



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Superintendent, principal leaving Brewster system

By JAY KELLEY

*Colby Free Press*  
BREWSTER — The school system here will have two new faces at the top next year. At an April 9 school board meeting, Superintendent Jim Garner announced his resignation and the board voted not to renew Principal Matt Pounds' contract.

Garner said he had accepted the superintendent's position in Kinsley, near Dodge City.

Garner's new job will be in a district with 290 enrollment, up from the 160 in the Brewster district.

He will probably get a raise, also. Kinsley's superintendent made \$69,500 last year, verses Garner's \$63,950, according to the Kansas Association of School Boards. His resignation takes effect in July.

Pounds will also stay on until his

contract runs out in July. He was unavailable for comment and neither Garner nor the board would comment, citing privacy issues.

Both Pounds and Garner have been the target of complaints from parents in the last six months for their handling of discipline and morale problems in the school.

Both were sharply criticized for their handling of an incident earlier in the school year involving students taking a suburban for a joyride.

Garner and Pounds were accused of trying to cover-up the incident because it involved Garners' son.

In a story on the board's Monday special meeting in Tuesday's Free Press, it was incorrectly reported that Becky Luckert was the dissenting vote for the work study program. It was Joan Jamison.

## Tax hike proposal gets cool reception

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves told legislators Tuesday that "adjustments must be made" and recommended \$117.6 million in tax increases to help fill a hole in the state budget.

Graves proposed raising the state sales tax to 5.1 percent from the current 4.9 percent; adding 10 cents to the per-pack price of cigarettes; and imposing higher taxes on some insurance companies and on the wealth inherited by non-blood relatives.

The changes would take effect when the state's new fiscal year begins July 1. Coupled with other steps, such as more vigorous collection of delinquent

taxes, Graves' plan would raise more than enough money to close the \$206 million gap between expected revenues and the spending he already has signed into law for fiscal 2002.

The fresh revenue would also boost aid to public schools by \$60 million above the \$67 million increase in spending already approved, and would put nearly \$10.8 million extra into the budget for higher education.

"Regardless of past policy decisions, when revenues are less than projected, adjustments must be made — it is that simple," Graves said in a letter to legislators. ^

## Free Press captures five writing awards at press convention

The Colby Free Press captured five awards at this past weekend's 109th annual convention of the Kansas Press Association at Lawrence. The awards included two third places and three honorable mentions.

Placing third in the Better Newspaper Contest, were Jay Kelley, reporter and Tom (TD) Dreiling, publisher. Kelley won in the column writing category and Dreiling in the editorial writing competition.

Patty Decker, editor, won honorable mention in the spot news competition and in the in-depth writing category.

Jim Ferguson, former advertising representative/sports columnist, won honorable mention in the sports col-

umn writing division.

All entries, literally hundreds from the various weekly and daily newspapers across the state, were judged by the Missouri Press Association. The winners were recognized at the Awards

made a \$50,000 contribution to the American Red Cross to help the tornado relief effort in the central Kansas community. The tribal council took only 15 minutes to approve the contribution Monday, and the check was presented on Tuesday to the Kansas Capital Chapter of the Red Cross.

"We're all within striking distance of something like this," said tribal chairman Badger Wahwasuck. "If this happened here, I know everyone would come to our aid, also."

The tribe first offered to help by sending bulldozers, backhoes and firefighting equipment but were told those needs had already had been met. The council then decided to donate money to the Red Cross and let that agency decide how best to distribute it.

"Right now, we have the resources available," said Wahwasuck, whose tribe derives much of its revenue from its casino operation near Mayetta.

Wahwasuck challenged the state's other Indian tribes to join in contributing to the Hoisington recovery effort.

In another development Tuesday, Dillons stores, WIBW-TV of Topeka, KAKE-TV of Wichita and the Salvation Army announced a statewide effort to raise funds to help the tornado victims. Bob Colvey, president of Dillons, said customers can add a cash donation to their grocery bill at any Dillons store in Kansas.

## Summer is almost here!



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Workers from Hess Services, Hays, were busy Tuesday sandblasting the Colby pool, getting it ready for some repairs and a new coat of

paint. According to recreation director C.W. Cheney, the pool will be open on May 26.

## Tornado damage, cleanup continues

HOISINGTON (AP) — As cleanup and damage assessment continues, people and organizations from around the state are pitching in to help Hoisington recover from last weekend's devastating tornado.

The F-4 level twister that hit Saturday night killed one person, injured 28 and caused widespread property damage, with nearly 200 homes destroyed.

The Prairie Band of the Potawatomi Nation, based in northeast Kansas, has

made a \$50,000 contribution to the American Red Cross to help the tornado relief effort in the central Kansas community. The tribal council took only 15 minutes to approve the contribution Monday, and the check was presented on Tuesday to the Kansas Capital Chapter of the Red Cross.

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## Season finale



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra held its final concert of the season this past weekend in Frahm Theatre with musical highlights from "Annie," sung by students in Laura Krejci's Colby Grade School classes. Ashley Schippers (left) and Brock Wagoner were two of the young people performing. Others included Justina Asuncion, Karyn Gillispie, Keesa Wright, Jessica Jones, Leah Sharp, Tess Brown, Stephen Schmidt, Chelle Shoemaker, Ashley Kappenman, Katie Strange, and Ebony Crieghton. Adult soloists were Amie Kendrick and Dr. Richard Groetzinger. The orchestra was under the direction of Juliann Groom.

## Briefly

### Weather: Warm

The Colby region can look for continuing warm temperatures as April winds down. The National Weather Service issued this morning the following forecast for the remainder of the week and into the weekend: Tonight, clear, low of 40 and south winds 5-15 mph, turning to the west; Thursday, sunny, warm, high of 80 and northwest winds 5-15 mph; Thursday night, clear, low 40-45; Friday, continued dry, sunny, high of 85; and Saturday and Sunday, thunderstorms likely, low of 50 and high in the 80s. Tuesday's high in Colby was 72 and the overnight low this morning was 35, climbing to 44 by 8 a.m.

Precipitation for the month remains at 3.01 inches. The records for April 25: 92 in 1989 and 24 in 1910. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

### Recycling center to hold open house

An open house for the community recycling center is planned from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 28, at the facility, 720 E. College Dr., next to the blue water tower. According to Lynette Koon, one of the coordinators, city and county officials will kick off the event at 10 a.m. with comments and the rest of the time will be a "come and go affair."

Koon said she hopes that people will come and tour the building and see the many demonstrations. In addition, from 1 to 4 p.m., an informational tent will be set up in the Wal-Mart parking lot with displays, information handouts and games for children.

### Applications sought for pageant

Applications are being sent out for the 2001 Thomas County Rodeo queen and princess pageant. The event is planned for Friday, July 27. Anyone interested in receiving a packet is asked to call Trudy Wildeman at (785) 462-2848.

### Free physicals planned in May

Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range, will be offering free physicals again this year to students in Thomas County on Monday, May 7.

Colby Middle School students are asked to be at the clinic by 5:30 p.m. Colby High School students should arrive by 6:15 p.m. and students from Golden Plains and Brewster are scheduled for 7 p.m. Medical forms should be filled out

prior to students taking the physical. Forms will be provided to students participating in sports next year at their specific school. In addition, due to construction work at the facility, students are asked to use the east entrance on the north end of the building.

For questions, call Jeff Quenzer, activities director, 465-5300.

### VFW to match relief efforts

The VFW in Colby has also been helping in disaster relief efforts following Saturday's tornado in Hoisington. People who would like to contribute can do so by sending checks payable to VFW Hoisington Relief Fund, in care of, Leland Kindler, VFW quartermaster, 565 Austin, Colby, Kan., 67701. In addition, the VFW will match any local contributions. Earlier this week, two truckloads of supplies were transported to that area. American Red Cross personnel, officials said, are using the Hoisington VFW post as their headquarters.

### Baseball tryouts Sunday

Anyone interested in playing summer baseball for Colby's 12 & Under, K-18 or possibly American Legion, are asked to sign up and tryout for teams at the Colby Recreation Fields, Sunday, April 29 beginning at 3 p.m. For information or questions, call Lyle Saddler, 462-2069, Wayne Sulzman, 462-2716 or Jeff Krzycki, 462-2657.

### Fundraising deadline extended

The United Methodist Senior Youth Group has extended its deadline for selling pizzas as a fundraising event until Friday, April 27, according to Barb Albers, one of the advisors. The pizzas will be made and delivered on Sunday, May 6. For information or for those wanting to order, but have not been contacted, call Albers at 462-2489.

### Red Cross asks for help

Anyone who would like to make monetary contributions to help victims of the tornado in Hoisington can either send them to the Thomas County American Red Cross, 350 S. Range, Colby, or call Donna Finley, executive director, at 462-7161.

### Volunteer tea planned

Lantern Park Manor will have a Volunteer Appreciation Tea Thursday, April 26, at 3 p.m. All volunteers are welcome.

