



Colby school board hears plea from librarian

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Randy Koons, Colby High School librarian, appealed to the school board, at its Monday night meeting, to reconsider its decision to eliminate the post she currently holds.

"I feel that the kids really need a librarian...to teach them how to use the library," Koons said.

She added, "I even had one student tell me that he was going to take me to Kansas State with him so that he would be able to use the library," she said.

Koons' comments came at the outset of the meeting, which had a full board in attendance.

Following Koons' appearance, board member Bill Miller asked Superintendent Kirk Nielsen if fuel costs were bid for the district and if not if this could be done.

Nielsen said he would look into it and bring it back to the board at a later meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. The board then adjourned to the Intermediate lab at the middle school for a presentation on Web Quests given by teachers Trish Starbuck, Gerri Balthazor and Carol Robison.

In other business:

- The board heard reports from Terrel Harrison, grade school principal, Robb Ross, middle school principal, and

Bryan Bullington, high school principal.

- Jo DeYoung business manager, gave a report concerning bids for district insurance. The board voted on May 6 as a date to let bids for insuring the district.

- The board gave permission to two students to attend the Northwest Kansas Technical College at Goodland.

- The regular board meeting for June was changed to Friday, June 28, at 7 a.m.

- Diana Wieland gave a report on a Coordinating Council Course recommendation. She asked for permission to start an Applied Algebra course for students who have taken Algebra I but don't want to take Algebra II. So far, approximately 20 students have expressed interest in taking Applied Algebra, she said.

- The board discussed a request from a student in Grinnell who wants to play baseball with the Colby High School team. No action was taken at this time.

- The board then went into executive session to discuss personnel. No action was taken when they returned to open meeting.

The next regular meeting of the board will be Monday, April 1, at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building, 210 S. Range Ave.

All meetings of the board are open to the public.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Members of the Colby School Board listened to a presentation on Web Quests given by Trish Starbuck, Carol Robison and Gerri Balthazor at

Monday night's meeting. The teachers gave a basic introduction, along with the tasks, sources, processes and evaluations that can be done.

College board ratifies faculty contract

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees met Monday night and ratified the recent tentative agreement with the Faculty Alliance.

The contract agreement had been reached Thursday, subject to the approval of the entire college board, and a vote by the faculty alliance, to be taken later.

The faculty had been working under the contract for the 2000-2001 teaching year.

The new agreement states each full-time professional employee will receive a salary increased by 4.3 percent, plus \$500, for the 2002-2003 year.

For the 2001-2002 year, the salary will be increased by 4 percent plus \$342. Three counts of prohibitive practices were resolved and dismissed, according to terms of the agreement.

The board also received a recommendation from the insurance committee that the State of Kansas Health In-

surance Plan be adopted beginning July 1, 2002.

In other business matters:

- The board approved a supplemental contact for Keith Coplin for teaching additional hours as provided in the master agreement.

The contract was for teaching English composition. They approved a contract for Carl Cheney as a part-time bus driver.

The board approved contracts for 25 outreach instructors as recommended by Joe Mildrexler, dean of community services.

They approved a contract with the Kansas Library Network to participate in a grant, and with Hays Medical Center to allow students to do clinical experiences or preceptorships in Hays.

They approved an agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank for book-keeping changes for deposits over \$100,000.

They approved a contract with Chartwells to provide food service for

the college at a 2.8 percent increase.

This is the last year of a four-year contract.

A contract with the Southeast Kansas Educational Service Center was approved to provide GED testing to the Norton Correctional School. The Southeast Kansas Service Center provides GED instruction to the inmates, but is not certified to provide testing, said Mildrexler.

They approved an agreement with the Northwest Kansas Library System to apply for a grant to reimburse postage for interlibrary loans.

The board accepted the resignation of Erika Craghead, outreach instructor. She will finish out the contract year, said Mildrexler.

- The board accepted a bid from Service Oil for \$1.0833 per gallon for gasoline, and \$.9963 per gallon for diesel fuel for the college fleet. The college solicited three bids, but received only one reply.

- The board went into a five-minute

executive session with the board attorney, David Starkey, for attorney-client privileges.

No action was taken when they returned to open meeting.

- The request of Dr. Max Pickerill for a waiver to teach for another year was approved.

In his request, Pickerill, who is beyond the mandatory retirement age at the college, said the contract will complete 54 years of teaching experience.

- Dr. Mikel Ary, college president, reported the Endowment Auction was extremely successful, netting \$84,500, which included \$25,000 donated by the Garvey Foundation, and an estimated donation of \$10,000 from Roofmasters in the form of roofing the rest of the Living Center North (men's dormitory) to match the cupola which was put on this summer. Ary said the building had its original roof which was put on in 1968.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for April 1.

Injured Colby motorist returns home after mishap

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A Colby man is back home recovering from head injuries following a two-vehicle accident at Fourth and Range late last week.

The accident happened when Adam M. Bowers, 23, driving a 1991 Pontiac Grand Am crashed with a 2002 Ford pickup pulling an empty trailer driven by Willard (Bill) Miller, Jr., 49, also of Colby.

Colby police officials said Miller was traveling east on Fourth St. and was in the process of turning north onto Range Ave. Bowers was traveling west on Fourth St. and within the intersection both vehicles collided. Witnesses at the scene said Bowers was traveling over the speed limit. At the request of the Colby Police Department, officials said, the Kansas Highway Patrol's expert

accident reconstructionist determined that Bowers was traveling between 41 and 45 mph in the 30 mph zone. Bowers was flown out to Via Christi in Wichita where he was later treated and released. Officials said the Pontiac Grand Am was totaled with no damage to the pickup and only slight damage reported to Miller's trailer.

Prior to being airlifted to Wichita, officials had no information as to whether Bowers was wearing a seat belt since he had been removed from the car prior to the Thomas County Emergency Service personnel arriving. The accident occurred around noon last Thursday, officials said. Along with city police and ambulance personnel, officials from the Thomas County Sheriff's office and Kansas Highway Patrol also assisted with the accident.

Livestock commissioner on hot seat over foot-mouth disease rumor

TOPEKA (AP) — The state livestock commissioner is promising legislators that last week's unfounded rumor of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak will change how information is disseminated.

George Teagarden told the House Agriculture Committee on Monday that his agency, the Animal Health Department, lacked an adequate plan for dealing with such rumors.

"In hindsight, it's pretty easy to sit back and see things you should do," he said.

Teagarden was to face another round of questions today from the Senate Agriculture Committee.

He told the House committee that his agency has learned the importance of managing and sharing information with essential personnel before a crisis develops.

On March 12, a rumor that nine cows

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George Teagarden
Kansas livestock commissioner

at the Holton Livestock Market were infected with foot-and-mouth disease spread quickly throughout the Midwest and to the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

"We did not dream that information would get out when there was no need for it to get out," Teagarden said.

Kansas had 12 suspected cases of foot-and-mouth disease last year — all on ranches and all negative — but this was the first incident at market, he said.

Analysts estimate that the rumor cost the industry as much as \$50 million nationwide after prices dropped \$1.50 per hundred weight for market cattle. Prices have rebounded slightly.

Teagarden said state, congressional and market regulators are investigating whether anyone illegally manipulated the market for profit.

In retrospect, Teagarden said, he should have issued a statement to allay public fears, possibly to the effect that

tests for various suspected diseases are not uncommon and that results from the U.S. Department of Agriculture would be announced later.

He noted that the USDA had asked state officials not to comment until tests were done because of the potential worldwide impact on markets.

The cattle at the center of the rumor had sores in their mouths. State investigators found the source of the mouth irritation — coarse hay — and discovered a horse with similar symptoms.

That was important because horses cannot contract foot-and-mouth disease, Teagarden said.

Tests analyzed by the USDA lab in Plum Island, N.Y., confirmed the Animal Health Department's initial diagnosis. Teagarden said his agency already has revised its procedures for responding to a suspected case of foreign animal disease.

In any such cases in the future, he added, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management will be notified earlier than it was this time.

Maj. Gen. Greg Gardner, state adjutant general and emergency management director, told the House committee he ordered a review of the state's response to the rumor.

Gardner said he had learned of the incident the following day, but not from Teagarden's agency. He also was contacted by Iowa officials who heard the rumor and were close to activating their emergency plans.

Teagarden, who had been attending a meeting in Reno, Nev., at the time, said the cattle were isolated as much as possible at the market. He said he remained in constant contact with his staff. Rep. Dan Johnson, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee Chairman, said he was confident all

along that the rumor was false, based on reports that the cattle did not show other signs of foot-and-mouth.

However, "I had some telephone calls that were close to panic," he added.

Johnson, R-Hays, said the incident gives more reason to build a new research lab at Kansas State University. Such a facility would be able to test for highly contagious diseases and get results immediately.

Teagarden said field tests are being developed to make initial diagnosis of disease. However, those tests will still require independent USDA confirmation. His answers did not satisfy all House committee members.

Rep. Sharon Schwartz, R-Washington, was concerned that only the Kansas Livestock Association was immediately informed the tests for foot-and-mouth were negative.

Briefly

Weather: 'Moistureless'

If there is going to be any precipitation in the Colby region, it won't be happening before the approaching weekend, according to today's forecast from the National Weather Service. Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 20s, light westerly winds. Wednesday, sunny, highs in the upper 60s, west winds 5-10 mph. Wednesday night, partly cloudy, lows in the lower 20s. Thursday sunny, highs in the 40s. Thursday overnight and Friday, clear, lows in the upper teens and highs in the middle 50s.

There could be an outside shot for moisture on Saturday, but that is iffy at this point in time. Colby's high Monday was 53 and the overnight low this morning was 26. Precipitation for the month remains at 0.01 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 41 degrees. The records for March 19: 90 in 1921 and -3 in 1923. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the*

Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Awards ceremony tonight

There will be an awards ceremony tonight at 7 p.m. in the Colby High School auditorium to recognize all students participating in winter sports. Participation certificates and letters will be given to girls and boys basketball players, wrestlers, cheerleaders and drill team members, said Jeff Quenzer, activities director and assistant principal. Everyone is welcome to attend the event.

Chamber reservations extended

The deadline to make reservations for this year's Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet has been extended until Friday, said Gerry Fulwider, executive director. The banquet, which will be held Friday, April 5, at City Limits Convention Center, will begin at 6 p.m. with

a social hour followed at 7 p.m. with the dinner and entertainment.

Tickets for the banquet are \$25 or \$225 for a corporate table of eight. To make reservations, call Leta Lee, secretary, at (785) 462-3401 or stop by the office at 350 S. Range, Suite 10, Colby.

Kindergarten enrollment continues

For those who missed kindergarten enrollment at Colby Grade School, which was held last week, are urged to stop by the school as soon as possible to register their children for next year, said Terrel Harrison, principal. The school requests that parents bring immunization records, birth certificate and social security number when they come. Children residing in Colby Public School's district who will be five years old on or before Aug. 31, 2002 are eligible to enroll.

City council meets today

The Colby City Council will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., tonight, in the council chambers at City Hall, 585 N. Franklin. Items on the agenda include the annual report by the recreation commission; authorization to accept credit card payments on accounts receivable; approval of application for federal aid safety funding for the intersection of Fourth St. and Country Club Dr.; Kansas Department of Transportation highway access permit for Horton Ave.; and approval of agreement for curb and gutter work at Horton.

Kindergarten screenings underway

Kindergarten screenings are now underway at the United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin. The screenings began today and will continue on Wednesday, she said. To make an appointment, call Emily Strange at 465-5111 or 465-5100.

