



COLBY FREE PRESS

Speaker's theme: 'proud'

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Rep. Eber Phelps of Hays told the Colby Community College graduates at commencement last Saturday, that "like Colby Community College having weathered many trials, so will you graduates.

"Yet through all those trials," he said, "you, like the college, stand proudly as you look toward the future."

Citing a famous saying, Phelps said, "The journey of 1,000 miles starts with a single step."

Following graduation, he said, each of the students will have many opportunities and each has provided their families, teachers, and the administration with lots of memories.

"You are all important and each of you have touched someone in your lives," he said.

As the graduates prepared to receive their diplomas, Phelps reminded them to be proud of themselves the same way their families, friends and administrators are proud of them.

In introducing Phelps, Dr. Mikel Ary, president of the college, said that education has always been a major focus of the representative.

"He serves on the Education, Health and Human Services, Higher Education and Insurance Committees in the House of Representatives," Ary said.

Phelps has also been recognized for his service by being named "Hays Citizen of the Year in 2001," and was selected as a Hays All-American Citizen.

"I am honored to be invited," Phelps said, "and I say that sincerely since very few legislators said they have done this type of address."

Prior to the graduates accepting their diplomas, Matt Hamill of



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Aubrey Patrick of Ashland (left) and Angela Pierce, Atchison, waved to family and friends at the 38th annual Colby Community College commencement ceremony held at the community building last weekend. In addition to recognizing the graduates, Matt Hamill was awarded the honorary associate degree; Bob Selby the Dr. Tangeman Award; and Candice Stiles the Dr. Richard Mosier scholarship.

Colby was given the honorary associate degree. "This is the best community in the whole world," Hamill said about Colby. "I am receiving this award not in a spirit of pride, but

rather dignity, humility and as a challenge to my life. I will continue to contribute any way I can," he said.

Bob Selby, who teaches account-

ing and economics, was the recipient of the Dr. Tangeman Award. "I am speechless," he said, "and I want to thank the committee who selected me."

Detours galore will confront Colby motorists

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Colby motorists will face detours throughout the city as three road projects will be starting soon, said Tom Hein, Kansas Department of Transportation public liaison in Norton

"Construction preparation work is scheduled to begin as soon as Tuesday, following the Memorial Day weekend," he said, "with signing and traffic control measures being the first step."

The Kansas Department of Transportation and the City of Colby, Hein said, have awarded a multi-million dollar contract to APAC, Shears Division, to complete the three road projects. Those include the intersection reconstruction at 4th Street and Range Avenue, 4th Street and Franklin Avenue, plus a new, on-grade railroad crossing on North Range over the Kyle Railroad track.

The first of three projects will involve the south half of the intersection at 4th St. and Franklin, which will be closed so that removal of the old pavement can begin.

Gerry Bieker, the City of Colby public works director, confirmed today that with the construction starting on Wednesday at the intersection of 4th and Franklin, traffic through that intersection will be limited to one eastbound lane and one westbound lane.

"The entire south half of this intersection will be closed," Bieker said, "and there will be no northbound through traffic on Franklin Ave. past Third Street."

Northbound parking between 3rd and 4th St. will be open with the remaining area being used for vehicles to turn around and head back to the south.

The second of the three projects, which is the intersection of 4th St. and Range Ave., also known as the viaduct project, will not begin until Wednesday, June 4, Bieker said.

"During this time," he said, "the 5th and Range, 6th and Range, and 7th and Range intersections will be closed and Range Avenue will be closed from 4th St. to the north city limits.

The final project, will affect southbound traffic on Highway 25, which will be rerouted to the east at Veteran's Memorial Drive and then south on Country Club Dr. to Interstate 70 north on Country Club Dr. to Veteran's Memorial Dr. and then west to Highway 25 (Range Avenue)," he said.

Hein said that a temporary stoplight at 4th St. and Country Club Dr. will be installed to help control traffic on the detour.

"Removal of the old railroad viaduct and construction at that location is expected to continue until late fall," Hein said.

For those with questions on the intersection projects, call Bieker at 462-4420 and for questions on the viaduct project, call Hein at (785) 877-3315.

E-mails can be sent to Bieker at: pubworks@cityofcolby.com or to Hein at: tom.hein@ksdot.org.

Report shows... Kansans poor bucklers

WICHITA (AP) — Kansans' seat belt usage is getting worse, at least when compared with the rest of the nation.

Figures released this month by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that only residents of Massachusetts and New Hampshire have lower usage rates than Kansans. And New Hampshire doesn't even have a seat belt law. Just 61 percent of Kansas motorists were wearing seat belts during a survey conducted last year — the same percentage as recorded in 2001. By staying the same, the state slipped from 44th to 48th on the list of states when ranked according to seat belt usage.

Rosalie Thornburgh, chief of traffic safety for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said she was surprised to see the state so far down on the list.

"We're well aware of the fact that we're at 61 percent, and we're aware of the fact that the national average is 75," she said.

"What I wasn't aware of is that everyone else is moving forward. Kansas is virtually stalled at 61 percent."

The state's ranking bothered many traffic safety officials who, like Thornburgh, were in Wichita Wednesday to attend the state's Transportation Safety Conference.

Many of those attending said it was time for Kansas to join the 19 states that have seat belt laws which allow police to stop drivers who aren't buckled up. Kansas' law only allows officers to issue \$10 seat belt tickets to motorists pulled over for other violations.

Randy Bolin, regional program manager of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration office in Kansas City, Mo., said Congress is considering a proposal that would offer financial rewards to states which pass stricter seat belt laws. Under the plan, Kansas would receive \$11 million.

Jeff Halloran, project director for the Kansas Safety Belt Education Office in Lawrence, said one of the reasons seat belt usage is so low in Kansas is that the state has more than its share of independent thinkers. "Part of it is our human nature," Halloran said. "We don't want to be told what to do."



Thunderstorms Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...Showers and thunderstorms likely. Some thunderstorms may be severe. Lows in the mid 50s. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 60 percent. Saturday...Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms late. Highs in the mid 70s. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent. Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Chance of rain 30 percent. Sunday...Mostly cloudy...Then becoming mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Memorial day...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s and highs near 80. Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s and highs in the lower 80s.

By the numbers
Thursday's high, 83
Low this morning, 54
Year ago today, 72 and 46
Records for the date, 98 in 1939, 29 in 1893
Soil temperature, 65
24-hour precipitation up to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Month's precipitation to date, 2.30
Year's precipitation to date, 6.32

Water Usage/Colby
May 22 = 1.769 million gallons

Internet for all dorm rooms

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

The need is being met.

With an eye on the rapidly changing pace of the technological age, the Colby Community College board of trustees approved an agreement at their meeting this week with Time Warner Cable to provide Internet access to all dorm rooms on campus.

Dr. Mikel Ary, the college's president, was pleased with the decision saying, "This is what we've needed for some time."

The college had asked for estimates from Time Warner, S&T Communications and Southwestern Bell, but ultimately it was cheaper for Time Warner since they could utilize their cables already laid to provide cable television to the living facilities.

The company will use the cables in the attics of each living quarter to run the Internet into a wireless modem. From there, the students will have wireless Internet access in

each of the rooms. The \$150 cost per student each year will be paid out at \$10 per month in the first year with the college supplementing the rest of the tab.

In other business, the trustees:

- Approved a contract with Chartwell's Food Service to continue to provide meals. Skip Sharp, dean of student services, said the contract will vary with the school's enrollment for next year. If the occupancy is higher, the food costs will be lower, but it occupancy is lower, the cost will be higher.

- Approved contracts for on-campus faculty, outreach faculty and EduKan instructors and a contract with the Northwest Educational Service Center for a sign-language interpreter.

- Approved the resignations of instructor in nursing, Rochelle Rodenbeck; judging team coach, Clint Taylor; and horse production instructor, Sara Wessels. All of the resignations will be effective today.

- Approved a summer contract for

Sara Wessels to work at the college farm and breed horses for the college. Ary said an opportunity to breed 42 horses for a person from Russell has come up and Wessels requested staying this summer to do the breeding, although she is resigning.

The breeding would profit the college \$3,950, minus the cost of her contract in the amount of \$2,500.

- Approved agreements with Time Warner Cable; TM Century, a company that provides top 40 music for the college radio station; and Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas to allow college students to work with their clientele with disabilities.

- Signed a contract with Glen Strait, the architect selected to design the wellness center.

It provides for a five-year window of agreement for his services. If the board does not build the wellness center within five years, the contract will be void.

Briefly

No Free Press on Monday

The *Colby Free Press* crew will be taking Monday off to engage in the various Memorial Day holiday activities. Normal operations will resume at 8 a.m. on Tuesday.

Red Cross meeting is Tuesday

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range in Colby. All members are welcome, which includes anyone who has donated financially, or by volunteering or by giving blood. For questions, call Mary Smith, director, 462-7161.

Landfill closed Sunday, Monday

The Thomas County landfill will be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of Memorial Day. Larry Jumper, supervisor, said the landfill will be open it's regular hours on

Saturday and Tuesday. Questions to 462-8139.

No trash pickup Monday

The City of Colby's sanitation department will not be operating on Monday in observance of Memorial Day, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. Yard waste and trash will be picked up on Tuesday, along with the regular Tuesday route. Questions to 462-4420.

Delzeit reception is next Friday

A public retirement reception for Corky Delzeit, director of public power, will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 30 in the council chambers of Colby City Hall, 585 N. Franklin. Delzeit has worked for the city for 36 years.

Cystic fibrosis walk is week away

The Western Kansas Great Strides 2003 fund-raising event to help in the fight and cure of cystic fibrosis will be held in

Colby on Saturday, May 31, with check-in at 8 a.m. and the walk beginning at 9 a.m. at Fike Park. Questions to 465-7907.

Arts program scheduled June 5

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas at 1675 W. 4th St., Colby, will host "Community Inclusion with the Arts." Judy Kleinsorge, of the Prairie Museum of Art and History, will give a program, "Pens and Pics." The program will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 5, and everyone from the community is welcome. The program is free. Questions to 462-3012.

Carnival 'work days' continue

The Thomas County Amusement Association is holding "work days" each Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon until fair time and everyone in the community is encouraged to lend a hand. Contact Chad L. Zimmerman at 460-1818 if you need additional information.

