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Colby problems blamed on High winds Firemen rush to college

By **DARREL PATTILLO**

Colby Free Press

Thursday night's high winds were most likely the cause behind a small fire in one of the dorm rooms at Colby Community College, according to Bob McLemore, fire chief..

"One of the kids had a candle burning next to an open window," McLemore said. "When the winds came up, a curtain blew into the candle."

McLemore said the fire caused little smoke or heat damage, but a windowsill did have some minor

damage.

Emergency units responded just before 10 p.m., and the fire was out before the fire department got there.

McLemore said that even though it turned out to be a small fire, the fire department and other emergency personnel responded in full. "Whenever we have a situation where there are a large number of people involved, like a dorm, or a nursing home, or apartment, we're going to respond with everything we have. It's better to have everything you might need there than to have to wait."

Power goes out elsewhere

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

A power outage late Thursday night left many Colby residents in the dark for about 30 minutes, said Corky Delzeit, director of public power.

The outage was caused by wind gusts that reached in excess of 40 mph just before 10 p.m. tripping a circuit north of Fike Park, he said.

The originating problem affected residents in the Eastern Heights area of town, Delzeit said, to include the east and west area on

Eighth Street and extending back to the city's power plant on N. Sterling.

In order to fix the problem, he said, city crews needed to shut down the entire circuit which resulted in outages for the majority of Colby's north side that takes in areas north of Range Avenue, in addition to some areas in the southern section of the city.

According to the report filed today, Delzeit said the outage occurred at 10 p.m. and was restored 30 minutes later.

'Me and my shadow'



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Cody Duffey, a fourth grade student at Colby Grade School, worked on a computer with Randy Smith at Palace Drug Store

this morning. Duffey was participating in "Job-Shadow Day," which is for second through fifth grade students.

Board to discuss graduation requirements

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

New graduation requirements will be one of many items discussed Monday night at 7 p.m. when the Colby Board of Education convenes for its regular meeting in the administration building at 210 S. Range.

Board members will be reviewing the State Board of Education's new requirements and how those requirements match up to what the district currently has in place, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent.

The new requirements for graduation handed down by the

state board mandate that students must have four units of English to include reading, writing, literature, communication and grammar; two units of history and government; three units of science with emphasis in physical, biological and earth and space concepts and at least one unit for laboratory; and three units of math including algebra and geometry.

Other state requirements decided in December of 2002 were one unit of physical education with emphasis in safety, first aid and physiology with waivers attached.

In addition, one unit of fine arts will be needed in art, music, dance,

theater, forensics or other similar studies; six elective courses; and a minimum of 21 units of credit to graduate.

The board will also consider approving or denying coordinating council course recommendations that will be presented by Diana Wieland, curriculum director; disposal of school property with Jeff Quenzer, activities director reviewing the information; and both Nielsen and Wieland talking about an item previously discussed involving the forming of another league.

According to information provided, administrators in the Colby

district are seeking consensus by the board to pursue gathering information about forming a new league.

Other agenda items include reports from all building-level principals, the activities director, superintendent and curriculum director, along with possible resignations, employment recommendations and supplemental contracts.

There will also be some discussion and action expected on negotiations with a review by Stan Molstad, board president.

All meetings are open to the public.

Two high school students toss hats into political ring

ELLINWOOD (AP) — Two high school students are testing the political waters — one running for mayor and the other seeking a seat on the city council.

Donald Zahn and Ralph Hatten both turned 18 last month. Zahn, the mayoral candidate, is a senior at Ellinwood High School, and Hatten is a junior.

"We kind of want to represent the school and give younger people a say-so," said Hatten.

"We're not trying to have three-day school weeks or something like that. Everything in the city kind of affects the high schoolers."

"I'm serious about the whole thing," said Zahn, whose grandfather, Leroy Zahn, is a former mayor. "I'm not just a kid joking around."

"I'm trying to get teenagers a voice in politics," he said.

"Adults just overlook anything kids have to say like it's total rubbish."

Zahn and Hatten already have some experience on the local government level as student representatives on the Ellinwood Recreation Commission board.

Now, as they formulate their platforms, fellow students are asking their views on recreation issues such as a city skateboard park, something the council is considering but has tabled for now.

And where do they stand? Well, in the best political tradition, both Zahn and Hatten said they'd want to study the issue before making a decision.

Bush turns up the heat on Saddam Hussein

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is intensifying pressure on Iraq's Saddam Hussein, warning him that time is short for peaceful disarmament and conferring with the United States' most like-minded ally.

Amid the frenzied, administration-wide diplomatic push, continuing today with a pivotal Camp David summit between Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, criticism mounted on Capitol Hill and abroad.

On Thursday, Bush administration officials cautioned there was no firm deadline for when talks with allies would cease and the president would make a decision on war.

But the administration's timetable of "weeks, not months" —

uttered by Bush and administration officials throughout the day — was given some specificity. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the administration envisions a diplomatic window of "a couple of weeks" — which would coincide with the Feb. 14 report due to the U.N. Security Council from weapons inspectors combing Iraq for the banned nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs Bush says Saddam has.

Several senior administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that if Saddam has not disarmed and diplomacy has run its course when the report is filed, Bush is unlikely to condone more weapons inspections.

One Bush option is to seek a second United Nations resolution, either authorizing military force or simply declaring the Iraqi leader in violation of last fall's version. The president discussed — but has not committed to — the idea with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, another voice of support amid a mostly skeptical Europe who nonetheless wants U.N. backing for war. Bush has repeatedly said he would wage war with willing allies without U.N. backing, if necessary.

Meanwhile, a U.S. official said Secretary of State Colin Powell will not bring "a smoking gun" against Iraq to the United Nations next week but will have circumstantial evidence to make a convincing case

that Iraq is hiding weapons of mass destruction. The official said Powell is bringing information that clearly shows that Iraq is in material breach of the latest Security Council resolution.

Sir Christopher Meyer, Britain's ambassador to Washington, told CNN that devising the road map for the coming weeks, including a timetable, was the prime goal of the Blair-Bush meeting.

"For the sake of peace, this issue must be resolved," Bush said after a fire-warmed Oval Office session with Berlusconi.

Blair, Bush's staunchest ally in confronting Saddam, said in Spain he was convinced the United Nations would back a military attack on Iraq if Saddam refuses to disarm.

Black Hawk crash kills four American soldiers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four U.S. soldiers were killed when their Black Hawk helicopter crashed during a training mission in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, U.S. officials said. The cause was being investigated.

It was the deadliest day for the American military in Afghanistan since March 4, 2002, when seven soldiers were killed and 11 wounded at the outset of an offensive against Taliban and al-Qaida remnant forces.

The Black Hawk, with two pilots

and two crew members aboard, crashed several miles east of Bagram Air Base in an area known as the East Training Range, said Jim Wilkinson, director of strategic communications at Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla.

Wilkinson said there were no indications of hostile fire. He said it appeared to be an accident but no other details were available.

Details on the victims, including their names and Army unit affiliations, were not immediately released.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Thursday's high, 69
Low this morning, 28
Year ago today, 26 and 15
Records for this date: 71 in 1911, -18 in 1918

The forecast

Tonight, clear, lows mid 30s, west winds 10-20 mph. Saturday, sunny, highs lower 70s, west winds becoming south late 10-20 mph. Saturday night, clear, lows mid 30s. Sunday, becoming mostly cloudy, rain showers, highs 50-55. Sunday night and Monday, cloudy, 50 percent chance for snow, lows lower 20s, highs lower 30s.

Briefly

Concert planned Saturday

There will be a multi-keyboard concert at 4:15 p.m., Saturday, at the Cultural Arts Center on the campus of Colby Community College. The event will be the highlight of a day-long clinic involving piano students from nearly every community in northwest Kansas. Teachers entering students from Colby are Sharon Kriss, Mary Shackelton and Pat Ziegelmeier. The event is open to everyone and is free of charge.

Pet wash on weekend agenda

The Student Veterinary Technology Association at Colby Community College is sponsoring another pet wash on Saturday at the Ag/Vet Tech building on campus. To make an appointment, call 462-3984, ext 260.

Massage clinic scheduled

The Physical Therapist Department at Colby Community

College is once again having their annual massage clinic to raise money for program activities. The event this year will be on Tuesday, Feb. 11 and Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the PTA department. Costs are available by calling Pat Erickson, department head, at 462-3984, ext. 260. Students will get a discount. The event is open to everyone and reservations can be made by calling Erickson. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Pancake feed announced

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs will hold their annual pancake and sausage feed on Saturday at the Colby Community Building from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Thomas County freshman or sophomore scholarships. The public is urged to attend and support the scholarship program.

Irrigation conference is next week

The Central Plains Irrigation Association is holding its 15th

annual conference and exposition in Colby on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 4-5 at the City Limits Convention Center and Comfort Inn. Due to the overwhelming response, said Donna Lamm, one of the coordinators, it is necessary to limit registration to 225 people. For those planning to attend, Lamm encourages them to call her at 462-7574 or 462-7140 as soon as possible.

Red Cross plans classes

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering a shelter operations class to help with local shelters in the event of bad weather or other disasters, said Molly Oliver, spokesperson for the organization. The class is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. In addition to the shelter operations class, the Red Cross is always looking for people interested in learning how to drive the ERV (emergency response vehicle). For questions or to register for either of these needed services, call 462-7161 or 462-6133.

