



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Program breaks even

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Colby Community College is breaking even on the Thomas County Tuition Grant, even without state aid, Dean of Student Services Skip Sharp told the board of trustees at their Monday meeting. The grant was implemented last year when the state planned to pay more state aid per hour, but that has not happened.

He said in 2001, there were 98 high school graduates from the three high schools in Thomas County and 73 attended Colby Community.

He said enrollment consisted of those 73, all freshmen, 97 previous Thomas County graduates (sophomores and others) and 46 qualifying residents, for a total of 216.

By contrast, 2000-01 enrollment from Thomas County was 165 students, of whom 42 received Thomas County Tuition Grants, which went to the top 25 percent of the class. Of those 42 students, 26 were Thomas County 2000 graduates, and 17 were previous Thomas County graduates (sophomores).

He said the college was seeing less high school seniors enrolling in college courses, because they could attend on the tuition waiver after graduation, and would have to pay tuition while still in high school.

Sharp said there are new federal regulations regarding reporting on foreign students. Colleges will have to report quarterly on a regular basis, but can report via website if they have less than 500 students. He has seen a slowdown in applications from the Middle East.

In other business:

- The board approved a \$50 international student fee to be approved effective immediately for implementation for the 2003 spring semester. Joe Mildrexler, dean of community services, said the fee was necessary because of the paperwork involved in enrolling the students. The college sends out over 200 packets of information to interested students, at a cost of \$6 per packet for postage. Packets sent to Japan cost as much as \$30. He said packets must be sent by FedEx or certified mail to be sure they are received by the student. He said the \$50 fee is competitive with other community colleges in the state. International students pay out-of-state tuition.
- The board approved a 10-year contract with the Colby School District to use the track for \$4,500 per year.

Supplemental contracts were extended to Kathy Robert, PTA instructor/additional contract days; Pat Erickson, PTA instructor/additional contract days; Mike McVay, Supplemental/Death & Dying class; Shelly Huelsman, library/summer (May-June) and library/summer (July); Alysia Starkey, library/summer (May-June); Sheri Martin, new dental hygiene instructor; Connie Miller, outreach/abnormal psychology/Norton; Norma Riley, outreach/medication aide/Hill City; Toni Younger, outreach/medication aide/WaKeeney; Goldie Dinkel, outreach/medication aide/WaKeeney; Leanne Ensign, outreach/computer literacy/Brewster; Nance Munderloh, adult basic education/Colby; Ora Mae Irby, adult basic education/Hill City; Michelle Indermuhle, adult basic education/Atwood.

The board also extended a contract to Sherry Martin, dental hygienist who works in Oakley. She will be paid by Perkins grant money.

## Getting ready for truckers



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby's southward expansion continues as construction crews work on a new truck stop just south of Comfort Inn. According to Mike Woofter of Woofter Construction, the builder of the truck stop, it will be a couple of weeks before the tenants of the new facility are known.

## City skate park gets a nudge

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

A group of young people representing the Community Awareness Team of Colby were at the city council meeting Tuesday night to request that the council consider building a skate park.

Janet Worthy, coordinator of CAT, introduced the group by telling the council, "I took the kids to a Leadership Council meeting where they were asked to come up with a plan for their community. What they decided on was a skate park."

The kids told the council they were willing to help with fund-raising. "I love fund-raising," Colby High School junior Kelsey Strickler told the governing body.

"We've been to skate parks all over," Andrew Bieser said. "They're always packed with all kinds of people using them."

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong told the group that a tentative site had already been discussed.

"We're thinking about east of Jim Tubbs' house in Buffalo Park," Armstrong said. "The city will provide \$20,000 for a concrete base," she said. Buffalo Park is located in the vicinity of South Park Apartments along S. Franklin.

Worthy said that many grants are available for such a project, and that between the grants, and fund-raising, the group would be able to raise the difference.

"Anytime a group of kids finds something worthwhile to do that doesn't involve drugs and violence, I will help them in anyway I can," Worthy said. She volunteered to fill out the grant applications and coordinate the efforts for fund-raising.

Armstrong said those efforts would have to get underway very quickly, in order to get money budgeted by September for the project.

"At this point, we would be looking at next summer or fall to get started on this," she said.

Council member John Bremenkamp said, "I think it's good that you kids are thinking of doing this. It's a lot better than sitting around watching television."

In other business:

- The council approved Ordinance No. 1328, which requires owners of all houses, buildings, and properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes within the city limits be connected to the public water system.

- Gerry Bieker, director of public works, was present to discuss the purchase of a used vibrating packer, which is designed to pack dirt on holes and trenches that are being refilled. A packer is available now, locally, and the council told him to get the necessary paperwork together.

- The council approved changes to the Drought/Emergency Contingency Plan. For a Stage 1 Water Watch of the plan, the trigger was changed from demand for one day of 3 million gallons to demand for three consecutive days of 3.5 million gallons. For Stage 2 Water Warning, the change is from one day in excess of 3.5 million gallons to three consecutive days in excess of 4 million gallons. For a Stage 3 Water Watch Emergency, the change is from one day in excess of 4 million gallons to three consecutive days in excess of 4.5 million gallons.

- The council approved Ordinance 1329, amending the wellhead protection plan, which changes the signs denoting the wellhead protection area to an overlay for the zoning map.

## Cleanup Week called a 'success' by county

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby free Press

The Thomas County County Wide Cleanup Week: 2002 was a success, landfill director Larry Jumper told the county commissioners at their Monday meeting.

At that time, Colby, Brewster and Rexford picked up yard rubbish from citizens at no charge.

"The city crews from all three towns worked hard to make this clean-up a success," said Jumper. "Each year the

amount of trips the cities make are increasing, especially the city of Colby. That is what we want. We want to collect more unwanted, unsightly rubbish."

He gave the following report:

- The City of Rexford brought two loads of clean-up debris. These loads contained 2,660 pounds of scrap metal, 40 pounds of municipal solid waste, one car tire, and one car tire on a metal rim.

- The City of Brewster brought two

loads of cleanup debris.

These loads contained 480 pounds of scrap metal, 4,500 pounds of municipal solid waste, nine car tires, six appliances, and five refrigeration appliances undrained.

- The City of Colby brought out 93 loads of clean-up that had 259 tickets. These loads contained 8,880 pounds of scrap metal, 6,840 pounds of municipal solid waste, 197 car tires, 15 car tires on metal rims, three truck tires, one tractor tire, 13 appliances, 39 re-

frigeration appliances undrained, 4,820 pounds of concrete, 12,820 pounds of construction and demolition waste, 3,720 pounds of trees, and 880 pounds of yard waste.

"The total weight of clean-up debris brought into the Thomas County Landfill logged as clean-up week debris totaled 25.03 tons.

"Total weight of all debris taken to and processed at the landfill from June 6 through June 10 was 194.66 tons," he said.

## Governor signs budget, removes dome obstacle

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves signed a \$4.4 billion budget into law after removing an obstacle to placing a statue of a Kansas Indian atop the Statehouse dome.

The bill contains most of the appropriations for the state's 2003 fiscal year, which begins July 1. Graves had few objections to its contents.

But, even though he allowed most of the bill to become law Tuesday, Graves did veto a provision that would have prohibited the Department of Administration from spending money to reinforce the dome to support the 20-foot "Ad Astra" statue of the Indian, drawing his bow to the sky.

"He's been a longtime supporter of Ad Astra," said Graves spokesman Don Brown.

The work, by Salina sculptor Richard Bergen, was chosen in a design contest sponsored by the Kansas Arts Commission in 1988.

Its name comes from the state motto, "Ad Astra per aspera" — "To the stars through difficulties." A replica now stands in the first floor rotunda of the Statehouse.

A dedication of the statue originally was set for July 4, 1990. However, opposition from legislators and others and the cost of reinforcing the dome has prevented the statue from going up.

This year, some legislators wanted to prevent spending tax dollars on the project, in part because they were forced to increase taxes \$252 million. Others did not want the project to be included in a \$135 million, eight-year

renovation of the Statehouse, financed by bonds.

The House added the provision to the budget. Rep. Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said he supported it because he doesn't believe a historic structure should be modified through a "popularity contest."

A 1,000-watt light bulb now adorns the top of the Statehouse. A 1901 plan called for a statue of Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture, but over the decades, legislators have objected, questioning both her morals and saying the state doesn't want to honor a pagan deity.

"I'd just as soon have the light bulb," Neufeld said.

In a message to legislators, Graves said the provision was "unnecessary

and unduly restrictive."

While plans call for the statue to be atop the dome in early October, its placement still is not a certainty. Ben Bauman, spokesman for the Department of Administration, said reinforcing the dome would cost about \$700,000 and "there have been no funds identified."

"The door is still open for it to happen," he said.

If Ad Astra were placed on the dome this fall, Kansas would become the second state with a statue of an Indian atop its Statehouse.

Oklahoma plans to put "The Guardian" atop its dome in June. That statehouse didn't have a dome after its completion in 1917, but officials there decided to add one in 2000.

## Roberts draws challenger in race — for four days

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts finally drew a Democratic challenger in his bid for another term — but only for four days.

Overland Park attorney Patrick Wiesner filed Friday to run for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate but withdrew his candidacy on Tuesday, he said. Wiesner said he reconsidered over the weekend.

"Once I reviewed all of my time

commitments for the next several months, I was not going to be able to practice law, take care of my family and do a good job for the Democratic Party in Kansas," he said Tuesday in a telephone interview.

Wiesner, a tax attorney, said he had hoped to challenge U.S. tax law rather than attacking Roberts, whom he called "a good man."

"I disagree with him on several

things, but I would not have anything bad to say about him personally," Wiesner said. "I think he works hard and is an honorable man."

As the U.S. House member representing western Kansas from 1981-1997, Roberts was Wiesner's congressman. Wiesner grew up on a farm in Ellis, Kan., and practiced as an accountant in nearby Hays.

Roberts is paying attention right now

to the economy and the threat of terrorism, not his campaign for a second term in the Senate, he said Tuesday.

"Once Congress adjourns and the political season begins, I look forward to discussing the issues and my record with the people of Kansas," Roberts said. The last Democrat to consider running against Roberts, former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, also dropped the idea.

### Reminder of carnival meeting

The Thomas County Fair Board will host a special open meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday to discuss having a home-owned carnival. Everyone interested in this concept, or wanting to learn more about it, is encouraged to attend. The fair board will have a short business meeting at 7:30 p.m., which is also open to the public. The meeting will be held in the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds.

### Camp deadline is Thursday

The Colby Eagle basketball camp for girls and boys grades 3 through 8 will be held June 11-14. Grades 3-5 will meet from 9 a.m. to 11:30 and grades 6-8 will meet from

12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Colby High School gym. The cost will be \$40 and the registration deadline is Thursday. Contact Derek Bissett at Colby Eagle Basketball Camp, 421 Smith Drive, Colby, Kan. 67701 or call 465-5300 ext. 3200.

### No newspaper Monday

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, the Colby Free Press will not publish a newspaper on Monday, May 27 and the office will be closed. Deadlines for advertising in the Tuesday, May 28 edition will be at noon on Friday (May 24) for word ads and Thursday (May 23) at 3 p.m. for display advertising. Banks and other state and federal offices will be closed, as well as many businesses in Colby.

## Briefly

### Forecast: Just plain nice

The winds have moved out and nice weather has moved in. The Colby region's forecast for tonight calls for clear skies, lows 45-50 and northwest winds 10-15 mph. Thursday, mostly sunny, highs 65-70, northwest winds 10-15, and a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms. Thursday night, partly cloudy, another 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows 45-50. Friday, cloudy, a 50 percent chance for scattered showers, highs 65-70. Colby's high Tuesday was 82 and the overnight low this morning was 55. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 64 degrees. Precipitation remains at 0.55 inches. The records for May 22: 98 in 1939 and 29 in 1931. (The temperatures and precipi-

tation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Arena enrollment continues

Arena enrollment began Tuesday at Colby High School and continues through Thursday, said Bryan Bullington, principal. Thursday's schedule looks like this: freshmen will enroll at 7:45 until 8:55 a.m. Then classes for all other high school students will start at 10 a.m. Eighth grade students enrolling for their freshmen year will enroll at the high school from 8:55 to 9:55 a.m. Eighth graders will be bussed to and from the high school for this enrollment. For questions, call 465-5300.

