



COLBY
FREE PRESS

Grade school music concerns addressed

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press
Parents concerned about music classes for intermediate students at the grade school don't have to worry any longer. The Colby School Board found out at its Monday meeting the situation has been addressed.

Colby Grade School principal Terrel Harrison said third and fourth grade music will be handled by Jill Nickols, who teaches band at the high school.

Fifth grade music will be taught by Amanda Kidder, sixth through twelfth grade vocal teacher.

"Both were fine with the way the schedule was set up," Harrison said.

Fifth grade music will meet three days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Even though they won't be meeting every day, it will still be the

same time each week as before.

Harrison also talked about concerts. She said the fifth grade might be included in with the sixth, seventh and eighth grade concerts next year.

At the Monday, April 18 school board meeting, concerned parents talked about their concerns over the status of the third through fifth grade music program.

There had been no teacher for the intermediate program since last year.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said the grade school's enrollment is down to about 350, considerably less than the 642 enrolled there a few years back. He said each grade has fewer teachers than it used to and music is no exception.

The district will also be re-soliciting bids for a Ford Excursion and Chevy Suburban.

Bids were solicited twice and each time they didn't meet specifications.

This time, however, board president Stan Molstad is going to review the specifications before bids go out.

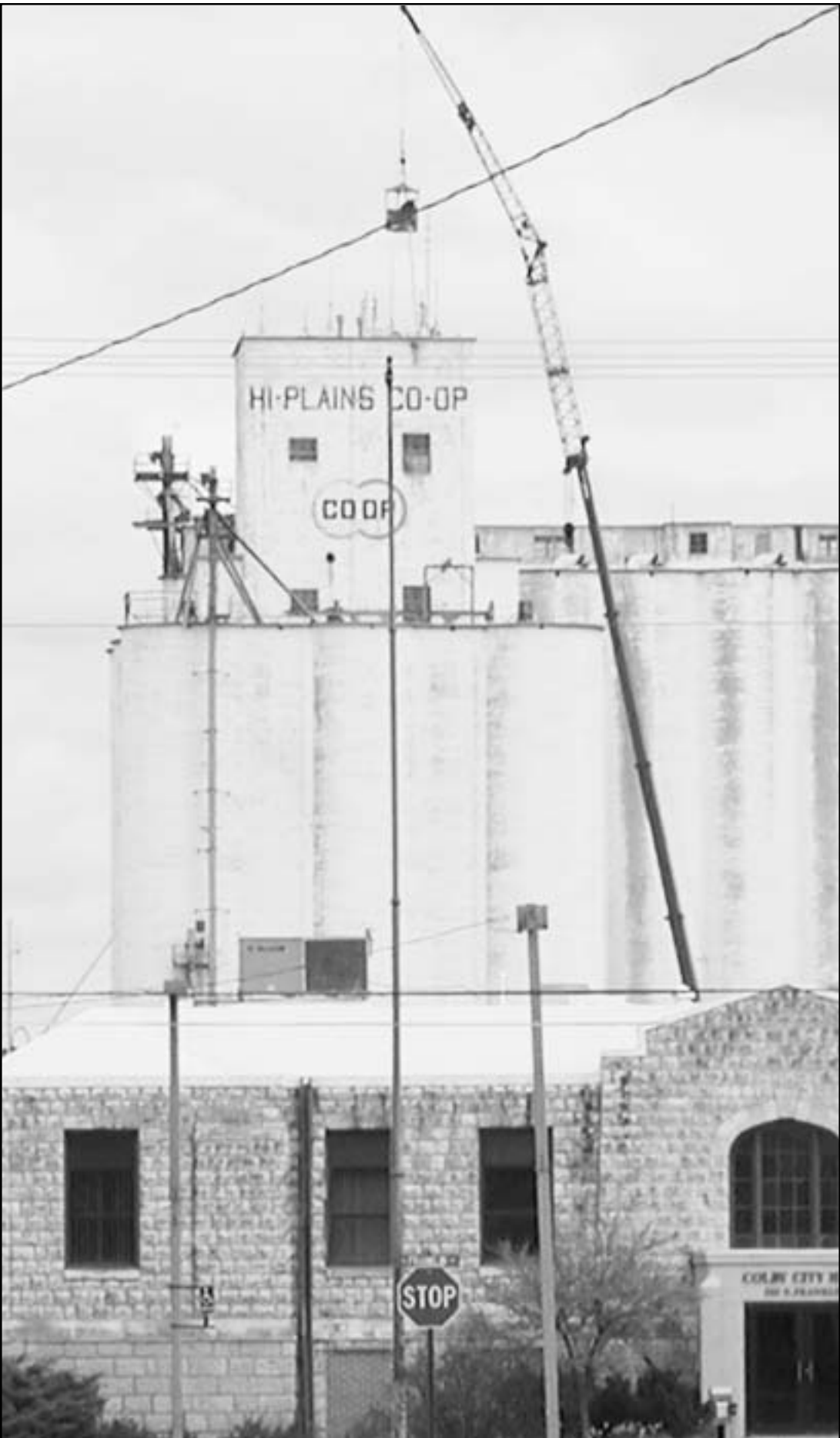
They also talked about throwing the bids open to a larger area but decided to keep it local and send out bid requests to the two Colby dealerships.

In other business, the board approved:

- The resignations of district bookkeeper Marilyn Reed, high school math teacher Liz Strand and first grade teacher Krista Alexander.
- The hiring of three teachers.

They are Kim Hanson, high school family and consumer sciences; Kory Koch, high school science and Jaime Ley, high school English.

On top of their game



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

You might say these workers were on top of their game Sunday as they installed wireless communication antennas high above the community. The elevator, formerly owned by Hi-Plains Co-op, is now the property of Cornerstone Ag. Scott King, elevator superintendent, said WestLink Communications was installing the equipment.

Stolen pickup recovered

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

A vehicle stolen in Colby was later recovered in Gove County and a suspect is in custody at the Thomas County jail today.

Cale Lynn Super, 20, of Colby is being held pending the filing of charges in connection with the stolen vehicle that was reported missing sometime after midnight and before 6:30 a.m. Tuesday from the 400 block of North Riddle Avenue, said Gary Shull, police investigator. "We were advised by the Kansas

Highway Patrol at 9:05 a.m. that the pickup truck was located on Interstate 70 at milepost marker 110 (Gove County)," he said.



Cale Super

Authorities then arrested the suspect in Gove County, but details on how he was caught or description and damage of the pickup were not

known today, Shull said.

One interesting item to report on the pickup, Shull said, was that it ran on propane fuel. The owners told police that the vehicle only had enough fuel to go about 20 miles, but it managed to get 50 miles before running out, Shull said. When police received the report by the owners early Tuesday morning, the information about the stolen car was broadcast to other law enforcement officials helping the highway patrol in finding the pickup just after 9 a.m. the same day.

Sewer main breaks near Interstate

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Prompted by a forced sewer main break, motorists exiting Interstate 70 by Southwind Plaza might notice city crews working on the south side of the road between the exit and entrance to the plaza.

The break occurred Tuesday at about 4:30 p.m. and Carolyn Armstrong, Colby's city manager, informed the council about it at their meeting also Tuesday.

Earlier today, Armstrong said the

city isn't sure how bad the break is, but added that right now the only thing leaking is liquid, which could mean the line has a small crack as opposed to something bigger.

Regardless, Armstrong said the city is treating this as critical and with the potential for problems has contacted the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to find out how to handle the seeping liquid. In addition, she told the council, one of the city's engineering companies was contacted to do re-

search "quickly" on the line itself.

The next step, she said, will be in figuring out what to do to fix the break, which is located at one of the five lift stations in the city.

When asked by Councilman Mark Beringer if city crews can repair the main, Armstrong said they might need to call in outside help for this one. Until the engineers determine the extent of the damage and who will do the repairs, the cost cannot be estimated, she said, but added it could be expensive.

Thomas County Big Brothers Big Sisters hires director

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

After a long search to find just the "right someone" to fill the director's position, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colby has found a match of its own.

Cassandra Britt of Colby accepted the position effective Monday and was welcomed to the organization with a special open house that day attended by bigs, littles, board members and others in the community.

"I want to make a positive influence on children and families," Britt said.

Among her new responsibilities, Britt plans to continue with fund raising, recruitment and new pro-

grams. Theresa Gotchall, who was acting director, said one reason the board of directors were excited about Britt was because she shared their vision as well as expansion ideas.

Some of those expansion programs include "Bigs in School" and faith-based programs.

In the school program, Britt said there would be adult and student matches sharing time together.

"Maybe one hour per week," she said, "with the adult volunteer helping the student understand a homework assignment or other assistance."

The school matches could also eat lunch together or shoot hoops



Cassandra Britt (left), the new director, talked with Theresa Gotchall, interim director at the open house on Monday.

now and then too, Britt said.

In the faith-based program, the focus would be more toward a faith-sharing match request.

Donna Jennings, board treasurer, said that there have been some requests specifically for faith-based matches, but this type of program would not be part of the regular recruitment effort.

Another major goal of the organization that Britt agrees with will be in recruiting more men to serve as matches for boys.

"It seems we have more mothers referring their sons to the program and we have less men willing to volunteer as a "big brother," Jennings said. Britt said she has lived in

Colby for almost 10 years.

Before moving to Colby, she lived in Goodland.

Before accepting the position of director, she was a social worker with the Social Rehabilitation Services Office in Goodland and commuted to and from Colby for the last six years. She and her husband, Fred, who works for S & T Communications, have a four-year-old son, Kyler. The job will bring Cassandra home closer to her son and closer to what she has wanted to do for a long time.

"We plan to do a lot of branching out now that Cassandra is here," Jennings said on Monday.

For questions, call 460-9125.

Goodland guardsman killed in Baghdad bomb blast on Monday

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
GOODLAND — Army officers

caught Chuck Lutters, city public works manager, as he was heading to work Monday morning.

When he saw them, he recalled, he knew what was coming his son Derrick had been killed in a bomb blast in Baghdad the day before. "I saw the car coming down the



D. Lutters

street," Lutters said, "and when the two Army guys got out, I knew why they were here.

"My heart sank when they said Derrick had been killed."

Derrick Lutters, who lived in Burlington, joined the Goodland National Guard unit out of high school. He volunteered to go to active duty last fall, and was sent to Iraq in January.

"The men said he had been inspecting underneath a bridge in Baghdad when the bomb went off," his dad said.

"They said the bomb was triggered remotely. They told me a person would be out today to give me

more details and make arrangements.

"I had seen a report on the news that there was a bombing where one was killed and three wounded. I thought it was good there was just one killed.

"He had such a good nature and was always having fun. I talked to him on Saturday. I knew from his voice he was getting sort of nervous about what they were doing.

"He would never say exactly what they were doing or where he was.

"I was surprised to find he was in Baghdad. I thought he was in the southern part of the country."

The city staff was in shock Monday after Lutters called to say he wouldn't be at work.

"You hear about the war and those killed," said City Manager Ron Pickman, "but it really stops you cold when it hits this close to home. I have told my people, and we are all as stunned as Chuck was.

"I guess it's sort of a waiting game now to find out the details and what happens next.

"Chuck told me, when the Army men told him, it was like being killed himself.

"He was so proud of Derrick. This is hard on him. Sure blows any good feeling on this Monday morning."

In September, friends had a farewell get-together for Lutters, Spec. Bryan Varney of Goodland and Sgt. Joe Buster of Downs, all preparing to report for an 18-month tour of active duty.

The three are members of Detachment 1, 170th Maintenance Company, of the Kansas National Guard in Goodland.

Spec. Lutters joined the Guard in January 1999. After graduating from Goodland High School that May, he attended both basic and advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Lutters, a crane operator, said he volunteered for active duty because

of a deal he made with Varney that if one was activated the other would volunteer to go with him.

"I live life for the experiences," Lutters said at the time.

Lutters said he thought tense situations he experienced from working at Kit Carson Correctional Facility for 3 1/2 years and at a prison riot last summer in Fowler, Colo., would help make his adjustment to a hostile environment easier.

Lutters reported to Pittsburg at the end of September, and was shipped to Iraq in January after three months of training at Fort Sill, Okla.

Funeral services are still pending.

