



12 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

Friday

May 2, 2003

50¢

Volume 114, Number 83
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Budget reprint hearing slated

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Prior to the regular Colby School Board meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, there will be a public hearing for the purpose of republishing the 2002-03 general fund budget. Both meetings will be held in the administration building, 210 S. Range.

The reason for republishing the budget, said Jo DeYoung, the district's business manager, was due to projections coming in lower than first anticipated in the original budget based on per pupil funding by the state.

Initially, the base funding was set at \$3,890, but the actual amount funded per pupil was \$3,863.

"We projected a 4 percent full-time student enrollment decline for the official count in September," she said.

"Our audited enrollment; however, revealed a loss of 30 headcount and an overall loss of 27 full-time for a decline of 2.24 percent."

In the republished budget, there will be a total increase of \$31,898

bringing the general fund total to \$6,313,081.

The increased budget authority will also be directed to the transportation fund, which was at \$360,000 and in the republication will be at \$391,509 to accommodate the possible purchase of one or more new vehicles at the end of the budget year.

In addition, the republished budget will reflect \$389 more in the bilingual education fund, she said.

Following any remarks from the public, the board of education will take action on approving the republished budget for 2002-03.

Agenda items for the regular meeting include reports from building principals, curriculum director, superintendent and the forensics coaches.

The board is also expected to take action on bids for a new building, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent.

Negotiations, employment recommendations and resignations are also listed as items that will be discussed either in open or closed session, if necessary.

Commissioners agree on use of buildings

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

Not many items faced the Thomas County Commissioner at their end of the month meeting on Wednesday morning.

A lease agreement with Citizens Medical Center for the ambulance building and an agreement for use of the 4-H building by the Red Cross were both approved.

The lease for the ambulance building is a three-year arrangement running from Jan 1. of this year to Dec. 31, 2005. It provides for a payment of \$7,800 per calendar year.

The agreement with the American Cross allows them to use the 4-H building if needed in a disaster or

emergency situation.

In other business:

- The commissioners will approve the purchase of a clean-up mower for the Thomas County landfill. The bid from Colby Implement was accepted. The new mower will cost \$1,350 after a trade in of the old mower.

Monday's agenda

The commissioners will meet Monday at 9 a.m. The agenda includes: Peg Tole, 2004 proposed Extension budget at 9 a.m.; Kathy Ryan, county health nurse, update on her department at 10; John Lygeros and Mark Augustine, moving of tower at 10:30; and Randy Dick, update on health insurance at 11.

Trustees face varied agenda

The Board of Trustees of Colby Community College will address a number of matters when they meet at 5 p.m. on Monday in the board room of Thomas Hall.

Among items on the agenda are the wellness center, tuition and fees, approval of contracts, approval of agreements, capital outlay, gasoline bids, student/trustee dinner comments, negotiations and any other items members might bring forth.

This can happen for real



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Colby High School students learned the cold hard facts about drinking and driving on Wednesday afternoon as local emergency personnel and law enforcement staged a mock accident in the parking lot at the school. Students watched as the accident was called into 911 and fire, EMS and police were dispatched to the scene. As students representing victims were trapped in the vehicles, the fire department demonstrated how the "jaws of life" are used to free people who are trapped. Thomas County deputy

sheriff Jim Engel gave a road-side test for alcohol to the driver who caused the accident and when it was determined he had been drinking, arrested him. As the victims were transported by ambulance away from the scene, students were also made aware of a fatality in one of the cars. The demonstration was presented to make students and adults aware of the dangers of drinking and driving, especially with the approaching prom and graduation festivities.

State budget update

Delaying refunds called 'crummy idea'

TOPEKA (AP) — The House tentatively approved a bill to delay some tax refunds next year, after rejecting tax increases to help balance the state budget.

"It's a crummy idea," said Rep. Tom Sawyer, D-Wichita. "We're like crooks, stealing people's money."

Delaying tax refunds is a key part of a plan from Republican leaders to erase a projected \$254 million deficit in the \$10 billion budget for

fiscal year 2004, which begins July 1. GOP leaders believe about \$60 million in refunds would be paid late.

The vote Thursday to advance the bill was 63-61, setting up today's scheduled final action.

"It's a small inconvenience compared with a general tax increase," said House Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and her fellow Democrats oppose delaying

refunds, saying it is unfair to taxpayers.

Sebelius has proposed expanded gambling and \$300 million in bonds to help eliminate the deficit.

On Thursday, the House also tentatively approved, 65-57, a bill to allow slot machines at dog and horse tracks and casinos in Dodge City and Geary County.

Neither Sebelius nor Republican leaders want to increase taxes.

A bipartisan group of 16 House

freshmen argued that without more revenue, the state could not solve its fiscal problems, only use accounting tricks to push them into the future.

But the House voted 83-41 Thursday against advancing the freshmen's bill to final action.

Their measure would have increased the state sales tax by half-cent on June 1, to 5.8 cents on the dollar, and placed a 3.5 percent surcharge on individual income tax.



Windy weather

Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Breezy. Lows in the mid 40s. South wind 15 to 25 mph...Gusting to 35 mph after midnight. Chance of rain 40 percent. Saturday...partly sunny with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Breezy. Highs in the lower 70s. South wind 15 to 25 mph...Gusting to 35 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent. Saturday night...mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Breezy. Lows in the mid 40s. Chance of rain 50 percent. Sunday...partly sunny with a chance of showers and possibly a thunderstorm, mainly in the morning. Breezy. Highs in the lower 70s. Chance of rain 30 percent. Sunday night...partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Monday...mostly cloudy, then becoming partly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the 50s and 60s..

The numbers

Thursday's high, 65
Low this morning, 45
Year ago today, 64 and 26
Records, 97 in 1902, 20 in 1967
24-hour precipitation, 0.12
Month's precipitation 0.12
Water Usage/Colby
May 1=1.153 million gallons

Jazz galore takes stage here Saturday

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Jazz continues to hold a special place in the world of music and proof will be presented on Saturday in the auditorium of Colby High School.

Julie Groom, band instructor, invites all jazz lovers, and music lov-

ers in general, to enjoy an evening of talented bliss offered by local and area musicians.

She said jazz band members from Colby High School, Colby Middle School and Goodland High School will appear on stage to present a concert called, "The Flatland Big Band" at 7:30 p.m.

And it's free.

The evening is sponsored by the jazz band at Colby High School along with Brier Hale Music Co., Inc., and Colby Days Inn, Groom said.

If anyone needs additional information, give Groom at call at 465-5300.

Briefly

Dinner to honor Trojan cagers

An awards dinner at 6 p.m., Tuesday, for the Colby Community College men and women's basketball teams, will be held at the Colby Quality Inn. Cost for the meal is \$10 per person. Following the meal, women's head coach Tom Stephens and men's head coach Brian Ostermann will reflect on their teams accomplishments during the 2002-2003 campaign. Tickets or questions can be directed to Doris Anderson through Monday by calling 462-3984 ext. 243.

Family historians to meet

The Family History Genealogy group will meet at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby. There will be a video on genealogical research. All interested are invited.

'Booked for Lunch' is Wednesday

Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th St., is continuing its series, "Booked for Lunch," beginning at noon, next Wednesday with Sharon Kriss reviewing *By the Light of the Moon* written by Dean Koontz. The event is open to everyone and the review begins at 12:15 p.m. A light lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Library and free-will donations will be accepted. For questions or information, call 462-4470.

Childbirth classes underway

Childbirth education classes are underway, said Amy Huttles, one of the teachers. The classes are from 7-10 p.m.

on May 8, 15 and 22 in the Health Sciences Building on the Colby Community College campus. The cost is \$40 and includes books and materials. For questions or to enroll, call Huttles at 460-4344.

Bike rodeo is next week

The Thomas County Health Department, along with county law enforcement officials, Burger King and McDonald's are sponsoring a bike rodeo from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday at the Thomas County Office Complex. The event is for children ages 6 through 12. Those planning to attend are asked to bring their own bicycle and if they have a helmet to bring it as well, said Kathy Ryan, health nurse. Food will be provided to all participants. Enrollment is limited so officials are urging those interested to call the health department at 462-4596 as soon as possible.

Brownies want damaged flags

The Colby Brownies are conducting a public service activity to give both residents and businesses the opportunity to properly dispose of worn American flags, said Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeier, one of the Brownie leaders. A flag receptacle will be located in the foyer of the Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th, Colby, for flags to be dropped in. The receptacle will stay at the library until just before the ceremony at the Colby Municipal Airport, at 6 p.m., Friday, May 9. For questions, call 462-3298.

Photos of military personnel wanted

Colby Photo at 420 N. Franklin is wanting to honor mili-

tary members either serving overseas or in the United States. Ardath Beringer, owner of Colby Photo, said the "window to honor our troops," can also include Reserve and National Guard members as well. Any photos used in the tribute to American soldiers, she said, will be returned to the family and friends. For questions, call Beringer at 462-8169 or drop photographs off at 420 N. Franklin.

Barbershoppers plan guest night

The Tumbleweed Barbershop Chorus is sponsoring a special guest night at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Barbershoppers are inviting everyone to come and enjoy the fun, food and fellowship of the Tumbleweed Chorus and bring a friend. For questions, call 460-8640 or 462-6552.

Piano recital planned Saturday

Piano students of Shirley Malcolm will present their spring recital beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Rick Carter will provide percussion accompaniment. Following the recital, there will be a reception honoring the musicians.

Brewster group plans fund raiser

The Brewster Beta Club will be serving a potato bar, dessert, and drink before the Brewster Spring Concert on Monday, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Donations will go to the Fine Arts Scholarships given annually. For questions, call (785) 694-2452.

