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Drug error poisoned 21 polo ponies

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — An official at a Florida pharmacy said today the business incorrectly prepared a supplement given to 21 polo horses that died over the weekend while preparing to play in a championship match.

Jennifer Beckett of Franck's Pharmacy in Ocala, Fla., told The Associated Press in a statement that the business conducted an internal investigation that found "the

strength of an ingredient in the medication was incorrect." The statement did not say what the ingredient was.

Beckett, the pharmacy's chief operating officer, said the firm is cooperating with an investigation by state authorities and the Food and Drug Administration.

The horses from the Venezuelan-owned Lechuza polo team began crumpling to the ground shortly before Sunday's U.S.

Open match was supposed to begin, shocking a crowd of well-heeled spectators at the International Polo Club Palm Beach in Wellington.

"On an order from a veterinarian, Franck's Pharmacy prepared medication that was used to treat the 21 horses on the Lechuza Polo team," Beckett said. "As soon as we learned of the tragic incident, we conducted an internal investigation."

She said the report has been given to state authorities.

Lechuza also issued a statement to AP acknowledging that a Florida veterinarian wrote the prescription for the pharmacy to create a compound similar to Biodyl, a French-made supplement that includes vitamins and minerals and is not approved for use in the United States.

"Only horses treated with the com-

pound became sick and died within 3 hours of treatment," Lechuza said in the statement. "Other horses that were not treated remain healthy and normal."

Lechuza also said it was cooperating with authorities that include the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

City hires firm to check power

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby City Council agreed Tuesday to hire a national consulting firm to review distribution and energy costs that would come from adding wind energy to the city's electric system.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said consultant Jerry McKenzie of MGT of America also will do a review of the city's rate structure. McKenzie's services will cost the city \$3,750.

"I am very concerned about the way our electrical rates are structured — not the actual dollar amount of the rate — when we are contemplating the installation of wind energy on our system," Armstrong said. "I don't believe our rates provide an accurate break-

down on our system."

Armstrong said she had met with NexGen, a "renewable energy" company interested in installing wind turbines in Colby. She said NexGen is a legitimate company, but she was not comfortable with what they were proposing.

The manager said she is concerned with the effect wind energy would have on the city's electricity system because the wind blows most at night when the city uses the least energy. She said she was worried that the city would be buying excess energy that would not be used here and that this would lead to rising prices for citizens.

In other business, the council:

- Swore in four newly elected officials, a mixture of old and familiar faces. Mark Beringer and

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Obama gets pluses for first 100 days

By Ron Fournier

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — For the first time in years, more Americans than not say the country is headed in the right direction, a sign that Barack Obama has used the first 100 days of his presidency to lift the public's mood and inspire hopes for a brighter future.

Intensely worried about their personal finances and medical expenses, Americans nonetheless appear realistic about the time Obama might need to turn things around, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll. It shows most Americans consider their

new president to be a strong, ethical and empathetic leader who is working to change Washington.

Nobody knows how long the honeymoon will last, but Obama has clearly transformed the yes-we-can spirit of his candidacy into a tool of governance. His ability to inspire confidence — Obama's second book is titled "The Audacity of Hope" — has thus far buffered the president against the harsh political realities of two wars, a global economic meltdown and countless domestic challenges.

"He presents a very positive outlook," said Cheryl Wethering-

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Republican objection delays vote on Sebelius

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican objections to immediate Senate action on President Barack Obama's health secretary nominee will probably push a final vote to next week.

It's the latest snag for Obama's attempts to get a Health and Human Services secretary in place to work on a health care overhaul.

The Finance Committee approved Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius for the job Tuesday, and supporters predicted a full Senate

vote this week.

But when Majority Leader Harry Reid tried to raise the nomination Thursday, Republican leader Mitch McConnell objected, citing opposition in the Finance Committee.

Now Reid will probably have to invoke Senate procedures requiring 60 votes to move forward, which would likely happen next week. Democrats say they have the necessary votes.



LaRita Schrock and Gary Adrian were getting ready to wrap up Colby High School sports since its beginning. The book should be ready to go to print soon.

Boosters writing history book

By Vera Sloan

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If anyone, anywhere, wants answers about Colby High sports since its very beginning, the "go-to" guy is Gary Adrian. You might say he wrote the book.

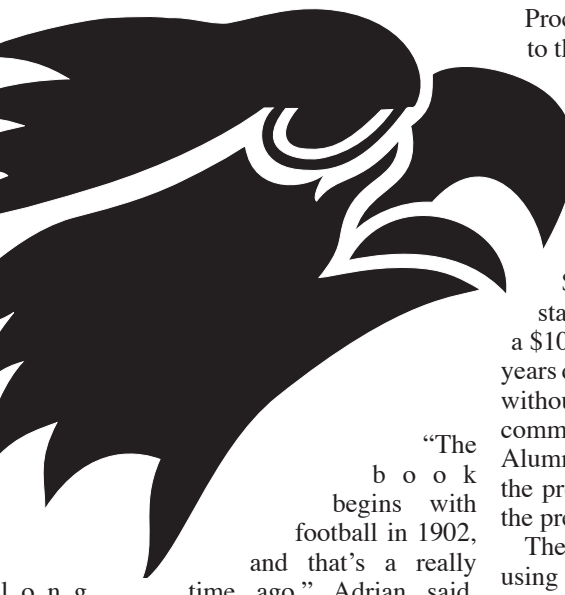
Adrian not only an avid fan, he's a card carrying member of the Colby High Booster Club. He has put together a history of the Eagles with help from fellow members Shaun Stephens and Jerrie Zweygardt and Stephens' mother, LaRita Schrock.

Adrian and his helpers have searched every nook and cranny that might have a spark of information about the history of the school's sports. He said he has picked the brains of every "old timer" he can find. He's gathered so much information in fact, that the club is about ready to publish a book.

"Flight of the Eagle: A History of Colby High School Athletics" will be ready for print before the next high school reunion, June 18, 2010, he said. Adrian said the finish date of the book is important, because that is the last year Colby will be a part of the venerable Northwest Kansas League.

Stephens said the Booster Club provides everything from banners to scholarships to weight room pads for Colby High teams. Most of the items it provides will stay at the school, he said, except for special T-shirts.

The farther back he goes, Adrian said, the harder it is to find information.



"The book begins with football in 1902, and that's a really long time ago," Adrian said. "I'm seriously seeking anyone with any memory, factual or humorous, to please get in touch with me."

He said he would like more information about mascots or team names. The best information he has is that the Eagles weren't always the Eagles. He has memories of his grandfather, Forrest Wallace, telling of a time the team was known as the Prairie Dogs.

At one time they were known as the Black and Orange, he said, and in 1931, the school adopted the Golden Eagles as the mascot and team name. Adrian would like to know when they became known as just the "Eagles."

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Booster Club to help provide equipment and other things the school doesn't have money to buy for its teams. The club supports all sports, the cheerleaders and the dance team, Stephens said.

Adrian said the Booster Club's biggest project, amounting to over \$100,000, has been the new football stadium. He said the project began with a \$100 donation. They worked hard for five years doing many projects to raise money, but without the support of the fans, alumni and community, it could never have happened. Alumni are credited with adding \$11,000 to the project, he said, and the school paid for the press box.

The newest project is to build courtyards using paving brick to beautify areas around the football field and the school. Each brick will honor family and friends of donors.

Adrian and Stephens said they are excited about the book, and believe it will be big seller now and in future years. First estimates were that it would be about 50 pages, but with all the pictures, and interesting statistics that keep cropping up, they said it could reach as many as 80-100 by press time. Donna Henry's high school journalism class will be doing the design.

Anyone with information on the Colby High teams should get in contact with Adrian at 417 Smith Drive. (785) 460-2931 or e-mail him at adrianga@st-tel.net.

Briefly

Sale will benefit mental health

A benefit garage sale for High Plains Mental Health of Colby is set for 4 to 9 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday at the 4-H Building on West Cedar Street. Sloppy joes will be served Friday and donuts on Saturday. For information, call Rebekah Peterson at (785) 846-7834.

Safe driver program is Friday

Volunteer instructor Don Keihl will teach the American Association of Retired Persons Driver Safety Program in Colby from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 855 E. Fifth St. Class size is limited to 30; register by calling Dwayne at 460-7555 or Don at (785) 890-6638.

Soils to tell story Saturday

Rob Aiken and Nancy Arendt will talk about what our soils can tell us about past climate and human

activity at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The talk, "The Missing Years," is based on a Rolf Mandel geoaerchology workshop they attended. It is sponsored by the High Plains Chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Association. Refreshments will be served, and a short business meeting will follow. For information, call Ann Miner at 462-6399.

Safety class set for Brewster

K-State Research and Extension will hold a tractor safety training from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at Brewster High School. This class is required by law for youths 14 or 15 who will be working on a farm for someone other than a parent. Register at the Thomas County Extension office, 460-4582, by Monday. Reading and assignments must be done before the class. Fee is \$10. For information, call Clint Milliman at 460-4582.

College offers self-defense

Colby Community College is offering a self-defense class from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and on Saturday, May 2. The class, taught by Christine Zedja, will be held in the Student Union, room 108. A mini baton is included in the \$50 fee. Call the college Admissions Office at 460-4690 to enroll.

Food distribution Saturday

Prairie Land food orders may be picked up at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Sacred Heart School gym. For information, call Margene Griffin at 460-3579.

String recital Sunday at church

Players from Colby, Atwood, Goodland, Oakley, Weskan and Burlington will give a string recital at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Fellowship Hall of the Colby United Methodist Church. They will offer solos, duets, trios and quartets for violin and cello. For infor-

mation, call Jan Wolf, 460-3535.

Piano students offer program

Piano students of Pat Ziegelmeier will perform in a recital at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Colby United Methodist Church. The program will include a variety of solos and ensembles. Everyone is welcome. For information, call Ziegelmeier at 460-5518.

Club plans racing on Sunday

The Racing for Christ radio-controlled car club will race at 2 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church, 615 W. Webster. For information, call Kent Higerd, 462-3440.

