

Program leaders offer volunteers some advice

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might want to get involved here. Melissa Chapman came with her daughter Kayla, saying she wants her children to benefit. Irma Benavides said she heard the radio show and wanted to learn more.

Nancy Jeter works for the state organization, based in Wichita, as the northwest Kansas field manager in Hays. She has been guiding the board here and drove from Hays Monday to meet with Mork and Hanna.

Board members at the meeting included President Michelle Hayden, a speech pathologist at West Elementary School; Barbara Fernandez, regional director of Harvest America Corp.; Schyler Goodwin, president of the Goodland Development Corp. and community development officer at Bankwest; Mitch Hixson, real estate agent for Homeland Real Estate; and Cris Lovington, director of the Regional Prevention Center.

Lovington brought her husband Art, a sheriff's deputy, and her neighbor Justin Bentzinger.

Mork said the board needs to hire and pay a full-time employee to lead the program and complete day-to-day

activities. That person, he added, needs to be top-notch.

"If you don't have that person," he said, "all your work will be wasted. They need to be out there representing you."

After the program is established, Mork said, burnout will probably set in and board members will be tempted to pass the flame, but that's when they need to step up involvement.

"If you step aside," he said, "that's going to put Big Brothers Big Sisters in jeopardy."

Responding to a question, Mork said children in the program are 46 percent less likely to use drugs, 26 percent less likely to abuse alcohol and one-third less likely to skip school.

Hanna, retired president of Koch Industries in Wichita, said he approaches the program like a business, the more you put in the more you get out. He said the board can help more children if it's creative when making matches. Nothing is better than the



Bill Hanna

one-on-one match, he said, but that's not always possible.

The board may want to think about matching a group of children with a volunteer, he said, or find other creative ways to serve more kids.

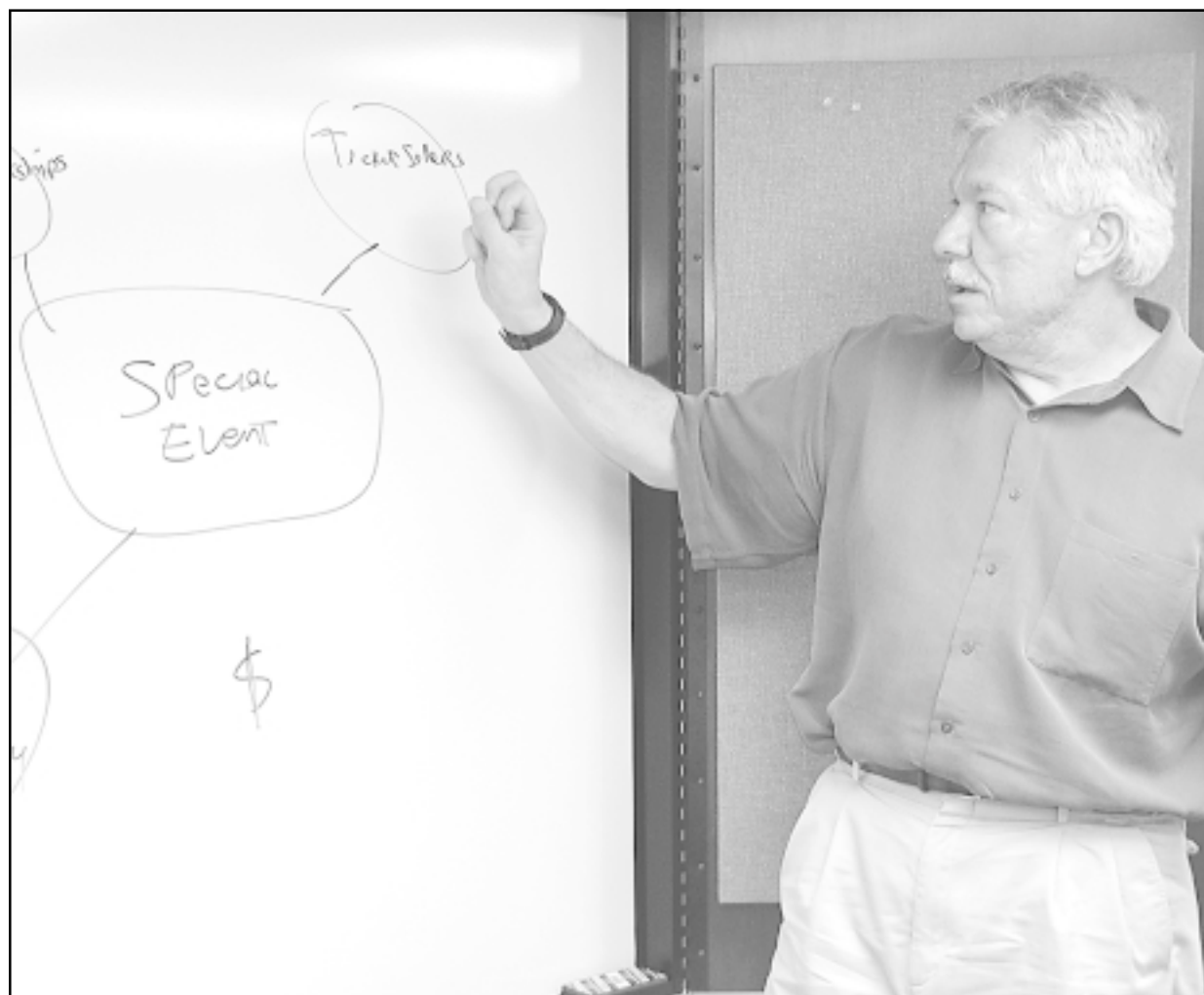
Hayden, board president, said people have told her they're afraid the program will become a financial burden for businesses and residents. The board plans to cover start-up costs with grant money, she said.

Hanna said board members will have to figure out each year how much they will spend and how much they will make. If there's a discrepancy between costs and revenue, he said, then members will have to organize fundraisers to make money.

Mork said the program's biggest fund-raiser each year will be "Bowl For Kid's Sake," where bowling teams find sponsors to pledge money to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Board members haven't set a date, but plan to hold the event sometime this summer.

If it's successful, Mork said, Big Brothers Big Sisters will make children want to stay in their hometown.

"These kids aren't going to be connected to this community if they're not connected to adults," he said.



Nick Mork, who is helping to run the Big Brothers Big Sisters state organization, talked on Monday with volunteers who want to start a program here about how to organize a special event.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

The group discussed whether the program was really necessary in a rural city where children aren't exposed to the same dangers as in the big city.

Cris Lovington said the program will be beneficial to any child who needs a role model in their life. It's not meant to punish or reform kids, she

said. "Just because they're in the program," she said, "doesn't mean they're in trouble."

House, Senate to begin budget talks on Tuesday

BUDGET, from Page 1

in five months because it didn't have enough cash. School districts were shorted \$33 million this week.

Asked when the payment would be made, State Budget Director Duane Goossen said, "We hope next week. We're not sure."

House and Senate negotiators planned to begin talks Tuesday on the final version of the budget.

But Rep. Laura McClure, D-Osborne, told The Hays Daily News that "it's going to take a miracle" to resolve budget issues.

"We have to get serious," she said. "I don't know what they think these people out here are going to do — just sit here and wait? I just don't understand."

In Topeka, Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, said Graves simply was warning lawmakers that "there is an enormous amount of

work to be done."

"The governor just reminded us what the consequences are if we can't get our work done on time," he said.

Graves said he expects legislators to "sit a while" when they return as they try to solve the budget crisis.

"The conclusion of this session, at the moment, is a mystery to me," he said. "I think the special session — there is a pretty good chance there will be one."

He added: "They should not take me for granted."

A special session would be the first since December 1989 and it would cost taxpayers at least \$50,000 a day.

Both the House and Senate budget plans would use more than \$100 million from the reserves. The House plan is \$106 million short of balancing, while the Senate proposal leaves a \$306 million gap.

Graves vetoes plate bill

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves on Thursday vetoed a bill authorizing Kansas license plates with the phrase "Choose Life," saying plates "should not be used as moving billboards for editorial comment."

Abortion opponents had promoted the legislation, describing it as a way to raise money to promote adoption instead of abortion.

Graves saw the goal otherwise, telling legislators in his veto message that license plates are a tool to help law enforcement identify vehicles, not a medium for making political statements. Under the bill, Kansans who wanted the plate would pay the normal

\$40 fee for specialty plates plus an additional \$25 to \$100 destined for a trust fund established by Kansans for Life, the state's largest anti-abortion group, to finance adoption efforts.

"It would be nice if the state put its money where its mouth is; the state's elected legislative officials did that," Mary Kay Culp, acting director of Kansans for Life, said Thursday.

"It's a shame the governor bought into the abortion industry's paranoia at the use of the word 'choice' and vetoed this," she said. Abortion opponents said the "Choose Life" plates would be no different from those naming other organizations or causes.

School board to give awards

The Goodland School Board on Monday will present awards to three teachers who have worked for the district for 25 years.

Members will meet at 7 p.m. at the administration office, 1312 Main Avenue. The board will hear a curriculum proposal from Dennis Friedrichs, a high school technology teacher, and a request from students in the Production

1 high school class.

Members will also hear reports from Superintendent Marvin Selby and member Mike Campbell, district representative on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center board in Oakley.

The board may go behind closed doors to discuss personnel matters or teacher contract negotiations.

Hospital applies for tax credits

The board of the Goodland Regional Medical Center has scheduled a special meeting for noon Tuesday.

The hospital is applying for tax credits and is looking at a liability insurance

package for the EagleMed air ambulance. These issues need to be addressed before the board's next regular meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 6.

Pilot's actions signal he is not a terrorist

INTERNATIONAL

MILAN, Italy — The pilot of a small plane that slammed into a Milan skyscraper reported trouble with his landing gear and had been speaking with air traffic control, officials said, indications that terrorism was not his aim.

The crash Thursday killed three people and rekindled fears of a Sept. 11-type attack on a landmark building in Italy's financial capital, even though Italian officials said it was probably an accident. The number of injured, put originally at 60, was revised downward Today to 36, with 11 of them still hospitalized.

The twin-engine Rockwell Commander punched a hole through the slim, 30-story Pirelli building in downtown Milan, and smoke billowed out for hours into the clear afternoon sky. The 25th and 26th floors were gutted; the sidewalks below were littered with shards of glass, office papers, broken flower pots and other debris.

The pilot, a Swiss resident believed to be in his 60s, was thought to be the only person on board the plane.

OSLO, Norway — Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian explorer who crossed the Pacific on a balsa log raft to prove his theories of human migration, has died at 87.

Heyerdahl, whose book "Kon-Tiki" on the daring 101-day voyage sold millions of copies, stopped taking food, water or medication in early April after being diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor. He died Thursday night in his sleep at home in Colla Michari, Italy, said his son, Thor Heyerdahl Jr.

Experts scoffed at Heyerdahl when he set off to cross the Pacific aboard a balsa raft in 1947, saying it would sink within days.

After 101 days and 4,900 miles, he proved them wrong by reaching Polynesia from Peru in a bid to prove his theories of human migration.

His later expeditions included voyages aboard the reed rafts Ra, Ra II and Tigris.

His wide-ranging archaeological studies were often controversial and challenged accepted views.

His Kon-Tiki trip was intended to support his theory that the South Sea Islands were settled by explorers from pre-Inca South America. The prevailing theory is that Polynesia was settled from Southeast Asia.

NATIONAL

CHICAGO — A four-year-old investigation into a driver's licenses-for-bribes scam has produced its highest-profile guilty plea: Richard Juliano, the former deputy chief of staff to Gov. George Ryan.

Juliano, 35, pleaded guilty to mail fraud on Thursday in what federal prosecutors say was a scheme to use taxpayer money and state employees for political purposes.

His plea came as part of an agreement with prosecutors who plan to call him as a witness in the racketeering trial of Ryan's campaign committee and campaign manager.

Juliano is the 43rd person, from state driving instructors to the former inspector general in the secretary of state's office, to be convicted or plead guilty in the Operation Safe Road in-

vestigation, which looked into the sale of driver's licenses for bribes when Ryan was Illinois secretary of state. He becomes the highest-ranking state official to be convicted or to plead guilty in the federal probe.

Federal prosecutors have traced \$170,000 of the payoff money from the licenses-for-bribes scheme to the Citizens for Ryan campaign fund. Ryan has not been charged with any wrongdoing, but the scandal has hurt his popularity, and he decided last summer not to run for a second term.

CINCINNATI — The suspect in a spate of fake anthrax letters sent to abortion clinics last fall could face a life term when he is sentenced on separate firearms and car theft convictions, federal authorities say.

Clayton Lee Wagner, 45, of Kennerdell, Pa., was convicted Thursday on the six charges. He faces 15 years to life in prison and fines of up to \$250,000 on each count, but authorities say his several past convictions for violent crimes mean he could be given life without parole.

Wagner, who is not an attorney, defended himself.

He said he would appeal. Wagner told jurors the government prosecuted him to cover up its opposition of what he has called his war on the abortion industry.

Wagner has not been charged with sending at least 550 threatening letters to abortion clinics last fall. But on FBI tapes played at the trial here — at Wagner's request — he said he sent the letters in an attempt to shut down the clinics. He also threatened to kill

abortion providers.

Wagner was one of the FBI's most wanted fugitives when he was arrested in suburban Springdale on Dec. 5, about 10 months after he escaped from a jail in Illinois.

PLAINSBORO, N.J. — Relatives of those killed in the Sept. 11 crash of United Flight 93 said it was hard to tell whether the muffled voices they heard on the cockpit recording were their loved ones.

Still, after listening to the recording in two private sessions Thursday, they were certain that each passenger had died a hero.

"There were 40 heroes on board Flight 93," said Alice Hoglan, mother of passenger Mark Bingham.


Forty-four people were killed when the airliner, bound from Newark to San Francisco, crashed in a field in rural western Pennsylvania.

Flight 93 has taken on special meaning as the only one of the four planes hijacked Sept. 11 that took no lives on the ground. There is evidence passengers fought back after one cried, "Let's roll!"

"I can say that listening to the tape confirmed for me that there was a heroic teamwork effort," said Hoglan of Los Gatos, Calif., whose son called from the air before the plane crashed.


The listening sessions, held in a central New Jersey hotel, marked the first time the federal government played cockpit tapes for relatives of victims from any U.S. plane crash. FBI Director Robert Mueller approved the unprecedented sessions at the request of family members.

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2000 Pontiac Gr Prix 4 Dr, 31K miles	1998 Buick SOLD 13K miles
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2000 GMC SOLD Box, 37K miles	1998 Pontiac SOLD 47K miles
2000 Ford Windstar, 27K miles	1998 Chevy Ext 4WD, 48K miles
2000 Cadillac SOLD 13K miles	1998 Olds Bravada, 50K miles
2000 Olds Alero 4 Dr, 43K miles	1998 Ford F-150 Ext 2WD, 46K miles
2000 Buick Regal, 32K miles	1998 Chevrolet Blazer, 38K miles
1999 Cadillac SOLD 13K miles	1998 Chevrolet Venture, 37K miles
1999 Pontiac Sunfire 4 Dr, 22K miles	1996 Olds Cutlass Sup, 64K miles
1999 Buick Park Ave, 36K miles	1996 Ford SOLD 13K miles
1999 Pontiac Gr Am 4Dr, 25K miles	

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