138 vote came after House lawmakers rejected a more limited approach offered by Republi-

cans.

It was the third time this year that House Speaker John Boehner has allowed Democrats and moderates in his own party prevail over the GOP's much larger conservative wing. As with a Jan. 1 vote to avoid the fiscal cliff and legislation to extend Superstorm Sandy aid, a majority of House Republicans voted against the final anti-violence bill.

The law has been renewed twice before without controversy, but it lapsed in 2011 as it was caught up in the partisan battles that now divide Congress.

Last year, the House refused to go along with a Senate-passed bill that would have made clear that lesbians, gays, immigrants and Native American women should have equal access to Violence Against Women Act pro-

grams.

It appeared the scenario would be repeated this year when the House introduced a bill that didn't mention the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and watered down a Senate provision allowing tribal courts to prosecute non-Indians who attack their Indian partners on tribal lands.



Table with columns for TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, etc.) and time slots (7:00, 7:30, etc.) for Saturday Evening on March 2, 2013.

American Profile advertisement with headline "We Celebrate Hometown Life" and a grid of program listings.

LOCAL TV Listings logo and "Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS" text.

Table with columns for TV channels (KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, etc.) and time slots (7:00, 7:30, etc.) for Sunday Evening on March 3, 2013.