

# Food fights, personnel issues devil Colby board

By Michelle L. Hawkins  
*Colby Free Press*

Problems with food fights at the high school, coaching situations, teachers asked to resign, the status of the high school principal and possibilities of a new administration building jammed a four-hour meeting of the Colby School Board last Monday night.

People had lots of questions, but the board had few answers.

Two teachers and a high school

student started the meeting off by complaining about plans to get rid of a music teacher. Laura Krejci, elementary music instructor, and Nancy Rundell, speech teacher at the high school, questioned the requested resignation of middle and high school vocal instructor Jennifer Wassemiller.

Rundell told the board how Wassemiller has assisted her in productions at the high school.

"She is truly a person I've been

waiting to come along," Rundell said. "Jennifer is giving it 100 percent."

High school student Taylor Miller asked about the proposed resignation of principal Don Barta following problems at the school. Miller said that after a food fight on last Tuesday, issues that need to be addressed have not, but other areas such as rules on tardiness and absence have been tightened.

"Barta's removal would be a

costly error," he said. "It will add stress to the school and cause shame to the board."

After the comments, the regular agenda continued with no discussion of either subject by the board.

During the principal's reports, Terrell Harrison and Robb Ross reported on the elementary and middle schools. High school activities director Jeff Quenzer gave his report and board member Bill Miller asked Superintendent Kirk

Nielsen about the missing high school principal.

Nielsen told Miller that Mr. Barta was absent. When Miller asked why, Nielsen said, "I asked him not to be here tonight unless we called him."

Growing visibly agitated, Miller told Nielsen that it was a public meeting and he couldn't do that.

"I did," Nielsen said.

After a brief report on open positions to fill for the coming year by

Nielsen, Miller once again began to question him.

"I received a letter from you last week and I want to know an update on things at the high school," Miller said.

The two-sided conversation between Miller and Nielsen continued as Nielsen reported a few students were identified and suspended. Miller said damage had been done to the flags in the commons area.

## Final draft on agenda

Sherman County commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday to consider the final draft of the trash collection contract with the city and a proposal from the county fire board for a lease/purchase of a new truck.

The commissioners will discuss the final draft of the trash collection contract with the city and are expected to approve it.

Appointments to the Smoky Garden Board are to be approved, and commissioners will discuss a search committee for hospital board vacancies.

Harlan D. House is to be at the meeting to ask the commissioners for a grant for the home-owned carnival.

The county fire district board is proposing the lease/purchase of a fire truck.

Dave Daniels, the county representative to the Southeast and East Central Recycling group will give an update.

Sheriff Doug Whitson will present vehicle bids.

Curt Way, public works manager, will discuss a proposed equipment trade.

Terry Ballard, county appraiser, will discuss the status of the West Side Apartments and present an overview of the county real estate values.

The commissioners meet in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 1304 Broadway Ave.

## Central students met book goal for picnic

Principal Sharon Gregory told the Goodland School Board that the 134 students at Central Elementary had met their goal of reading 2,200 books, and they'll get their reward picnic at Smoky Gardens.

Gregory invited board members to help cook at the Central cookout on May 9. In other reports at the April 14 meeting:

• Jim Mull reported that the Grant Junior High cleanup had been "a resounding success, with students raking up 1 1/2-2 tons of leaves and trash. The school got lots of compliments.

Mull also said the junior high track meet had gone well. Eighth graders are to visit the high school, he said, and sixth graders will tour the junior high.

• Raymer reported that kindergarten enrollment at North School looks to be about 65 next year, compared to 80 this year.

• At West School, Jerry Burkett reported, students had attended a program on recycling, and second graders would have a program on "Power Math."

• At the high school, said Principal Harvey Swager, there have been a few discipline problems, including detention.

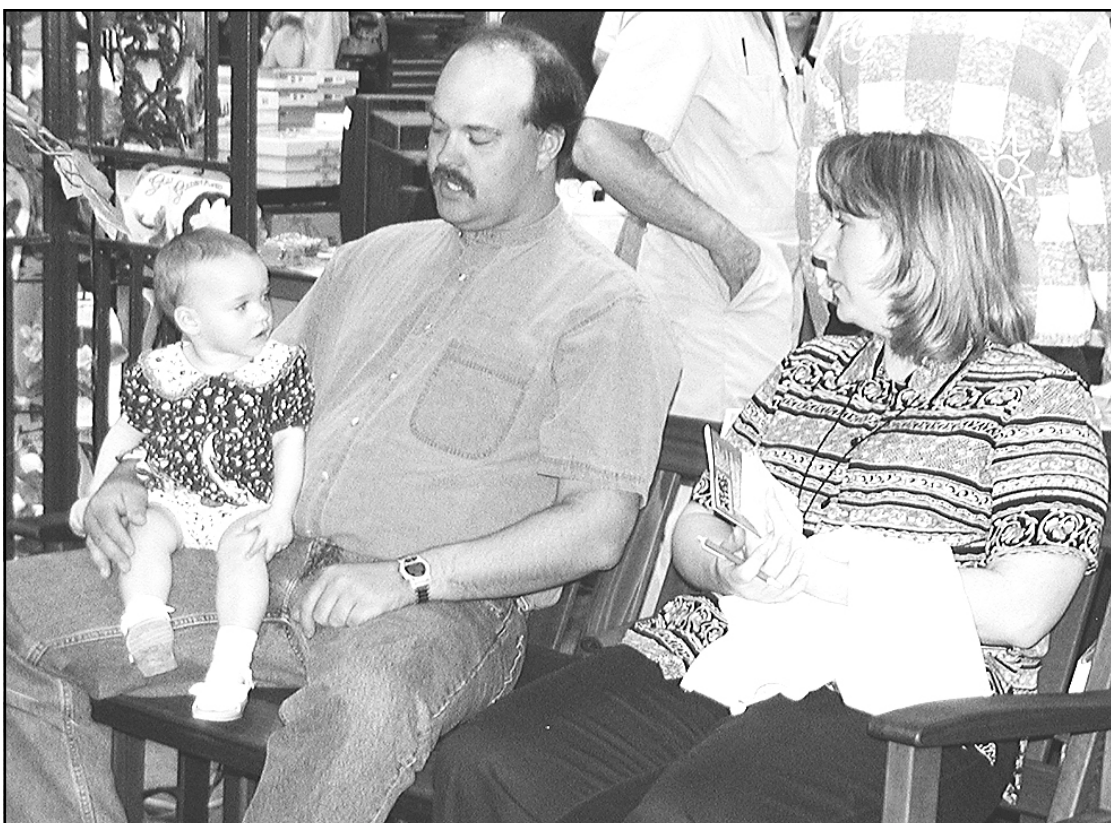
Enrollment is being done on the Internet for the first time, and it works well.



## Show more than just home and gardens

Courtney Warden, (above), a massage therapist, used her talents to relieve the stress of many of the people who attended the Home and Garden show at Max Jones Fieldhouse Saturday and Sunday. Warden, who is in school, will be working with the Unruh Family Chiropractic office when she moves here later this year. Amy Floyd, 8, (top right) pets a ball python held by Jim Withers during the show Sunday. Withers was promoting the annual Sharon Springs Rattlesnake Hunt on May 10-11. Dave Floyd (left), Amy's father, works at the National Weather Service office. Kent and Shelly Willems (right) and their 15 month-old daughter, Kaylee, tested a wooden glider which was part of the Rasure Do-It Center booth.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News



## Local doctor has new military address

Capt. Natalie Griego, a Goodland doctor who is on active duty with the Colorado National Guard, is in Iraq, and may be stationed at the Baghdad International Airport.

Her husband, Jeff Krall, said Saturday he has not heard from her in about a week, when she was in Kuwait. He said her unit is being assigned to the 101st Airborne, which

is stationed at the airport.

Krall said she has a new address, and would like to hear from friends. He said she can receive non-perishable things like Skittles, cashews or almonds. He said she would appreciate getting the wet towelettes, which are good for personal cleanup in the field.

Her new address: Capt. Natalie

Griego, 101st Airborne, 62MED BDE (30MedBde) Company 109 ASMP, APO AE 09302-1293.

He said the last he has heard from her, his wife is in good spirits, but was not sure exactly where she will be stationed. He knows her unit has been assigned to the 101st, and that unit is stationed at the airport, on the outskirts of Baghdad.

## correction

A headline for the story "County agrees on loan" which appeared on Page 1 of the April 22 *Goodland Star-News* incorrectly said that micro loan for Reynaldo's was to be \$15,000. The maximum amount of a micro loan that can be received is \$15,000. The loan being sought by Reynaldo's was \$10,000.

The total of the revolving loan grant from the state was \$100,000, but \$10,000 of that is the cost of administering the program, and is paid to the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission for handling the paperwork. The loan approval by the county commissioners allows a request for the money to be sent to the state, and

the county is requesting \$15,000 of the total grant amount. Only part of that request will go to the restaurant; the rest is for administration. The mistake was an editing error.

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### Prayer event at court house

The Goodland Ministerial Alliance will hold a National Day of Prayer event, including music, prayer and worship, from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Thursday at the Sherman County Courthouse.

Music will be provided by the Goodland High School Expressos, Robin Rains and a worship team, which will lead prayers for our nation to be righteous. Area pastors and leaders

will lead prayers over a variety of issues that affect our community and nation.

"One Nation Under God," will be the theme of the 45-minute event. The theme is taken from Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."

Pastor Steve Rains of the ministerial alliance said about 100 people attended last year's event.

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