



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Scene of injury accident



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

A two-car accident Thursday at the intersection of Range Ave. and Fourth Street in Colby resulted in the driver of a late model Pontiac Grand Am being taken to Citizens Medical Center after colliding with a flatbed trailer being towed by a pick-up. The pick-up was turning north onto Range Ave. and was struck by the west-bound Pontiac. Particu-

lars of the accident, including names of those involved, were still not available today as the investigation continues. Thomas County Undersheriff Mike Baughn (background), along with other law enforcement authorities, offered assistance to the Colby Police Department in handling the incident.

# I-70 detour into Colby abandoned

By **PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

The deal is off for bringing motorists into Colby from Interstate 70 as part of a detour arrangement initially planned to take effect on Monday.

Kansas Department of Transportation officials in Norton abandoned the idea late this morning as a result of many, many telephone calls from concerned residents in Colby, said Chriss McDiffett, project engineer.

Consequently, the state plans to build the section of interstate between Colby and Levant under traffic.

"This change may delay the completion of the section and will add additional costs to the transportation department," he said, "but officials felt that the local residents will appreciate the decision."

Although plans are no longer in place to use the Range and Fourth Street proposed detour, state officials said that should they have failures in the interstate roadway under the new plan, they could yield to it temporarily. "If, for some reason, we do have fail-

ures in the interstate roadway," McDiffett said, "we will return traffic to the city detour for a short time while this area is repaired."

In the event the transportation department would need to use the Range and Fourth Street detour, McDiffett said the people in Colby would be notified before the transfer of traffic would happen and exactly how long that duration would be.

Prior to changing from the original plan, the transportation department had wanted to detour the westbound lanes of Interstate 70 between Colby and Levant at Exit 53 to Range Ave. (Highway 24)."

From there, traffic would have continued north to the junction of Fourth St. (Highway 24).

Interstate traffic would then turn onto Fourth St. (Highway 24) and proceed to the Levant interchange where it will return to Interstate 70.

*Editor's note: Local residents expressed many concerns about the decision to detour traffic into the city. Those letters can be found on page 3.*

# Tentative agreement reached between faculty, college board

By **MAXINE NELSON**

*Colby Free Press*

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees and Faculty Alliance reached a tentative contract agreement on Thursday, subject to a vote by the faculty alliance, and approval of the entire board of trustees at its next meeting. Health coverage and salaries have been issues of disagreement.

Faculty Alliance representatives tentatively accepted the board's proposal to participate in the State of Kansas Health plan which has been opened up to school districts and community

colleges. The previous health plan had been partially self funded with the participants paying into a health fund out of which claims were paid. When claims reached a certain amount for an individual, they were paid through an insurance company.

"It is my personal opinion that doing this (insurance) is a big improvement, said David Kruse, business instructor. "It would be a more stable plan because we are looking at more people statewide — a larger organization with a larger pool to pull from. I am quite optimistic as to what appears to be happening this year.

Things are tending to get better," he said. He reminded the agreement is still not totally accepted. He said the lengthy negotiations process has been good, "because we can come to an agreement that is mutually agreeable."

The board attorney, David Starkey, presented the proposal, which included contracts for the current year, 2001-2002, and next year, 2002-2003. The faculty has been teaching under the contract for the 2000-2001 teaching year.

The board proposed, for the 2002-2003 year, each full-time professional employee will receive a salary increased by 4.3 percent, plus

\$500. For the 2001-2002 year, the salary will be increased by 4 percent plus \$342. In total, the new money for about 60 instructors in the 2001-02 year would be \$94,000 and salary increases in the 2002-03 for about 70 faculty members would total \$130,000.

Three counts of prohibitive practices involving insurance, contracts and negotiations, were resolved and dismissed. Starkey reminded that the state is expecting a shortfall in taxes, and state financing for education is an "unknown factor."

Four members of the college board —

Kenton Krehbiel, Cleona Flipse, Matt Hamill and Don Kready — were present. Curt Stephens and Ken Poland were not. The entire board will vote on the proposed agreement at the Monday night meeting.

Pat Erickson, Faculty Alliance representative, said it would take seven to 10 days for the alliance to vote on the proposal. Kip Johnson, mediator for the Kansas Department of Human Resources, was present to help with fact-finding, but the parties came to an agreement before going to fact-finding. Johnson is an attorney from Hays.

## Ready for the endowment



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Dave Jennings, owner and manager of the His Shop, arranged some of the many items that will be on the block at this year's Colby Community College Endowment Auction, Saturday, beginning at 4:45 p.m. at the Comfort Inn Convention Center. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. with the auction starting at 7 p.m.

# County fair board sticks with exhibit release time

By **MAXINE NELSON**

*Colby Free Press*

The Thomas County Fair Board reviewed and let stand their decision to release fair exhibits on Sunday morning of the fair. They also left the fair parade set for 10 a.m. Saturday morning. Fair dates are Tuesday-Saturday, July 30-Aug. 3.

The reason for changing the parade from Tuesday to Saturday, and changing release dates from Saturday to Sunday, is to bring people to the fairgrounds on Saturday, and to have some exhibits for them to view, said Mark Anderson, vice-president. Anderson conducted the meeting in the absence of President Mark Miller.

The board discussed the decision at length. Some 4-H parents have complained about keeping the livestock until Sunday morning, saying some people want to go to church, some people want to leave on vacation, and saying it creates stress on the livestock to stay longer.

Livestock are sold and some are taken to the slaughterhouse, and others go to their new owners.

Fair board member Marty Crampton reported on his meeting with the 4-H

group, and said they were opposed to the later release date. John Cranston said he was concerned about the stress on the livestock for being kept another day, especially the hogs.

The board voted, 4 for and 3 against, to allow resale hogs to be removed Saturday evening. General release will begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

In other business:

- Anderson said the board still does not have a carnival signed up. Board member Cheryl Baird said she had been calling carnivals, and three were showing some interest in coming.

- Board member Nancy Rundel said she kept hearing about home-owned carnivals, but also heard it is difficult to find people to work them. Anyone who is interested in a home-owned carnival is invited to the April 11 meeting.

- Rodeo Queen and Princess Pageant Chairman Trudy Wildeman asked about the pageant.

The board had voted at the previous meeting to give her \$1,000 for the pageant, instead of \$2,500. She spent \$2,800 last year.

"Can I get sponsors?" she asked. "I cannot work on \$1,000 with no spon-

sors."

She said the saddle for the queen is \$850, and she also buys belt buckles for the queen and princess, and runner-ups. Other expenses include \$300 for judges, the luncheon at the Ramada, programs, and such.

Rundel suggested having a sandwich lunch, but Wildeman said it costs as much to have a sandwich lunch and reserve a place to have it, as it does to buy a meal at Ramada, which includes the meeting room.

She said she has people who usually sponsor the pageant. Last year the board gave her \$2,800 and told her not to get sponsors, however this year the board is trying to cut expenses.

- Rodeo Chairman Gary Garrett said he has a signed contract from Bronc Rumford for the rodeo stock. He brought a letter from a person who wants to bring a bucking horse machine to the fair.

- The board voted to pay the Colby Free Press \$200 as full payment of a bill which is being disputed. The bill received was \$252.91.

- The board discussed the contract with the college rodeo team. Allen Russell, college rodeo coach has asked

for the same terms as last year, \$2,500 plus a \$500 deposit. The contract is for the college year, but from Sept. 1-15 for the area north of the grandstand only, because the racing season does not end until around Sept. 15.

Anderson said the contract should probably read from 'when school starts' rather than Sept. 1. Rundel reminded the by-laws say board members must have a chance to study proposed contracts before they are voted on, so the vote was tabled until the next meeting.

- Anderson said he was contacted by representatives of Ty England wanting to have a concert in Colby for \$6,000 including lights and sound. No action was taken.

- Rundel proposed, and the board voted, to have an antique tractor open class show immediately following the parade on Saturday.

She said she had a volunteer interested in being superintendent. The show will be in the 4-H Building parking lot.

- The board speculated on the results of having the parade cross the interstate detour which is scheduled to be down Range Avenue at that time.

## Briefly

### Weather: Typical March

Typical March best describes weather conditions for the Colby area through Monday. The National Weather Service said tonight will bring partly cloudy skies, lows in the upper teens and south winds 5-10 mph. Saturday, look for partly sunny skies, highs in the upper 40s to around 50, and south winds 10-20 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 20s. Sunday, sunny, highs in the middle 50s. Monday, cloudy, then partly cloudy, slight chance for rain or snow showers overnight, lows in the middle 20s and highs in the upper 50s. Colby's high Thursday was 42 and the overnight low this morning was 20. Precipitation remains at 0.01 inches for the month. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 40 degrees. The records for March 15: 79 in 1935 and -2 in 1912. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the North-*

*west Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

### College board to meet Monday

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Thomas Hall Administration Building. Agenda items will include discussion and approval of the negotiations package offered to the Faculty Alliance; child care report; approval of contracts; approval of agreements; resignation. Gasoline and diesel fuel bids will be reviewed.

### Seemann to visit Senior Center

Rosalie Seemann, representing the Silver-Haired Legislature, will be at the Senior Progress Center, Monday, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Seemann plans to update everyone on recent legislative action and prescriptions in a com-

edy-type presentation, said Deb Koon, the center's director. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Volunteers needed for tournament

The Colby High School Eagle Forensics team is hosting its home tournament on Thursday, March 21, in the commons area and 19 schools already have confirmed entries, said Nancy Rundel, head coach. Those who have already agreed to volunteer as judges will have their choice of either attending a meeting on Monday or Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the high school teacher's lounge.

### Donation drop planned Saturday

The Thomas County Alcohol Drug Abuse Council will have a drop-off donation site at Southwind Plaza on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. for those wanting to contribute items for the flea market on Saturday, April 13.



## Thumbs Up!



✓Thurston and Lois VanHorn — a nice tribute, indeed.  
✓Nance Munderloh — a well-deserved honor.  
✓Prairie Museum of Art & History — good luck with your Sunday afternoon program recognizing March as National Women's History Month.  
✓Officer Dave Ford — in a car wash?  
✓Gene Griffin — your *Hamburger Stew* hit the spot with the judges.  
✓Randy Albers, Danny Black, Del Dack, Kevin Owen — enjoy the Free Press.  
✓Girl Scouts — this week is just for you.  
(Call the Free Press at 462-3963 to include an individual or group in this weekly salute.)

