



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Letter

From the desk of  
*Thomas A. Dreiling*  
Publisher

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Dear Readers:  
You will notice a change in the *Colby Free Press* next week. Although it will look the same and will contain everything you read the paper for — advertising bargains, local, area, and Kansas news, sports, weather, opinions, letters, engagements, weddings, births, deaths, student news, club reports, the classified page, comics, crossword puzzle, bridge, cartoons, television listings, area correspondents' reports, photographs — there will be a change.

You won't be receiving a Tuesday edition.  
With the economy going south, thanks to many factors, not the least the drought, we find a need to trim expenses. Eliminating the Tuesday paper is one of the ways we have chosen to trim.

Becoming a 4-day newspaper still qualifies us as a daily newspaper — the only daily between Hays and Denver. I might mention that *The Great Bend Tribune* recently discontinued its Sunday and Monday editions, and have gone to a morning publication five days a week, Tuesdays through Saturdays. A number of other Kansas newspapers have done likewise.

Business, overall, is down. War jitters, an uncertain stock market, budget deficits on the state and national level, these all figure in the recession currently squeezing the economy.

Steve Haynes, president of Nor'West Newspapers — the *Colby Free Press*, *The Goodland Star-News*, *The Oberlin Herald*, *The St. Francis Herald*, the *Bird City Times* and *The Norton Telegram* — said at a recent meeting of his publishers, that he hasn't seen it this bad in his 20 years as a publisher. He did point out that it is not just newspapers that are suffering, but business in general. Our farm friends have been especially hard hit, suffering through several years of drought. And when something like that stares you in the face, measures must be taken to protect the investment. In our case, it means, among other things, eliminating one publication day a week. At Goodland, earlier, it meant discontinuing *The Goodland Daily News* and going to a twice-a-week publication. At Norton the purchase of that community's daily newspaper was ushered in similar to the change at Goodland. Colby has a lot of advertising potential and merchants have been good to us. The downturn will rebound, eventually, and when that happens we will take another look.

Dropping a day's publication is akin to sending that first child off to college, to spread his or her wings. It hurts.

This newspaper has been serving Thomas County since 1888 and there have been bumps and bruises all along the way. This is just another one.

Please bear with us, continue to enjoy the paper, and use it as your connection to the world within and without.

Thank you for your past and current support, and we look forward to a continuing relationship.

Most sincerely,

Thomas A. (TD) Dreiling  
Publisher

## Checking the numbers



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Tracey Perkins, Thomas County clerk and election officer, showed Monti Montgomery results of the election on Tuesday night. Montgomery was running against Jim Brown for the seat in Ward III on the Colby City Council and was defeated by a vote of 155 to 57. Perkins said that out of 1,069 registered voters in Ward III, only about 22 percent or 212 voted, which was slightly lower than expected for the spring election.

## Election rundown

# New faces capture seats on Colby College board

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
*Colby Free Press*

Thomas County Clerk Tracey Perkins said today that 24 percent of the registered voters marked ballots in Tuesday's election. That translates into 1,254 ballots cast out of the 5,286 registered.

In the race for three vacancies on the Colby Community College Board of Trustees, incumbent Don Kready was reelected with 630 votes. Incumbent Ken Poland didn't make the cut receiving 411. Newcomers Larry McDonald and Larry Arehart won seats, with McDonald receiving 612 votes and Arehart 605. The other two candidates, Lon Frahm and Mark Schwarz received 450 and 412 votes, respectively.

In the races for Colby City Council, incumbents Ken Bieber and Todd Barrows ran uncontested in Wards I and IV respectively. Beiber and Barrows both picked up 138 votes. In Ward II, newcomers Beverly Eicher and Tom Rundel clashed vying for the seat with Eicher winning with 120 votes, while Rundel had 56. The other contested race in Ward III was between newcomers Jim Brown and Monti Montgomery. Brown won with 155 votes, while Montgomery picked up 57.

Brewster City Council had two openings and both candidates, Ron Ribordy and Gene Schoenberger ran unopposed. Ribordy tallied 70 votes, while Schoenberger had 73.

There were five openings for the Gem City Council, but only two candidates ran. Danny Carmen received 9 votes and Carl Miller picked up 15 votes.

In Rexford, the five open slots on the City Council will be filled by the five candidates who ran unopposed, Mark Basgall, Michael Johnson, Gidget Mosier, Vernon Vance and David Williams. Basgall and Vance both finished with 26 votes, Johnson had 24 votes, Mosier had 23 votes and Williams had 27.

Menlo had five openings on the city council, but there were no declared candidates for any of the positions.

In the mayoral races, all were uncontested. Mike Baughn will remain mayor of Brewster with 86 votes, Warren Hixson will remain mayor of Colby with 665 votes,

Brent Ginther won the Menlo mayoral race with 14 votes and William Dible won in Rexford with 18) votes. Gem had no declared candidate for mayor.

Rexford, Colby and Brewster all had slots open on their school boards. In Rexford, there was one contested race. In position one, David Gould picked up 17 votes while Mark Miller received 52. The uncontested races were Jay Todd for position two 64 votes, LeRoy Spreser for position three with 54 votes and Paul Bruggeman in the at large position received 57 votes.

There were four openings on the Colby School Board and four candidates ran unopposed. Dewey Augustine captured most votes with 799, incumbent Stan Molstad received 667s, Joel Powell 599 and Kevan Taylor 577.

In the Brewster School Board, there were five openings. Two of the positions had no declared candidates, while the other three positions ran unopposed. Don Allen in position two won with 130 votes, while Stephen Bear won in position three with 147, and Bonnie Holm won the at large seat with 141 votes.

## Dispatch receives honors

By PATTY DECKER  
*Free Press Editor*

Mayor Warren Hixson signed a proclamation at the city council meeting Tuesday honoring public safety dispatchers and the role they play in protecting people and property within the city.

The recognition was part of a national salute to Public-Safety Telecommunications Week beginning Sunday, April 13, and continuing through Saturday, April 19.

Hixson thanked the six dispatchers with the Colby Police Department who attended the meeting, adding that these people are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services.

He also said that the safety of police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians are dependent on the quality and accuracy of the information given to these dispatchers by those telephoning the law enforcement center with various concerns.

"Public safety dispatchers are the single vital link for our police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them with information and insuring their safety," Hixson said.

Other attributes Hixson highlighted were the contributions that dispatchers make for their part in apprehending criminals, suppressing fires, treating patients and doing so in a way that is compassionate, understanding and professional.

The dispatchers were Darren Touslee, Marlene Pfeifer, Keyna Baalman, Sheila Jones, Tanya Christensen and Susan McMahin.

In other council business:

- There were two bids received for the airport management services contract. They came from Mark Ostmeyer, the current manager, and Todd Voss. After reviewing the proposals, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, the Colby Municipal Airport Board recommended negotiating a contract with Ostmeyer for a one-year term. She said the outcome of the negotiations would be brought back to the council at its next meeting.

- The Thomas County Fair's parade route, which will begin at Fike Park south on Franklin Ave. to Cedar St. then west on Cedar to Range Ave., was approved. The parade is planned for 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 2.

- Hixson approved the following appointments: Municipal Airport Board, Mark Winger and Mark Kendrick were reappointed; Board of building appeals, Betty Behring was appointed and reappointments went to Glen Strait and Curt Stephens; Recreation commission, Carl Adams was reappointed; Mike Woofter and Randy Brown were reappointed to the tree board. Board of zoning appeals, Todd Stramel and B.J. Melvin were reappointments and Kristina Cameron was newly appointed.

- Corky Delzeit, the city's public power director, is planning to retire on May 30, and Scott McIntyre was hired as temporary full-time in the sanitation department.

## 'Punish' provision survives

TOPEKA (AP) — A provision to punish public universities for buying or showing "obscene" videos in human sexuality classes survived House-Senate negotiations on a new state budget.

The Senate last week added the provision to its version of a bill to fund state government in the next fiscal year. No such language was included in the House version of the budget, but House negotiators accepted it as part of the compromise spending bill completed Tuesday.

State Sen. Susan Wagle, R-Wichita, proposed the measure after hearing about a highly popular undergraduate class on human sexuality taught at the University of

Kansas by professor David Dailey.

Wagle's measure requires the Board of Regents to eliminate funding for any university department or division that buys or shows "obscene" videos for undergraduate classes on humanity sexuality.

At the University of Kansas, the \$3.1 million budget for the School of Social Welfare could be at stake.

But Dailey and university officials contend the videos in the undergraduate class are educational materials presented in an educational context, not "obscenity" as defined by Kansas law. "This is not pornography," university spokesman Todd Cohen said. "Therefore, this rule would not apply."

## Kansas war toll

By The Associated Press

U.S. casualties from the war in Iraq who have ties to Kansas. These totals include only those identified by military or confirmed by family members:

Captured: Army Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23, Park City.

## Briefly

### 'Bowl for Kids Sake' this weekend

The annual Big Brothers Big Sisters "Bowl for Kids Sake" will take place Saturday and Sunday at Colby Bowl. Call Tami Grandison at 465-9125 for additional information, to sponsor a bowler, or to make a donation.

### Church open for prayer

Rev. Carol Rahn, pastor for the First Presbyterian Church in Colby, has announced the church will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. while the country is at war. Those wishing to pray or have quiet meditation may use the church at 515 W. Fourth Street.

### Notes from Heartland School

Heartland Christian School will hold kindergarten roundup on Friday, April 11, from 8:20 to 11:30 a.m. at the school, 1995 W. Fourth Street. All students entering kindergarten for

the 2003-2004 school year are invited to attend with their parents. To reserve your child's place or to receive additional information, please contact the school office at 462-6419 before Monday, April 7. Families wanting to know more about the school are invited to attend an informational meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, April 7.

### Endowment annual meeting set

The Colby Community College Endowment Association will hold its annual meeting on April 14, at 5:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend. It will be held in the Fireside Lounge in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union. For more information, contact Nick Wells at (785) 462-4684.

### Brewster school carnival scheduled

The Brewster School Carnival, sponsored by the class of 2003, will be held Saturday at the school from 4 to 7 p.m. Many games are planned. There will also be a silent auction

and bingo with prizes donated by area businesses.

### Preschool enrollment at hand

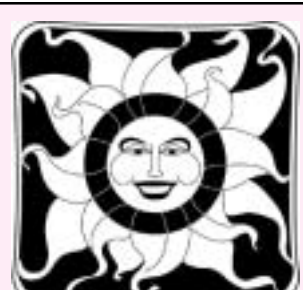
Puddle Duck Preschool will hold enrollment Wednesday and Thursday, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the school, 520 W. 5th St. in Colby. Call Amy Jennings, director, at (785) 462-2603 or (785) 462-8388 if you need more information.

### Area Citizens to meet

The Area Citizens for Health Care will meet April 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby Community Building's Little Theater. The public is invited.

### Turkey permits arrive

Spring turkey permits are now available at the Thomas County Clerk's office, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby. For questions, call 462-4500.



### In a word: nice

Tonight...mostly clear and mild. Lows in the mid 40s. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Thursday...mostly sunny and nice. Highs in the lower 70s. West wind 10 to 20 mph. Thursday night...partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Friday...partly sunny and cooler. Highs in the upper 50s to around 60. Friday night...partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

**The numbers**  
Tuesday's high, 85  
Low this morning, 44  
Soil temperature, 53  
Year ago, 62 and 28  
24-hour precipitation, 0:00  
Month's precipitation, 0:00  
Records, 86 in 1921 and -1 in 1936

