



COLBY FREE PRESS

Forage checks get nod

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Monday's Thomas County Commissioner's meeting was a chance for new commissioners Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen to learn more about different aspects of the county while still taking care of business.

They heard a presentation on insurance benefits and the county's emergency medical services, but not before they approved something they originally intended not to do.

At the Monday, Feb. 7 meeting, Chairman Ron Evans said they weren't going to do the weed-free forage inspections in the county but changed his stance when he learned more about it.

He said it will only affect farmers sending forage, like alfalfa, out of state and before it can go across state lines, it must be inspected first. The field where the forage comes from will need to be inspected and to make sure it's weed-free.

"We didn't understand it well enough but now we do," Evans said, adding Ken Ptacek will be doing the inspections for the county.

The commissioners also found out how the county is doing with its insurance.

Randy Dick with Kaw Valley Insurance of Roseville gave an update on health insurance and benefits for county employees.

The commissioners found out the county is doing comparable to last year on claims and hasn't had any big ones to deal with.

Evans said they're doing fine and in a few months, Dick will be back to talk about renewing their insurance.

The commissioners also heard a presentation on the county Emergency Medical Services but it was cut short because director Kathi Wright and Martin Rinehart had to go out on a call.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard an update from John Trembley on Northwest Kansas Community Corrections.



Christiansen



P. Steele

Way to go!



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School cheerleader Jada Koenig, along with the rest of the squad, handed out water bottles with the "It's OK to Say No Way" logo between the third and fourth quarters during Tuesday's Eagles varsity basketball games at the Colby Community Building.

City council considers rotation list

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Owners of five wrecker services in Colby were represented during Tuesday night's city council meeting to explore rotation proposals when responding to towing needs.

The five Colby towing services and owners present were Rex Van Horn with Van's Body and Frame; Gary Baumfalk of McB's Motor Company; Butch Cox of Butch's Body Shop; Chuck Wagoner and Dave Wagoner with Wagoner and Sons Wrecker Service; and Brandon Booi with Taylor Motors.

Baumfalk said he had concerns as to why three of the wrecker services were excluded from the rotation when it came to towing within city.

While all the towing services agree that unless individuals designate specifically who they want towing their vehicle, the question continues to be how can calls be treated more fairly.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, told Baumfalk that when the city is impounding vehicles or requests a tow for municipal business, they will consider the cheapest wrecking service.

As it was, some towing businesses charged a lot more than others and the city wanted to keep taxpayer costs down.

"As far as on the road," she said, "people can choose whoever they want."

Armstrong said she has dealt with this problem at least eight times during her tenure as city manager and the last time it was before the council, the wrecking services could not agree on a dispatch service.

"If you as a group (wrecking services) have something all can live with," she said, "we would consider a towing ordinance."

Council members asked Randy Jones, chief of police, what his thoughts were on an ordinance.

"The police have no problem

with rotation," he said. However, there are a lot of things to consider when calling for a tow whether that's in how quick the response, whether it's a semi, passenger vehicle, a transport involving hazardous material or if a locksmith and or fuel delivery is necessary.

At one time, Jones said, there were three or four different lists depending on what services a wrecking business could do or not do.

After continuing to talk about towing, the council decided to offer all five towing services an opportunity to review a towing ordinance that the town of Gorham, Maine uses.

One of the main features of that particular ordinance is that there is one towing list maintained which has the names of all wreckers registered by the city able to respond. In Colby, the law enforcement dispatch would have access to that list and "preference calls" would have no impact on the rotation list.

There would also be provisions for having services removed from the list; going off the list when warranted; procedures for registering the towing service and how the list will be followed by the dispatcher.

Up until now, Armstrong said the city has never had anything in writing regarding rotation.

Jim Tubbs, council member, added that as one of the owners of Tubbs and Sons, they have not wanted to get into the towing service business.

"I admire you all," he said to the owners present, "I know we sure don't want a wrecker service."

Another council member said he didn't think it should be so complicated, but after understanding the issue, can see the need for some type of uniformity.

After Armstrong hears back from all five businesses, the ordinance proposal will be brought back a future council agenda.

Sheridan County hospital has temporary administrator

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

HOXIE—A changing of the guard took place at Sheridan County Health Complex on Tuesday - again.

This is Jim Turnbull's second stint as interim administrator at the

complex, and he's helping the board of trustees look for its third administrator in five years.

Turnbull, now retired, replaces Kyle Hahn who resigned to accept the job as administrator of Logan County Hospital. Both start their new jobs on Monday.

While Turnbull's stay in Hoxie is temporary, he said he has just competed interim terms at hospitals in Ness City, Jetmore, Quinter, and before those, Hoxie.

Turnbull was administrator of Clara Barton Hospital in Hoisington for eight years before retiring. In addition to his interim work, he has a part-time position with the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a congressional liaison



J. Turnbull

trainee based in Asheville, N. C.

"I'm sorry to hear Kyle is leaving, but I'm glad to come back here and work with good people," he said.

A major part of Turnbull's tenure at the Sheridan County Health Complex will be to assist trustees Richard Krannawitter, Mary Karnes, Allen Neal, Randy Farber, Nettie Richmeier, Ross Carder and Craig Cooper with recruiting a doctor.

"Recruiting in rural communities is tough. You have to offer them the sky and then add the Milky Way," he said.

The trustees are waiting to learn if a contract offered Dr. Margarite Hammeke, Fort Worth, Texas will be accepted.

Hammeke has been in the area within the past week looking at the facility, the town, and the area.

In addition to the doctor, her husband, Paul, is on the list of people to be interviewed for the adminis-

trator job.

Cooper asked Turnbull at a special meeting Tuesday whether he thought there would be a conflict of interest should the board opt to hire a husband and wife for the complex.

Turnbull said the facilities' bylaws clearly outlined areas where an administrator would have to defer to the trustees for decisions about his or her spouse, and he saw no problem with hiring such a scenario. As interim administrator, Turnbull will be paid \$2,000 per week, plus mileage to and from Hoisington, while serving as head of the complex.

He will live at Sheridan Estates, an apartment complex only blocks away from the hospital.

He said one of the biggest tasks afforded a hospital administrator was to "keep the people happy" in order to reduce staff turnover.

"We are limited in resources of people who can step in and do the

job without a lot of training. What I see as a big job of the CEO is personnel. It's keeping the people happy," Turnbull said.

One of Hahn's outgoing recommendations to the trustees was the addition of an article to the medical staff bylaws which would clearly outline their job in oversight of physicians, including disciplines of them. For the past six years, the Board has had off-and-on turmoil with local physician Dr. John Rand Neuschwander and an influx of doctors which have come and gone.

Hahn said the article is patterned after one used by many area hospitals, including Hays Medical Center, Hays, and both he and Turnbull both told the trustees in order for the complex to remain viable this situation needed to be resolved.

The Board will take Hahn's recommendation up at its upcoming regular monthly board meeting starting at 7 a.m. on Monday.

Briefly

Amusement Association meets Monday

The Thomas County Amusement Meeting will be held on Monday at 8 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex. The public is invited and encouraged to bring any ideas for changes, new games and more.

Heartland SHARE delivery Saturday

Heartland SHARE delivery is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at Sacred Heart School gym. There are a few extra shares left for \$18.50 plus two hours of volunteer community service. If interested call Marguerette Edmundson at 460-8640 or Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

Legislative town hall meeting

Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby, and Sen. Ralph Ostmeier, R-Grinnell, are holding a town hall meeting from 9:45-10:45 a.m., Saturday, at the Quality Inn in Colby. They will be giving a legislative update and answer-

ing questions. For information, call Bert Stramel at 462-9748.

Pre-enrollment planned at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart School will hold pre-enrollment for preschool and kindergarten children for the 2005-06 school year on Wednesday, March 9, in the school lobby between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. School officials ask that parent/guardians bring birth certificate, physical, social security care, and immunization records. For questions, call 460-2813.

Cancer Society's drive underway

The American Cancer Society is sponsoring its annual Daffodil Drive in Colby and Stephanie Stones and Tina Dreiling, coordinators here, will be taking orders until Tuesday, Feb. 22. Although both Stones and Dreiling will be visiting as many businesses as they can, they also encourage anyone interested to call (785) 460-8677 or (785) 460-8076 and leave a message. Bundles are \$10, but the society also has new offerings.

Colby Hoxie Oakley



Looks like 20s and 40s

Tonight...Decreasing clouds. Lows around 17. West winds 5-10 mph. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Southwest winds 10-15 mph. **Thursday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the 20s. Southwest winds 5-10 mph, shifting to the north 10-15 mph after midnight. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. Highs again in the middle to upper 40s. Northeast winds 10-15 mph, shifting to the southeast later in the day.

The numbers

Tuesday's high, 49
Low this morning, 21
Year ago today, 52 and 16
Records for this date, 72 in 1898 and -11 in 1903
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, trace
Precipitation for month to date: 0.32
Snowfall for month to date: 3.7 inches
Soil temperature, 37

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

