



School board association to meet in Colby

By Kevin Bottrell Colby Free Press kbottrell@nwkansas.com

School board members and school superintendents from around northwest Kansas and state officials will come to Colby next week to talk about the future of public education in Kansas.

day, Oct. 6. Superintendent Terrel Harrison ran down the schedule at a Colby School Board meeting last Monday. Harrison said the meeting is held every year at a district in the region, which includes 16 counties in northwest Kansas. About 80 people are expected to attend.

City Limits Convention Center. Harrison said the meeting will cover subjects such as national academic standards, changes to the No Child Left Behind Act, the state budget and the Legislature. Harrison said she plans to invite parents, business owners, educators, site council members and others to participate in the session.

The main meeting, at Colby High School, will open with a welcome from Colby board President Janice Frahm. It will include sessions for board members and administrators on the state budget crisis, site councils and legal issues.

doing in your schools," Harrison said. The Soaring Singers honor choir and high school music students will perform at a dinner that night.

College interviews candidate for interim

By Andy Heintz Colby Free Press aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby Community College board interviewed Max Heim of Russell as a potential candidate for interim president at the college during a special meeting Friday at the Fireside Lounge in the student union.

Heim would replace Dr. Lynn Kreider, who resigned on Monday, Sept. 13. Chairman Cindy Black said the board had a great interview with him, but took no action at the meeting.

Board attorney John Gatz said Heim was a dean and professor of education at Mississippi State University in 1979-1980. He earlier had been school superintendent at Junction City, Turner and Hutchinson. Gatz said he had been a tenured professor in the Department of Education Policy and Leadership at the University of Kansas.

Janel Andrews, executive assistant for Colby Superintendent Terrel Harrison, said Heim headed a screening committee for the Kansas Association of School Boards that helped the district hire a superintendent in 2008. She said the committee collected the applications and screened them to make sure the candidates met the requirements.

Crossing the finish line



Amanda Wahlmeier (left) and Tiffany Mader prepared the finish line in the Hope for a Cure fund raiser for Cheyenne Cramer, 5-year-old niece of C.W. and Melinda Cheney of Colby, who has lymphoblastic leukemia. The event, which included races for children and adults, raised \$1,720 to help with her medical expenses.



The original St. Agnes Catholic Church in Grainfield was destroyed in a fire in 1928. The new church, built in 1950, is still there today.

Catholic church celebrates century by serving Grainfield

St. Agnes Catholic Church in Grainfield will celebrate its centennial with the theme "One Hundred Years of Faith and Fellowship" on Sunday.

The Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley, bishop of the Diocese of Salina, along with the Rev. James M. Thomas, pastor of St. Agnes, will celebrate Mass at 4 p.m. Sunday with visiting priests.

Dinner and a program will follow at the Grainfield American Legion Hall. This date marks the 100th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated of the newly organized parish on Oct. 3, 1910.

The first Mass celebrated in Grainfield, in 1885, was in the George Birrer home by Father O'Brian. About 1908, residents began to discuss starting a parish in the small prairie town. They received little encouragement in their first attempts.

In 1909, they approached Father Bruno Ziegenfuss from Collyer, who was attending a mission at Grinnell, to discuss the matter. He advised them to meet with Bishop John F. Cunningham when he was in Angelus for confirmation. Cunningham's response was, "All these towns around here want to build churches. If you think you can get enough money to-

gether, I shall consider your request. If you do build, I want you to build a decent-looking church. I don't want any more chicken houses."

The town immediately started a fund raising drive. It took some time, and during these months, Father Ziegenfuss celebrated Mass infrequently in various places including the blacksmith shop, the grade school and the opera house.

In June 1910, although things did not look too promising due to poor crops and insufficient numbers, the men decided to go ahead with building a church. The new wooden building was blessed by Bishop Cunningham on Oct. 3, 1910. Although the structure still had cheesecloth on the windows and the pews consisted of nail kegs covered with planks, the Bishop complimented the new congregation on the way they "built this fine little church."

Mrs. George Birrer is given credit for choosing St. Agnes as the patroness of the parish, as she had a special devotion to the saint with her former parish. Agnes (circa 304) was born of noble and wealthy

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Briefly

Students plan massage clinics

Students from the Physical Therapy Assistant program at Colby Community College will hold massage clinics from 4 to 8 p.m. today and next Monday in room 804 of the Health Science Building. The cost is \$12 for half an hour - \$10 with college ID - or \$22 for a full hour. The students are raising money for a trip to the spring physical therapy conference. For information or to make an appointment, call Trudy Wildeman at 460-4797.

Massage class needs clients

The Therapeutic Massage Program at Colby Community College is offering massages by students in the Massage Clinic I class from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. For an appointment, call (785) 460-5427. The fee is \$5. Any gratuities will be put into the Massage Therapy Club fund to help students pay

for the National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, said Debra A. Waites, director of the program.

Range milling to last two weeks

APAC Construction was to begin a project to mill and repave South Range Avenue today, working from near College Drive to just north of Interstate 70. Drivers should watch for construction equipment and slow-moving vehicles and drive carefully during this project, said Colby Public Works Director Chris Bieker. The work is expected to take about two weeks. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Hospital plans childbirth classes

Citizens Medical Center will offer a four weeks of childbirth classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays start-

ing Oct. 7. Women due to deliver before February should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin Jan. 6. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital Education Department at (785) 460-4850.

County band looking for players

Anyone who plays an instrument is invited to join the Colby Community College band for a performance at the Thomas County 125th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 9. The rehearsal schedule will be announced. For information, call Tony Schroer at 460-5519.

You could help sing out 125th

Singers from all over Thomas County can join the Thomas County 125th Anniversary choir, which will perform at the celebration at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct.

9, at the Colby Community Building. Practices will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Oct. 5 at the Colby United Methodist Church. For information, call Jan Wolf at 460-3535.

Coach plans fitness camp

Colby High School boy's tennis coach Matt Ludwig is planning to start a fitness camp for adults. For information, call Ludwig at 462-2271.

