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School board to learn more about online state assessments

The agenda also includes principal, curriculum and superintendent reports, Kansas Association of School Board dues, emergency substitute licenses and negotiations.

Nielsen said the negotiation process for teacher contracts is just getting under way. "They really haven't started yet," he said, but the process will take some time.



Signs of spring!



Puddle Duck Preschool students in Colby, Lander Niblock, Kora Schindler, Patyn Pfeifer and Lexy Kraft took treats from teacher Amy Jennings this morning at the home of Patyn Pfeifer. The stu-

dents, she said, enjoyed a walk to look for signs of spring and had a picnic and other activities to celebrate the beginning of spring.

New Mexico man charged with robbery, assault in Goodland

GOODLAND—A New Mexico man was charged Tuesday with aggravated robbery, aggravated assault and felony theft in Sherman County District Court in a holdup Monday at the Total service station on K. 27.

The attendant reported being robbed at knifepoint about 1:40 a.m. Monday.

Melvin A. Finley II, 19, of Albuquerque, N.M., is charged with the theft of a carton of cigarettes, \$20 worth of gas and about \$600 in cash.

The complaint filed in district court said Finley assaulted the attendant, Trinity Murray, by placing a knife at his back and telling him “not to be stupid.”

The New Mexico man was being held in the Sherman County Reptile

on \$50,000 bond. He was arrested east of Brewster on I-70 by Colby Police and Thomas County sheriff's officers, who had heard the call on a robbery in Goodland.

Thomas County officers said they found money and a knife in the

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said Wednesday that Finley and the girl were wanted in Albuquerque, N.M.

Selby said the vehicle they were driving had been stolen in Albuquerque, where Finley allegedly held a woman at knife point at an automatic teller machine and stole

Colbyite promoted to Hays bank

Colby banker Les Brown has joined the commercial division of Emprise Bank at Hays as vice president, it was announced today.

Brown spent the past six years as vice president and commercial lender for First National Bank in Colby. Prior to



Les Brown



Brown is a native of Hoxie and a 1993 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration in finance. He received his master's degree in business from Fort Hays State in 1995 while working as a graduate assistant at the Small Business Development Center. Brown has since completed sev-

eral Schools of Banking courses and has also participated in numerous Kansas Bankers Association sponsored seminars and workshops.

Brown has served as a volunteer reporter for the *Colby Free Press* the past couple of years with his focus on the wrestling program at Colby Community College.

He also was involved in live television coverage of Class 3-2-1 A state wrestling

Residents mourn soldiers

FORT RILEY (AP) — Residents near this historic Army post were moved by the death of five Fort Riley soldiers in Iraq, but also understood the loss was part of war.

"Every time we lose one it's a tragedy for the fort and the community," said Geary County Sheriff Jim Jensen, a Vietnam veteran and member of the American Legion, pausing for a moment Thursday in Junction City.

The soldiers were killed Wednesday when a bomb detonated under their M-113 in Malahma, an area in the Sunni Triangle — roughly between Baghdad, Ramadi and Tikrit.

Briefly

College board to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. on Monday in the board room of the administration building. Items on the agenda include a presentation from Bob Hartsook and John Pepperdine of Hartsook and Associates on fund raising, approval of contracts and agreements, tuition and fees, student/trustee dinner, policies and procedures manual, and faculty contract negotiations. The meeting is open to the public.

Singles dance tonight

The Colby Singles Group has planned a dance tonight from 8 p.m. to midnight at the American Legion in Colby. Swingin' Country from Imperial, Neb. will provide entertainment. All single people and alumni are invited to attend. For questions or other details, call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include

Juanita Dewey, administrator of the county health department, D'Ette Scholtz and Joe Liebbbrandt from the Extension office, Maybelle Moore and Donita Applebury with a presentation on microfilming county records, and opening of carpeting bids for new carpet at the Thomas County Office Complex. The meeting is open to the public.

Memory Walk planned Saturday

The Alzheimer's Association is planning a "Memory Walk" in Colby starting at 1 p.m. with registration and the walk beginning at 1:30 p.m. The event will be held in Fike Park for the purpose of raising awareness about Alzheimer's, said Rhonda Riedel. For questions or information, call her at 673-3149 or 800-487-2585.

Aviation safety seminar Saturday

There will be an aviation safety education seminar, Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Colby Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park. The seminar is a national program developed by the Federal Aviation Administration Central Region, said Mark Ostmever, manager of the Colby Municipal Air-

port. The program is designed to make using all types of airports, airways and other situations safe and fun. For questions, call Bruce Allred, (316) 941-1208 or Ostmeier at (785) 462-4128.

Easter Cantata scheduled

A community-wide Easter Cantata will be performed at 7 p.m. on Good Friday (April 9) at the Berean Church in Colby. The public is invited to attend.

Blood drive next Wednesday

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Colby High School from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7. Many restrictions have been lifted and if people have been cancer-free for five years or have their diabetes under control, they can donate, officials in the Central Plains Region said today. Also, many medications don't disqualify donors. People should bring photo identification. Walk-ins are welcome or an appointment can be scheduled by calling 1-800-448-3543.



60 for Saturday

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area
Tonight: Partly cloudy

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 5-15 miles per hour and gusty. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Highs around 60. Northeast winds 5-15 miles per hour. **Saturday night...**Partly Cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Southeast winds 10-15 miles per hour. **Sunday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. South winds 10-20 miles per hour.

The numbers
Thursday's high, 76
Low this morning, 37
Records for April 2, 86 in 1921 and -1 in 1936
Year ago today, 86 and 44
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00
April total, 0.00
April snowfall, 0
Soil temperature, 55

The sources:
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119.

