



10 pages

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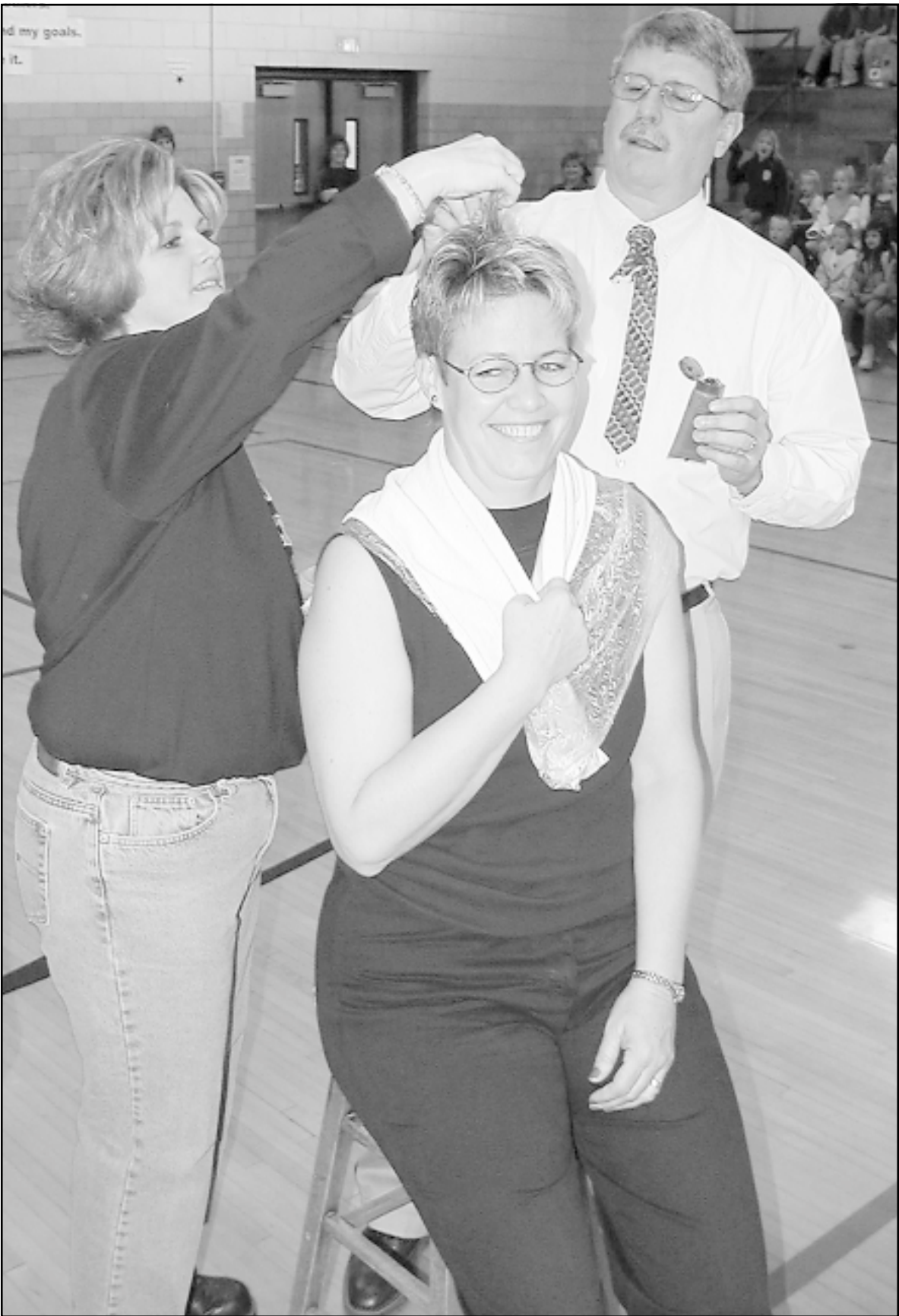
Friday

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Guess who lost the bets?



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby School Superintendent Kirk Nielsen (with part of necktie cut off) and Colby Grade School paraprofessional Robyn Rogers applied hair coloring to Colby Grade School Principal Terrel Harrison this morning in the grade school gym. Harrison and Nielsen both lost a bet with the students at the school, who wagered that they could get 2,000 books read as part of Children's Book Week. "Mr. Nielsen's tie was cut once for every 200 books that the kids read," Harrison said. "And then I bet the kids that if they read 2,000 books, I would color my hair red, white and blue." The students tallied 2,005 books.

Drug-related incident

Two are arrested in Winona house raid

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

A Thursday evening raid of a home in Winona resulted in the arrest of a man and women.

Logan County Sheriff Pat Parsons said that the arrests were the result of an approximate four month investigation by their agency and others.

He said three adults were taken into custody: Tracy L. Hurd, 19, her husband, Christopher A. Hurd, 25, and a female neighbor, whom authorities did not identify. Both the Hurds were book for possession of marijuana with the intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of methamphet-

amines with the intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a school and other drug related charges. The neighbor was taken into custody and questioned, but later released. Parsons said she could still face possible charges in connection with the bust.

Along with the adults, two children were in the house. The two-year-old daughter of the Hurds was taken into protective custody and turned over to her grandmother and the five-year-old child of the neighbor was taken to a family member while the mother was being questioned.

"It is a sad situation when the kids are sitting there where drugs are being sold and used," said Parsons.

Doug Murphy, drug enforcement coordinator for the Quad County Drug

Task Force, said that on a subsequent search of the house, marijuana, methamphetamines and cash were recovered. Parsons added that drug paraphernalia and a vehicle were also seized.

"The investigation is ongoing and other arrests are pending," said Murphy.

Parsons said he was "very grateful to all the agencies that assisted the Logan County Sheriff's Office with the operation."

"I want to thank every agency who helped — the Oakley Police Department, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, Colby Police Department, Quad County Drug Task Force, Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the National Guard," he said.

Rally for coaches

Delegation shows up at board meeting

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

More than 30 people showed up at the Colby School Board meeting on Thursday night to show their support for Colby High School basketball coaches Tom Beckman, Shaun Kidder and Derek Bissett.

During the Nov. 4 school board meeting, after this reporter had left due to illness, board member Bill Miller made a motion to rescind the supplemental contracts of Kidder, Beckman and Bissett. The motion carried after being seconded by board member Wilburn Holloway, and voted for by board members Cathy Gordon and John Cranston, as well as Miller and Holloway. Board members Tracy Rogers and Gerry Fulwider voted against the motion. A motion was then made by Gordon to rescind the motion to rescind the contracts of the three coaches. The motion was made by Gordon and seconded by Fulwider. Rogers, Gordon and Fulwider voted for the motion, Miller, Holloway and Cranston voted against it. Board president was Stan Molstad was absent that night, so the vote was 3-3, which means the motion failed.

The same motion, to rescind the motion to rescind the contracts of the coaches, was made by Gordon and seconded by Fulwider. After a period of discussion, this motion passed 4-2, with Rogers, Gordon, Cranston and Fulwider voting for it, and Miller and Holloway voting against. No supplemental contracts were rescinded.

Both Miller and Gordon confirmed this morning that there had been complaints received about the coaches, but declined to say what those complaints were.

"Let's not throw any gasoline on the fire," Miller said. "It's over and done with, and nobody was fired. Let's just leave it alone."

At the beginning of Thursday night's meeting, several citizens spoke to the

board in support of the coaches. Ralph Wolf spoke for the assembled group, and read a letter excerpted in part here:

"We, as parents, have gotten to know players from other high schools through our girls. There are many girls who have commented that they wish they could play for CHS and Coach Beckman because of the level of play, the success and fun these girls have on and off the court. Yes, these girls do have fun during the games. They can have fun because they have put in all the hard work and sacrifice during practices that it takes to play well and with confidence. Coach Beckman and Kidder expect nothing less out of each and everyone of them..."

"...The Board of Education should be very proud of the coaching staff that Mr. Quenzer has put together for our school system. These people are very well qualified and very dedicated to both CHS and the students. When Mr. Quenzer recommends head coaches to the school board, he is doing so with confidence that these head coaches will build the program from start to finish. The head coaches are given the authority to select the coaches for all levels of their sport — middle school and high school. These other coaches, then, have the responsibility to prepare their teams as per the requirements of the head coach. This is no different than teachers at the elementary level, for instance. The kindergarten teachers teach and prepare the students for first grade — the first grade teachers teach and prepare the students for second grade — and so on. The coaches at the 7th grade level teach and prepare their players for 8th grade and so on. With all the coaches teaching and preparing the same program, you will continue seeing the skill levels and confidence of our programs increase and we will continue to be teams to be reckoned with throughout the state.

"The Board of Education is ultimately responsible for signing the con-

tracts of all personnel in the Colby School System. However, being that the Board of Education is a governance board and not an operational board, you depend on the superintendent, who depends on the principals, who depend on the athletic director to put in place the best possible coaching staff for our students. Therefore, let's continue to rely on this chain of command to do the best for Colby."

No action was taken by the board concerning the contracts of the three coaches.

In other business:

- The board approved funding the insurance fund at a rate of \$10,000 per month for the calendar year of 2003. The district will stay with Blue Cross/Blue Shield through 2003, then switch to the state of Kansas insurance plan for its employees.

- The board approved moving ahead with plans to start an achievement-based charter school. Curriculum director Diana Wieland agreed to have a final proposal ready for the board sometime in December.

- The board approved Superintendent Kirk Nielsen's request for an engineering study to be done as part of an application for grant money, which would be used to upgrade the Colby Middle School energy system.

- An out-of-district field trip request was approved for students and faculty to attend the Tech Expo in Goodland.

- The board approved a motion to let bids for a new vehicle for the district.

- A request by a Grinnell student to play baseball in Colby was denied by the board.

- The board accepted the resignation of Julie Price as bus driver, and approved hiring Pat Kaiser as a bus driver.

The next regular meeting of the Colby School board will be on Monday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.

Higher Learning Commission liaison pays visit to Colby College trustees

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

Cecilia Lopez, Higher Learning Commission liaison from Chicago, addressed the College Community College Board of Trustees at their Thursday meeting on reaccreditation.

Lopez was on campus throughout the day in preparation for the reaccreditation team's site visit which will be conducted by the commission in September of 2004.

The process is lengthy and in preparation for the final site visit, the college has prepared a comprehensive Self-Study Report. The report was started in the spring of 2001 and committees consisting of faculty and staff members, community representatives and students have been working on the report.

While here, Lopez met with Dr. Mikel Ary, college president, and the deans to provide guidance and suggestions to the self-study committee chairs.

During the board meeting, Lopez said she was pleased to see that all six board members are involved in some way with the self-study.

"Your role is essential in this self-study...kudos to you!"

She commended the strong administrative support of the college and said they were preparing the school very well for the process.

In other business:

- Gracemary Melvin, Dean of Students, gave a presentation over a report given by a consultant hired to evaluate the nursing program. Melvin said there had been a concern over the pass rate of students in the Norton program from 1998 to 2002. The chairperson of the nursing department suggested that a consultant be brought in to give suggestions on ways to improve the program and the number of students who pass.

Suggestions included: switching the order in which the students take some of the classes; a minimum pass rate of 70 percent; alteration of the test review process; changing the weight distribution given to daily work; stiffening admissions standards and academic rigor.

Nursing director Tracey Stark will be implementing these changes in the programs both in Colby and in Norton.

- Jerry Arensdorf of Kennedy and Coe was present to review the fiscal audit for the year which ended on June 30. He commented that the \$1,703,874 in federal awards to students when coupled with the \$1,417,273 in federal family educational loans amounted to \$3,121,147 that is being expended in the community during the fiscal year. He said that in the future audits will be conducted using government standards, because of new federal regulations, the way current accounting methods used by the college will need to be changed.

- Affiliation agreements and part-time outreach instructor contracts were approved.

- Ary informed the board that a group of people are interested in building a rodeo arena south of I-70 and have approached the college to be involved. He asked the board to let him know their thoughts on the subject.

- It trustees voted to use Perkins' Vocational Funds to purchase five projectors, four video processors and eight Dell laptop computers.

The total amount for all the equipment is \$26,845.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Thursday's high, 63
Low this morning, 30
Year ago today, 63 and 23
Temperature at 11:30 today, 63
Soil temperature, 46
Records for Nov. 22: 75 in 1924, -5 in 1929

The forecast

Once the Colby/Oakley area gets through tonight and most of Saturday — lows mid-30s and highs around 50 — then winter arrives. Saturday night and all the way through Tuesday, it'll be cloudy and cold with periods of snow and some wind. Highs will be only in the 20s with lows dropping down around 10 to 15. But Thanksgiving Day is expected to be clear and warmer with highs near 50.

Briefly

Landfill holiday schedule noted

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed in celebration of Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29. The landfill will be open for its regular hours of operation on Saturday and Sunday following the holiday. For questions, contact the landfill at 462-8139.

Vehicle tag reminder

Donita Applebury, Thomas County treasurer, is reminding everyone that the courthouse will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday. For those who have not yet purchased tags and whose last name begins with T, V or W, might want to consider buying their license plate tags prior to the holiday since the next available day the office is open will be Monday, Dec. 2.

Applebury also said that those planning to travel prior to the holiday should try to come in as early as possible on Wednesday, Nov. 27 or sooner to avoid long waiting lines.

For questions about the deadlines, call 462-4520.

Orchestra to open season Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will be opening its 22nd season beginning at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Colby High School auditorium. The concert is entitled, "We Celebrate the Season." The orchestra is supported by its many Friends of the Orchestra.

Admission to the concert will be by Friends of the Orchestra membership with Randi Olson the contact person. For questions or membership, call Olson at 465-9125. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Businesses asked to participate

With the Wellness Fair nearing, businesses are being asked to take part in promoting community health and wellness by covering the cost of the fair registration and or health screenings for their employees who may want to participate.

The fair will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the student union on the Colby Community College cam-

pus. Blood work will be done on Saturdays, Jan. 4 and 11. The registration fee is \$5, with the addition fees for some of the tests.

Scout fund raising underway

Colby Girl Scouts in Cadette Troop 110 (seventh graders) are currently selling cookie dough, pizzas and other products with proceeds going to support council-wide activities, said Brette Pfeifer, scout leader.

The products are from "Red Wheel" and the scouts will be selling until Nov. 29.

For questions or to place orders, call 462-6998.

Child Birth Class begin

The Colby Child Birth Education Class Series is underway and the four-week class will be held each Thursday through Dec. 4, but will not meet on Thanksgiving.

Classes hours will be from 7 to 10 p.m. and will be in the Health Science Building at Colby Community College.

For information or to register, call Jeanne Brown at 462-4850.

