



First time in years

Colby College dormitories filled to capacity

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

According to Colby Community College officials, the school has a new and exciting challenge.

"For the first time in several years the dorms are filled to capacity," said public information director Deb Schwanke. The dorms house 264 students.

College president Mikel Ary said the school is working with students to find housing.

"We currently have a waiting list and are assisting students in finding off-campus housing."

Students headed to classes today after a week of orientation last week, that included a barbeque and a welcome by Ary.

As an early indicator of student numbers, dormitory occupancy signals that the college will have much higher enrollments for the fall 2001 semester than in the recent past.

As of today, 1,049 students are enrolled. That is an increase of 95 students when compared to August 2000, according to Schwanke.

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Deb Schwanke,

Colby College public information director

"In terms of full-time equivalency, we are currently at 883," said Ary. "That is an increase of 56 when compared to this time last year."

The college's reimbursement from the state is based on full-time equivalency, which is determined by dividing the number of student credit hours by 15.

Although full-time, traditional students are a large part of the college enrollment, equivalency also counts non-traditional and part-time students.

That means that enrollment can fluctuate due to continuing education courses and workshops that might start

in the middle of a semester.

"Because of workshops, outreach classes and continuing education courses for area professionals, enrollment numbers continue to grow throughout the course of the semester," Ary said.

"By the end of the fall semester, the college's full time equivalency will have grown to nearly 1,400 students.

Hence, the number of enrollments quoted at any moment is merely a snapshot or partial assessment of what will later be the case for the college as a whole (outreach and on-campus)."



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Derek Jones, Hoxie student, worked on enrollment forms in Mike McVay's *Introduction to Psychology* class at Colby Community College this morning.

Firefighters to again collect for Muscular Dystrophy Association

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Firefighters will be out in force on Saturday, collecting donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association as part of the annual boot drive, a nationwide errand of mercy that has become identified with fire departments nationwide as fighting fires themselves.

According to Colby Assistant Chief Rick Dickman, coordinator for the effort by the local fire department, firefighters will be again be stationed at Fourth and Franklin and at Dillons and Wal-Mart from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., but they do have a new sponsor.

"The Sonic Drive-In will provide a free medium soft drink for anyone who presents a

sticker from the fire department showing they donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association," said Dickman.

Last year, Colby firefighters raised almost \$2,000 and Kansas fire departments raised more than \$178,000 in the effort to fight muscular dystrophy.

Muscular dystrophy covers 43 neuromuscu-

lar diseases.

The association provides medical services, clinic visits, support groups and summer camps at no cost.

They also provide financial help with wheelchairs and other braces.

According to Sarah Houston, regional director, the association receives no state, federal or

local funding and is not part of United Way.

"More than 76 cents of each dollar goes directly to services," said Houston.

Dickman said the money raised in Colby will stay in the district.

The Colby district includes all of south-central and western Kansas.

A long reach



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Marjorie Jacobsen handed out shoes to Shane Carter as the Colby High School marching band checked out uniforms on Monday. Classes for Colby schools start Wednesday.

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator John Lygeros presented information to the Thomas County Commissioners at their Monday meeting on moving the tornado siren located on South Lake Street. Colby resident Jeff Griffin had earlier complained that the siren was so loud it broke windows in his house, and disturbed his new baby.

Lygeros said Midwest Energy figured it would cost around \$500 to extend the pole another 18 feet, but Jim's Electric said it would cost \$1,000-\$1,500 for the wiring. A blast of air is sent through a tube to blow the siren.

The commissioners took no action.

In other matters:

- The commissioners heard a quarterly report from the Thomas County Extension agents. Dennis Chandler said the fair was a success and he had heard positive comments. "Many people," he said, "had a great time, even without the carnival, and the fair board might want to continue with the home town fun on family night."

- He said 12 people attended the Master Gardener class, which was offered by the extension office to teach or further hone skills on gardening. Those

participating, he said, were also asked to donate 40 hours labor to the county. He has 12-15 people lined up for next year.

D'Ette Scholtz, family and consumer sciences extension agent, said she did a program on sun protection in May in six counties in northwest Kansas and several times in Thomas County. Scholtz said the program was well attended in all counties.

Other activities highlighted included taking 18 youth to 4-H Camp at Camp Lakeside near Scott City; and 17 young people to Camp Jackson, Colo. Next year, Chandler said, they plan to offer a camp at Rock Springs.

- Register of Deeds Denny Burke brought information about microfilming the documents in her office. Burke explained that it costs \$6,271 a month for microfilming and the present machine, purchased in 1991, is too old for a renewed service agreement. It would cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 for a new machine, she said. She also said she has



D'Ette Scholtz

a proposal from Lockwood in Atchison for 39 cents per page, based on 5,210 pages, which would cost \$2,415 a month. She will photocopy the pages and send them to Lockwood monthly for microfilming. She said she had also inquired at Salina Blueprint, but the Lockwood bid was lower.

She wants to start sending the documents to Lockwood as soon as she runs out of chemicals for the county machine, which will be before the first of the year. The commissioners approved contracting out with Lockwood, for anticipated yearly savings of \$3,000 to \$4,000.

- At the request of the commissioners, County Attorney Allan Taylor said they use about \$7,000 of the money being set aside for closure of the landfill to recycle some concrete. Commissioner Ron Evans called GoldBank to see if there was any problem if the money, which is currently in a certificate of deposit, was withdrawn before maturity. The bank will get back to the commissioners.

Landfill Director Larry Jumper said he can get the person who crushes concrete, Ed Strecker of Lakin, within the next 90 days, and needs to let him know. The commissioners are waiting

to hear from the bank.

- Jumper also said work is progressing on tearing down the old Nickerson Farms building. Tuffy Taylor, who bought the building, is separating the metal from other debris. There is no charge for metal if separated, but there is a charge if it is mixed with other debris. Christner Metal Salvage is expected to be in the county the first or second week of September to pick up metal at the landfill.

- Undersheriff Mike Baughn brought a complaint that the prescription cards for the new health insurance with Central Benefits have not arrived, and he could not get a prescription filled at the local drug store. The commissioners promised to call the company.

- The Thomas County Sheriff's office reported to commissioners that about six out-of-county truckers have recently been ticketed for being overweight and having no in-county destination on county roads. One of them was 6,800 pounds overweight and had no commercial driver's license.

- The commissioners reappointed Sue Evans as Thomas County representative to the Northwest Kansas Community Corrections Board.

Debt refinancing will be big savings for college

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees signed a resolution Monday night which will save the college \$249,724.67 in net cash by refinancing a \$1,840,000 debt left from \$2,200,000 financed for building projects in 1996. John Haas of Ranson Municipal Consultants of Wichita had made a presentation at the Aug. 13 meeting, at which the board had authorized him to proceed with a proposal from Edward Jones.

In other business:

- The board approved two contracts. Tonya Milliken will be a nursing instructor. She has a bachelor's degree from Dayton, Ohio, and will commute from St. Francis. Clinton Taylor will be the new judging team coach. He earned his associate's degree from Butler Community College, and served on the national championship judging team. He is a native of New Mexico. His bachelor's degree is from Texas Tech.

- The board accepted a committee report recommending that it not levy a

fine against Joan Jilka who didn't complete her contract. The committee, composed of Allen Russell and Tracey Stark, faculty, and Dean of Community Services Joe Mildrexler, recommended waiving damages because the college did not hire someone to replace Jilka, but filled her coaching duties with others already on the payroll.

- The board opened copier bids and accepted a bid for \$6,888 for four copiers from Ikon. Bids for \$7,876 from Office Works, and \$8,208.72 from Tri-Central Office Supply were rejected.

The college has a choice between a Ricoh Aficio 1018, or a Savin 2518 DP copier for the same price. The money comes from a student support grant which had to be spent or returned to the federal government, said Colby College President Dr. Mikel Ary.

- Kenneth Johnson, dean of fiscal affairs, said the college had received \$1.4 million in state aid on Aug. 1.

- Ary said preliminary numbers show that college enrollment is up, but noted that official figures will be reported in mid September.

Briefly

Weather: Continued warm

Warm temperatures will continue to persist in the Colby region through the weekend, advises the National Weather Service. Tonight is expected to bring partly cloudy skies, southwest winds 5-15 mph and lows of 60-65. Wednesday, expect a lot of sun, south winds 5-15 mph and highs 90-95. Wednesday night, cloudy, a 30 percent for thunderstorms and lows 60-65. Thursday through Sunday, thunderstorms a possibility, lows in the lower 60s and highs 85-90. Normally, for this time of the year, lows are in the middle 50s and highs in the middle 80s. Monday's high in Colby was

97 and the overnight low this morning was 63. Precipitation remains at 0.29 inches. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 81 degrees. The records for Aug. 21: 106 in 1899 and 46 in 1964. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

Soccer registration deadline Friday

The American Youth Soccer Association in Colby will continue registering children ages 4 1/2 and up for soccer through Friday, Aug. 24. If interested in registering, call

Gene Sicard at 462-2468.

Field Day on agenda

The 2001 Horticulture Field Day will be Tuesday, Aug. 28, at the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. Registration will begin at 5:15 p.m. with the program at 6 p.m. Sessions will be: *Annual Variety Trials*, Alan Stevens Kansas State University Research and Extension Horticulture; *Controlling Diseases on Roses*, Ned Tisserat, Kansas State University Extension Plant Pathology; and more. Ward Upham, horticulture specialist for Kansas State Uni-

versity Rapid Response Center, will be available throughout the evening to answer questions about plants. There will be a small charge for the grilled hamburger barbecue which begins at 5:30 p.m. Preregister is due by Monday, Aug. 27. Call 785-462-7575.

Hog Roast is Wednesday

Gem Lions Club is having its annual Hog Roast from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, at the Gem Community Building. Free will donations will be asked for and the net proceeds will be used for community betterment.

