



COLBY FREE PRESS

District's books in good shape; building mulled

By **DARREL PATTILLO**

Colby Free Press

Brian Staats, with the firm of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, told the Colby School board Monday night that the financial audit the firm was asked to do found no material irregularities, and no budget violations for the 2001-2002 school year.

"We found no reportable conditions," Staats told the board. Staats also praised the school district staff for its help in the audit, telling the board he appreciated the professional way they helped whenever the auditors had a question.

"We just wanted to let you know that you have a very good staff here," he told the board. Later in the meeting, the board approved the acceptance of the audit.

Architect Glen Strait was present for the board's discussion of what to do about a new building. Board member Bill Miller said, "It's crucial that we get out of this building. It's going to cost more to stay here then it is to find something else."

Board member Wilburn Holloway, who along with Miller make up the board's building committee, stressed that he wouldn't go along with any plan that had the school district paying more than it is now for the building it's in. "That's \$45,000 a year. The public needs to know that we don't want to spend any more than that," he said.

The board was in agreement that it could find something suitable for that price.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said that he would get together with Strait, and begin to draw up plans, which he would then bring back to the board for its consideration.

In other business:

- The board visited the high school library, where librarians Joyce Mahin and Carol Robison told the board about the renovations they had performed at the library over the summer. Books

were weeded out, painting was done, art was borrowed from art instructors, and blinds were installed on the east windows. Before the board headed back to the administration building, Mahin and Robison told the board that it needed to consider hiring a full time librarian for the high school.

"This library really has to have a full time librarian," Mahin told the board. "A fully qualified, fully certified library media specialist is required here to make sure the library continues to be able to help its students."

- The board approved the lease purchase contract that Phil DeYoung, who supervises technology for the school district, used to purchase 145 E-Mac computers, four data servers, and three Powerbook computers. The computers will be used at all locations in the school district, as badly needed upgrades.

- Board member Tracy Rogers was selected as the board's delegate to the 2002 Kansas Association of School Boards annual convention.

- The board approved the first reading of the revised school board policies. The second reading of the policies will be at the Nov. 4 school board meeting.

- DeYoung presented the Updated Technology Plan, which the school district is required to have in place in order to receive technology grant funds from the state. "Our emphasis in this plan is on staff development and training," DeYoung told the board. The board approved the plan.

- The board approved Emergency Substitute Certificates for Thomas Mowry and Rachel Workman, and supplemental contracts for Jayme Pfeifer, Colby High School Service Club; Eric Hemmert, assistant 8th-grade boys basketball coach; and Karen Diebert, middle school KIC (Kids In Charge).

The next scheduled meeting of the board is Monday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College President Dr. Mikel Ary listened to bookstore assistant manager Leisa Hansen and bookstore manager Jacque Stover as they gave an informational session about the store to the trustees at their Monday evening meeting.

Colby College trustees go 'shopping'

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

The Colby College Board of Trustees had the opportunity to get out of the board room and out into the campus at Monday night's meeting, taking a tour of the college bookstore.

Jacque Stover, bookstore manager and Leisa Hansen, assistant manager, told the board about the duties that are required to keep the store running.

Stover shared information about ordering both old and new books and how "book buy-back" works at the end of the semesters.

Hansen shared about the store's two work studies and her duties in ordering school supplies and Colby College merchandise.

At the end of the tour, Ken Johnson, dean of fiscal affairs, gave the trustees a bookstore financial report.

After returning to the boardroom, the meeting continued with the following business:

- College President Dr. Mikel Ary

gave a report about the Phonathon currently underway. He said the first night resulted in \$7,135 in pledges.

Reports from the College this morning say that over \$16,000 in pledge money has come in. Student Ambassadors and Presidential Scholars will continue making calls tonight and Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. All funds from the Phonathon are used for student scholarships.

- September Lee and Doug McDowell, computer technicians at the college, advised the board about bids for 20 new computers the college will be purchasing. The trustees questioned them about different performance issues among the various brands which were bid out and the warranties which would come with each computer.

No action was taken on approving a bid. The bids will be further reviewed and action will be taken at the next meeting.

- Bids were reviewed for the electrical

supplies for the college. The bids for light bulbs and ballasts were made from F&S Supply for \$6,392.66; from Grainger for \$5,999.28; from Jim's Electric, Inc. for \$5,459.80; and from Kriz-Davis Co. for \$6,184.91.

The trustees voted to approve the bid of Jim's Electric pending further investigation of the bid from Kriz-Davis Co. The bid submitted had one of the metal arc light bulbs listed at \$48.90 each, whereas the other three companies listed them between \$6 and \$15 for the same bulbs.

If the bid was inaccurate for the bulb, the actual cost of supplies from Kriz-Davis Co. could be less than the bid from Jim's Electric.

- A payment of claims in the amount of \$1,374,980.72 was approved. Johnson said that the payment was higher due to the fact the student loans and other financial aid had been received and the money which exceeded the student's bills was paid back to them.

The \$464,000 that was paid out for that reason was "money put back into the local economy," said Johnson.

The other large item paid out was the insurance for the total coverage of the campus. Johnson said they were expecting a 15 to 25 percent increase in the insurance costs and had budgeted in a 25 percent increase. The actual rise in costs ended up to be 23 percent.

- The request for early retirement for Peg Stupka was approved after recommendation by her doctor for medical reasons.

- The Nov. 4 meeting of the board will be held in Norton to visit the outreach center and tour the facilities.

- The Nov. 18 meeting was moved to Nov. 21, at 5 p.m. in the boardroom, due to the campus visit of Dr. Cecilia Lopez, from the Higher Learning Commission.

- Contracts for the outreach program were approved.

- Standard vendor agreements were approved.

Advanced voting now underway in county

Ballots available at courthouse

By **TOM (TD) DREILING**

Free Press Publisher

Advanced voting is underway for the Nov. 5 general election, Tracey Perkins, Thomas County Clerk/Election Officer, said in conversation Monday afternoon.

"Yes, ballots can now be picked up at my office," she said.

Those taking advantage of advanced voting — they used to use the term 'absentee ballots' — have until noon on Monday, Nov. 4 to secure a ballot.

They then have to be returned to the clerk's office by the time polls close at 7 p.m. on election day.

Perkins said the sick, disabled, or those in the hospital, can get an advanced voting ballot up election day,

but the ballot still must be in the hands of the county clerk's office by the time polls close.

Questions can be directed to Perkins or her staff at 462-4500.

The spirited campaign for governor is expected to boost the number of voters statewide.

The race involves Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius and State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger. Sebelius is a Democrat and Shallenburger a Republican.

There are also two other candidates in that race — Ted Pettibone, Reform Party, and Dennis Hawver, a Libertarian.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Activity planned Saturday night

Word's out: Rexford Youth Center needs fixing

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The Rexford Youth Center is in need of repairs and one local organization has taken on the task of raising money to fix it up.

Along with accepting donations, said Jean Hawkins, treasurer of the Rexford Royal Neighbors, the group spearheading the project, there is also a cake and ice cream party with games planned for Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. in the Rexford Community Hall on Main Street.

Hawkins said the youth center, which was formerly the Rexford Cafe, was closed two years ago and the owners sold the property to Shepherd's Staff, Inc.

Following the purchase and, because of the need to provide young people with a place to meet, Shepherd's Staff, a mission organization, decided to use the old restaurant as a place for youth, said Betty Nichols, director.

The youth center is managed by Patty Purcell and open after football

games for "fifth quarter" activities and serves as a meeting place for Teens For Christ.

"Whatever we can make from the ice cream party and donations," she said, "the national organization of Royal Neighbors will match the funds up to \$2,000."

The youth center, known as the Dog House, needs new insulation, roof repairs and the heating system has problems, she said.

In addition to donations and proceeds from the social, Nichols said the

Thomas County Community Foundation also approved a grant to assist with the repair project recently, which will also help toward the necessary repairs.

One of the reasons for the ice cream party on Saturday, Hawkins said, is so that those attending have fun and at the same time are helping a worthy cause.

Anyone who would like to make a donation to the youth center, she said, can send contributions to her at P.O. Box 36, Rexford, Kan., 67753.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Monday's high, 57
Low this morning, 35
Year ago today, 79 and 39
Records for Oct. 22, 87 in 1899, 12 in 1905

The forecast
The Colby area could see from 2-5 inches of snow within the next 24-36 hours. Tonight, rain/snow mixed early, then becoming all snow by midnight, up to 2 inches expected, lows in the upper 20s. Wednesday, snow, with accumulations 1-3 inches, highs in the upper 30s. Wednesday night, little chance for additional snow, lows in the upper 20s. Thursday, cold, highs in the lower 40s.

Briefly

Hunter Course set to begin

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Colby, volunteer instructors and the Colby Recreation Department have scheduled the last Hunter Education Course for Colby this year. The course will be held at the Colby Community Building tonight and Thursday, from 6:30 to 9:30, and on Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Weather permitting, range will be from 2 to 4 p.m., on Saturday. Anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must take and pass a Hunter Education Course before they can hunt in Kansas.

Additional information is available at (785) 462-6631, 462-7602 or 462-3367.

Finney to Colby on Thursday

Sally Finney, Democratic candidate for Kansas State Treasurer, will be in Colby at the Quality Inn (formerly Ramada Inn) on Thursday at 12 noon for a Dutch treat luncheon. All Colby and area residents are invited to meet Finney and hear her discuss her campaign for treasurer.

'Recognition Night' reminder issued

School officials are again reminding all parents of seniors who participated in football, volleyball, cross country, girls' golf, girls' tennis, marching band, drill team, managers and athletic trainers, that Friday has been designated "Senior/Parent Recognition Night." As in the past the ceremony will be held prior to the football game at 7 p.m. Parents are asked to meet at the east end of the football field at 6:45 P.M. Football players will be honored first, followed by band, drill team, golf, tennis, volleyball, cross country and managers and athletic trainers.

Hospice Auction days away

The annual Hospice fund-raising auction will be held at the Comfort Inn Convention Center on Saturday, Oct. 26. Those wishing to contribute to the auction or would like tickets can contact the organization at 462-6710 or 1-800-315-5122. Keep an eye on the Free Press for more information. Proceeds from the auction ensure that Hospice support is available to terminally ill individuals and their family members.

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Health care interests to meet

The Area Citizens for Health Care will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 23 in the Little Theater in the Colby Community Building. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. The public is invite and urged to attend.

Shallenburger to Colby

Republican gubernatorial hopeful Tim Shallenburger will be in Colby on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. to meet the voters. He will be on board the *Sunflower Special*, his "Victory 2002 Bus Tour." Other candidates are expected to appear with him. The bus will be at the Thomas County Courthouse

EMTB Course reminder

Kathi Wright, Thomas County EMS director, said today that an EMTB (basic) Course is currently underway, and is being held on Mondays and Wednesdays.

