



# Ostermann leaving Colby for Missouri job

**By TISHA COX**  
*Colby Free Press*  
The Colby Community College Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of head basketball coach Brian Ostermann at its Monday meeting.  
Ostermann has accepted the head coaching position at Southwest Missouri State University-West Plains in West Plains, Mo. He said the two-year school is affiliated with Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield and is part of the state university system.  
“I very much appreciated my time, my family time, here at Colby Community College,” Ostermann said.  
He said from a career standpoint, the

move is a good one but it will be difficult from a family perspective.  
“Everybody’s been terrific,” Ostermann said.  
“I do appreciate everybody’s support. It’s a good opportunity professionally.”  
He said he thought it was appropriate to address the board in person. Ostermann said he hopes the college’s basketball program continues to be successful and thanked the board and others for their support.  
He added he’s unsure if his brother Chad, an assistant coach for the Trojans, will follow him to Missouri or be in the running for the Colby head coaching job. Ostermann said Chad will probably make a decision

sometime this week.  
Board member Cleona Flipse said Ostermann had done a good job during his five years as head coach.  
In conjunction with Ostermann’s resignation, the board also approved a 45-day temporary contract making assistant coach Dave Walker acting head coach.  
College President Mikel Ary said part of the reasoning was to help retain players signed this spring and also to fill the head coaching position while a national search for a replacement begins.  
The board also briefly discussed the budget for the coming school year. Ken Johnson, dean of financial affairs, said the school’s full-time equivalent enrollment

went up 2.69 percent and also said state aide will be up 2.3 percent this year.  
He said the college could get about \$60,000 more in funding from the state this fall. Johnson also said they’ll need to take a look at the school’s maintenance and capital outlay budgets.  
Also approved at the meeting was the lease of a registered mare for the college’s horse farm.  
Ary said the mare will be bred to one of the stallions at the farm and the college will be able to keep the resulting foal to help improve the quality of the school’s herd.  
He said the school worked out a similar arrangement last year involving stallions.  
Another item discussed was the school’s

natural gas provider. Johnson suggested the school could bid in the fall instead of the spring, which would save some money.  
Johnson said the June natural gas price is higher than September and October prices.  
He said the school has two options — to bid and get a fixed price or bid and get an index price for three months and if the price dips, lock in that contract for the rest of the year.  
He said he will bring back prices on each for the board’s consideration at its next meeting.  
The board also approved a two-year master agreement to finish negotiations on the faculty’s contracts.

## Rasure, Ostmeyer file for Senate seat

**By TOM DREILING**  
*Free Press Publisher*  
Thursday, at noon, is the deadline to file for the Aug. 3 primary election throughout the state. The *Colby Free Press* will carry a complete list of local and area candidates for the various offices in its Friday edition.  
A check with the Secretary of State’s office at Topeka this morning, showed that two candidates have filed for the 40th Senatorial District seat.  
That seat was held by Sen. Stan Clark, Oakley. Sen. Clark lost his life in an accident on Interstate-70 on Saturday, May 29.  
The two who have filed are Ralph Ostmeyer and Dan Rasure. Both are Republicans with Ostmeyer from Grinnell and Rasure from Goodland.

Ostmeyer withdrew his bid for re-election to the Kansas House from the 118th District in order to pursue the Senate seat. Ostmeyer has served two, two-year terms in the Kansas House.  
Rasure got into the race several months ago and has spent most of his time since then campaigning throughout the district.  
Republicans in the 18-county 40th Senatorial District will convene later this month in Colby to appoint someone to serve out the remainder of Sen. Clark’s term which expires in January.  
The Secretary of State’s office also confirmed that as of this morning incumbent Rep. Jim Morrison, Colby, is the lone candidate for the 121st District House seat. Morrison is a Republican.



A truck carrying a water tank tipped over Monday as the driver was exiting the south parking lot of the Thomas County Courthouse. Aaron K. Dempewolf, 20, of Colby apparently was going too fast while turning onto Court Avenue from the parking lot, the police report said today. The accident happened when the water

shifted in the tank and rolled the 1971 Ford truck at about 2 p.m. on Third St. and Court, said Gary Shull, police investigator. The tank then came loose and the water drained out of the tank’s valve. There were no injuries and within 45 minutes, Shull said, the street was cleared for traffic.

**Filing  
deadline  
noon  
Thursday**



**Heavy rainfall**  
**Colby-Oakley-Hoxie**  
**Tonight...**Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms with heavy rainfall. Breezy. Lows in the lower 60s. Southeast winds 15 to 25 mph becoming south 5 to 15 mph after midnight. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms with heavy rainfall in the afternoon. Windy. Some thunderstorms may be severe in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. **Thursday night...**Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Windy. Lows in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph shifting to the west 15 to 25 mph after midnight. **Friday...**Mostly sunny. Breezy. Highs in the mid 80s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph decreasing to 5 to 15 mph in the afternoon.  
**The numbers**  
Monday’s high, 101  
Tuesday’s high, 95  
Low this morning, 68  
Records for June 9, 105 in 1985 and 39 in 1966  
Year ago today, 94 and 53  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
June total, 0.63  
Soil temperature, 80  
**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. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.  
**Water use**  
• The water production for June 8 - NA  
**Water advisories**  
• Water **Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.  
• Water **Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.  
• Water **Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

## City of Colby’s audit gets highest ranking possible

**By PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*  
The Colby City Council learned recently that it had received the highest ranking possible with respect to the annual audit.  
Brian Staats, with Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball of Colby, said his firm gave the best rating that can be given since the city was in total compliance with state guidelines and no budget violations existed.  
In his presentation, Staats also

reviewed ways the city can improve on general accounting matters.  
Those included suggestions on canceling old encumbrances and accounts payable; outstanding checks that could be voided or re-issued; cut-off procedure for year-end and mandatory vacation, he said.  
Staats said the reason for considering a mandatory vacation, continuous for one or two weeks would apply mainly to those dealing with the city’s finances.  
“While they (financial personnel) are gone, someone else should perform their job duties,” he said.  
“This strengthens the internal controls and provides cross training to minimize the effect on the department when people are absent or leave employment.”  
In other council business:  
• Approval was given to authorize a stop sign in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of West Fifth Street and Copeland Avenue.  
The issue was evaluated, said

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, by herself, Randy Jones, chief of police, and Doug Lewis, code enforcement.  
“We all reached the conclusion that it would be best to stop the southbound traffic on Copeland, and that it would not be effective if we tried to do anything with the northbound traffic on Copeland and Fifth Street,” she said. The council agreed.  
• The Federal Aviation Administration established the first grant offering in the amount of \$295,000 for the taxilane and apron project at the municipal airport.  
Armstrong said when the second grant is received next year, the city will be ready to proceed with the project.  
Thus far, the required pavement maintenance program has not been completed; however, it will be sent to the federal office as soon as it is completed.  
The council approved to accept the first grant offer for the project.

## Chautauqua production starts this week at Prairie Museum

**By JOANNE SUNDERMAN**  
*Pioneer Memorial Library*  
The dates for Chautauqua, which is a big production sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council and starring such grand historical figures as Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, John Brown and others, will be Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.  
Besides the big tent performances each evening at the Prairie

Museum of Art and History beginning at 7 p.m., there will be many workshops and other interesting things going on at the library and other sites in Colby that you won’t want to miss.  
All of these Chautauqua activities are free and open to the public — so don’t miss out on a thing. Here at the library, we will be hosting several workshops for children as well as adults. We will begin on Friday at 1 p.m. with Charles Pace who portrays Frederick Douglas presenting a program called “Folktales of African Peoples in America” for school-age children. On Saturday at 10 a.m., Pace will return to the Library and present an adult workshop called “My Bondage and My Freedom”, and at 3 p.m. that same day, Diane Eickhoff who portrays Clarina Nichols will present a workshop for adults entitled “Writing About Women.”

On Sunday at 3 p.m., Richard Johnson who portrays Abraham Lincoln will present an adult workshop called “Lincoln Lore.” Johnson will explore with participants why the stories of “Honest Abe” have become so important to us as individuals as well as a nation.  
Everyone will have the chance to share their own stories and reflections about the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln at this workshop. On Monday starting at 11:30 p.m., we will be having a light lunch (provided by the Friends of the Library) followed by an adult workshop featuring David Matheny who portrays John Brown. He will lead a discussion on “Changing Opinions and Images of John Brown” which most definitely will be lively

See “CHAUTAUQUA,” Page 5

## Briefly

### Donations sought for fireworks

The Colby Kiwanis Club is reminding all businesses that it’s once again looking for “shell” sponsors to defray costs on this year’s fireworks display. All \$20 shell donations will go toward the celebration. If interested, call the Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401.

### Water garden tour planned

The Northwest Kansas Transition Council will have a water garden tour in the Colby area on July 10. Tickets will be available June 23 with purchase locations announced later. The event will raise funds for projects for the 2004-2005 school year.

The projects will assist at-risk students and disabled northwest Kansas students in preparing for post-secondary training, employment and independent living.

### Blood drive coming up

The Colby Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive from 12:30-6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16 at the Colby Community Building. Call 1-800-448-3543 to schedule an appointment. Everyone wishing to donate will need to bring a photo ID or Red Cross blood donor card, which is received after one’s first donation.

### Super Sitter Class nearing

The Thomas County Health Department Super Sitter class has moved. The class will be held in the 4-H Building di-

rectly west of the Thomas County Office Complex.  
The super sitter class will be held Wednesday, June 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and enrollment will not be limited to a certain number of participants, officials said.  
Those planning to attend need to have completed fifth grade. For questions or enrollment fees, call the health department at 462-4596.

### Post Office, county closed Friday

The Colby Post Office and all Thomas County offices will be closed either part or all of Friday to honor the memory of former President Ronald Reagan. There will be no regular mail delivery or retail hours. Normal hours will resume on Saturday. The county offices and courts will close at noon and the treasurer’s office will close at 11 a.m.

