



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Statewide music festival in Colby today

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Music was the name of the game today at Colby High School for those participating in the state "Large Group Music Festival." Band, choral and glee club groups could be heard throughout the building throughout the day.

Jennifer Koel and Laura Krejci, music teachers at Colby Grade School, were the festival managers. Koel said about 600 students from 20 schools were registered for the event, including Colby, Almena, Atwood, Cheylin-Bird City, Deerfield, Dighton, Goodland, Grinnell, Holcomb, Hoxie, Jennings-Prairie Heights, Lakin, Leoti, Norton, Oakley, Oberlin, Quinter, Scott County, Sharon Springs and Syracuse.

"There were more registered but some opted not to come because they're smaller," Koel said, adding the event is an important one for the community to host. "It's a lot of clout for Colby. This is a state event."

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Jennifer Koel,  
festival manager

hosted the event before and it always takes a lot of preparation to ready the classrooms for practice areas and the gym and auditorium where the groups perform to receive a rating.

Koel said the vocal groups and bands are grouped together so they are competing with their own classification in 1A to 4A.

Also, she said the high school's vocal department was running a concession stand for the festival in the commons area so students would have a place to unwind.

## Swingin' open house



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

The swings were the center of attention as Grace Oard gave Alice Corbett and Jaime Pruden a push during a preschool open house at Heartland Christian School this morning. Preschool teacher

Dixie Snyder said it's the first such event the preschool has held and it's purpose was to showcase the program and let parents know it's available.

## College's top award to be presented to the Krehbiels

Twice a month for over 15 years Kenton Krehbiel has been giving countless hours of his time to attend Board of Trustees' meetings at Colby Community College. For Kenton and his wife Sheila, the meetings are just a small part of their dedication to the college and its students.

In recognition of their extraordinary civic leadership and commitment to Colby Community College, Kenton and Sheila have been selected to receive this year's Honorary Associate Degree, the college's most prestigious public award.

Colby College has presented the Honorary Associate Degree annually since 1986 as part of its National Community College Month observance. Previous winners include Helen Frahm, 1986; Don Phillips, 1987; Jimmy Nickel, 1988; Don Crumbaker, 1989; Marilyn Donelan, 1990; Bill Beck, 1991; Les Barrett, 1992; Ruth and Al Lowenthal, 1993; Charles Schiefen, 1994; Gwen Young, 1995;



K. Krehbiel



S. Krehbiel

Warren Hixson, 1996; Betty Secrest, 1997; Jack and Betty Fitzsimmons, 1998; George Elliott, 1999; Charles Davis, 2000; Max Embree, 2001; David and Lois Ferguson, 2002 and Matt Hamill, 2003. In addition to his 15-year tenure on the Board of Trustees, Kenton has served for 11 years as the group's chair. Prior to his election to the college board, Kenton served on the Endowment Association Board for six years.

"The college is very important to our community" said Kenton Krehbiel. "Sheila and I view our involvement in college activities as one

way to help and be involved in the success of the school and the community of Colby."

Attending Board meetings is just one of the many events and activities that the Krehbiels attend. All those familiar with college athletics know that Sheila and Kenton can be found in the bleachers cheering on the Trojans at home games/matches and at many events on the road. For several years, the Krehbiels traveled to Rochester, Minn., to follow the wrestling squad as the team competed in the national championship event.

"We are a foster family for the men's basketball team," said Sheila. "We really enjoy getting the know the team members and watching them compete."

Kenton was elected to the Board of Trustees the year after Dr. Mikel Ary was hired as the college's Chief Executive Officer.

"Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel have been long-time, enthusiastic supporters of Colby Community

College," said Ary. "As the board chair for the last 11 years, Kenton has by far the longest tenure in that capacity of any board member. Both Kenton and Sheila demonstrate faithful attendance at athletic events further underscoring unwavering support for the college in all its programs."

Kenton joined the Postal Service in 1975 as a clerk and carrier. In 1988 he was promoted to management duties and in June 1997 was named Goodland Postmaster.

"I have been Officer in Charge in Oakley, Goodland, Colby, Garden City and Hutchinson and was Acting Manager of Post Office Operations for Western Kansas," said Krehbiel. "However, in February of this year I accomplished one of my goals when I was selected to be Colby Postmaster. It is the job I have aspired to during my career with the post office."

Sheila is a teller and customer service representative for Sunflower Bank in Colby. She began

her banking career with Thomas County National Bank (now known as Sunflower Bank) 24 years ago.

The Krehbiels were recognized for their commitment to the community of Colby at last year's Chamber banquet when they were selected to receive the 'Community Service Award.'

Kenton Krehbiel has been a member of the Thomas County Kiwanis Club since 1974. He was elected Lieutenant Governor and Treasurer of the Kansas District of Kiwanis and has served as a board member and treasurer of the Kansas Kiwanis Foundation.

Sheila is a charter member of the Sweet Adelines and has served as the group's treasurer for 14 years. The couple are also members of the Thomas County Historical Society and Friends of the Pioneer Memorial Library. They were very involved and served as community leaders for the Thomas County 4-H organization for many years.

Education is important to the

Krehbiels. Kenton graduated from Inman High School. Sheila is a graduate of Alton High School. The couple, who have been married for 36 years, met while attending Brown Mackie School of Business in Salina.

Their two daughters graduated from Colby Community College and transferred to four-year institutions. Sharon (Krehbiel) Hansen is a graduate of Emporia State University. She and her husband Mike and 19-month-old son Jacob live in Kansas City, Mo. Brenda (Krehbiel) Inman is a graduate of the University of Kansas. She and her husband Adam live in Lawrence.

A public reception to honor Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel will be held on Wednesday, April 28, beginning at 3 p.m. in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union, room 108. The Honorary Degrees will be conferred during Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 15, at 2 p.m. in the Community Building.



## Continued warm

**Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...**Clear. Lows in the mid 40s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph and gusty.  
**Friday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. West winds 10 to 15 mph with higher gusts.  
**Friday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.  
**Saturday...**Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.  
**Saturday night...**Partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the mid 40s.  
**Sunday...**Mostly sunny. Highs near 70.

**The numbers:** Wednesday's high, 81 — Low this morning, 40  
Records for April 15, 86 in 1913 and 12 in 1905

Year ago today, 88 and 48  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00 — April total, 1.29 — April snowfall, 3 inches — Soil temperature, 51

**The sources:**  
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Improvement at Colby's municipal airport have been postponed for at least one year following information reviewed at last week's council meeting.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said the situation continues to change and after talking with Mark Ostmeyer, airport manager, and others involved in the improvements to include Federal Aviation Administration officials, the decision was made to postpone the entire project.

Those projects include updating the airport master plan, along with rehabilitating the taxiways, and south apron, extending to a third (taxiway) lane, crack and seal work, removing two hangars and a proposal to acquire an additional 18 acres of land.

The decision to postpone was prompted by earlier conversations with the FAA, in addition to engineering cost estimates.

Initially, the city had planned to make upgrades and improvements by keeping some of the old concrete and using new paving where needed.

However, the FAA did not want to see the apron project "patched," Armstrong said.

Instead, officials with the FAA believed it would be better to make two separate projects and do it right the first time, Armstrong told the council.

In reviewing the two amendments to the engineering contract; however, Armstrong said the change in scope added an additional \$11,464 to the first project and \$67,786 on the second making the changes "totally unacceptable."

Once the city receives the federal

funding, which could be as early as next year, Armstrong said, the airport improvements will be completed.

The Federal Aviation Administration's airport improvement program will be awarding a \$300,000 grant to the city for the master plan, taxiway and apron.

In other council business:

- Mayor Warren Hixson reappointed Jim Oliver and Paul Steele to the airport board with their terms expiring in April of 2007.

- Hixson reappointed Julie Sadler, Martha Brewer, Jim Brown,

Sue Taylor and Jennifer Woofert to the convention and tourism board with terms expiring in April of 2008.

- Phil De Young was reappointed by Hixson to the library board and Sharon Steele will serve another three-year term on the city's tree board.

- On the board of zoning appeals, Donnie Hughes agreed to be reappointed for another three-year term ending in April of 2007.

The next city council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers.

## Briefly

### Colby author to review his book

In honor of National Library Week, Keith Coplin, an instructor at Colby Community College and an author, will be reviewing his novel "Crofton's Fire" on Monday at 12:15 p.m. The review will be held at Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th St., Colby.

### Kindergarten performance next week

The Colby Grade School kindergarten class will perform "A Day on the Farm" at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 22, at the Colby Grade School auditorium. The performance is open to the public. There is no admission charge.

### Pancake feed announced

The Colby Bluegrass Committee is sponsoring a pancake and sausage feed, Saturday, April 24, at the Colby Community Building. Serving will begin at 7 a.m. and continue until

2 p.m. The cost of the event is free-will donation with proceeds going toward funding the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival on July 16, 17, and 18. Live music will begin at 9 a.m. during the pancake feed.

### Preschool open house scheduled

Heartland Christian School will hold its preschool "Open House" on Thursday for parents wanting to start their 3-4-year-old child for the 2004-2005 school year. It begins at 9 a.m. with an informational meeting with classroom participation to follow in the preschool classroom. For questions or information, call the school at 460-6419.

### Voter registration open

Voter registration books are now open for anyone who has changed their name, address or who will turn 18 before the next statewide general election. For questions, call (785) 462-4500 or stop by the courthouse.

## Countdown nears end

The deadline to get federal income taxes filed is midnight tonight but the Colby Post Office isn't staying open late, said Postmaster Kenton Krehbiel.

"The last pick up is 7 p.m.," he said.

"They need to be mailed by then. We'll get everything out that's mailed by then."

"Anything mailed after that, Krehbiel said, will have an April 16 postmark.

He said they've stayed open late in the past but there isn't enough volume anymore during tax deadline day to cover the operating costs to stay open late.

Several years ago there were many tax returns coming through but with the advent of e-filing and many people having their returns done by tax accountants, the Post Office doesn't see as many returns in the mail as it used to.

"It changes our whole aspect of it," he said.

