



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Basketball recruiting a concern

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Keeping basketball recruits is a concern at Colby Community College.

The college could lose several of the recruits that signed this spring because they might follow former head coach Brian Ostermann to his new job in Missouri.

The board discussed the issue at its meeting Monday. College President Dr. Mikel Ary handed out an article from the Springfield, Mo. newspaper concerning Ostermann, who's taken the head coaching job at Southwest Missouri State University-West Plains. The board accepted Ostermann's resignation at its June 7 meeting.

Board member Larry McDonald wanted to know what's being done to keep players from leaving.

"What are we doing to get them here?" he said.

Ary said an effort is being made to contact recruits who had signed letters of intent this spring.

"We can hope for the best," Ary said.

Board member Larry Arehart, via speakerphone from Hutchinson, asked about how the search for a new coach is progressing.

Ary said he's working on a committee and hopes to have the members named by the end of the week. Twelve names have already been suggested and he hopes to have a cross-section of people for the committee. When the application deadline passes June 28, he hopes the committee can jump right into the selection process. Rich Epp, local sports figure, was at the meeting and commented that the players should at least meet the new coach when they're signed before making the decision to jump ship. He also said hiring a good coach-assistant package might help retain recruits.

## Little bookworm



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Denise Dawson helped Karissa Singer with a craft project during story time at Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby on Tuesday. The activities were part of the library's summer reading program.

## Budget, natural gas topics at board meeting

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The budget was discussed and a new natural gas provider was selected at the Colby Community College board of trustees meeting on Monday.

During the brief budget airing, Dr. Mikel Ary, college president, said some faculty members have expressed an interest in bringing the supply and vocational budgets back up to their pre-9/11 amounts.

He said the supply budget went from \$50,000 down to \$15,000 and wants to see if there is any way to increase the budgets even a small amount.

"We may need to approach this in steps," he said.

Fiscal officer Ken Johnson said the school has received its July tax payment of \$694,000 and will only get \$7,000 more of that revenue this year.

"We have to keep watch on that," he said, adding they will have to take that into consideration the first six months of a new budget year because the college won't get any more state tax money until January.

The board also approved a proposal from Oneok Energy in Hays to make the company its natural gas provider. Oneok was one of two companies submitting proposals. Midwest United LLC was the other.

The Oneok bid was \$6.88 per unit, plus fuel charges for the fixed price, and the index price was based on the Panhandle Eastern index plus 48 cents. The bid was selected in part because of the company's commitment to keeping in contact with the school about price changes.

Midwest's proposal for the fixed price was \$6.75 plus fuel charges and the index was also the Pan-

handle Eastern index.

At its June 7 meeting, the board discussed switching natural gas providers. Johnson suggested at the last meeting the board consider its options instead of locking in a price during one time of the year. He said they could bid in the fall instead of spring, which would help save money.

Post Rock, the college's gas supplier, wasn't in the running.

"We didn't receive a bid from our current provider, Post Rock, out of Nebraska," Johnson said. "Again, these prices are based on prices as they quoted today."

Board member Don Kready wanted to know if they should wait or go ahead and switch.

Johnson said they could negotiate with Post Rock or select one of the proposals. He said he would recommend picking a new vendor with the goal of trying to save some money. The board approved the hiring of Drs. Mary and David Hopper to head up the vet tech program.

"It's been an ordeal to replace Dr. Walker," Ary said, adding the two came highly recommended.

The two replace Walker who took early retirement earlier this year.

The board also approved a 1 percent salary increase for non-unit employees and a salary adjustment for three or four employees, not to exceed \$10,000 total for the adjustment.

In other business, the board approved:

- Bills in the amount of \$1,111,799.87;
- To retain Starkey and Gatz as the school's legal counsel;
- Nursing and physical therapy affiliation agreements and contracts.

## Colby's Westside Park ordered closed to all vehicle traffic

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council agreed to close Westside Park (corner of Smith and Fifth Street) to any vehicles or all-terrain vehicle traffic after hearing from city employees that this has been an on-going problem needing to be addressed.

Even though there is a general ordinance prohibiting all city park traffic, City Manager Carolyn

Armstrong said she, along with City Attorney Joel Kriss, believed the unique situation at Westside Park required a separate and more specific ordinance.

This is a little different than in other parks since any roads in those parks have no where to go, but in Westside Park there is a road north (through the park) and a second east (along the side of the park), Kriss said.

However, Armstrong said that the city will not try to close the entrance off Harvey because the fire department needs access in case of a grass fire on either side of the tracks.

In other council business:

• Mayor Warren Hixson offered his thanks to Gerry Bieker as the public utility director.

• The council also approved a bid from Lang Diesel for a new parks department mower at a cost of

\$7,593.40 with trade. There were three other bids received, Armstrong said, and it was the recommendation of a special vehicle committee to go with the Grasshopper 722D2.

The bid accepted came in a bit higher, however; Armstrong noted that the committee believed it was the best package for the parks.

The other bids include a 2004 Woods F21D mower at \$15,497

from Colby Ag Center.

Using the old Grasshopper mower as a trade in for \$7,200, the cost for the new Woods mower was \$8,297.

Colby Implement also bid on the mower with a John Deere F735 at \$10,000 with a \$4,000 trade-in making their bid \$6,000.

Lang Diesel submitted two bids — one for the Grasshopper 721D at \$8,607.60 with a \$3,625 trade-in for

a total cost to the city of \$4,982.60; or the one approved by the city which included the cost of the new Grasshopper 722D2 at \$9,536.40 minus trade-in of \$3,625 for a total cost of \$5,911.40. In addition, the council approved extra options: power fold deck at \$430; eight-gallon fuel tank, \$156; and model 15 metal dump collection system at \$1,096, making the total overall cost \$7,593.40.

## Crude oil spills into northwest Kansas creek

ELLIS (AP) — Crews using booms, pumps and pitchforks to remove crude oil that leaked from a pipeline into a northwest Kansas creek were almost finished with their work Tuesday.

Almost all of the oil has been pumped out of East Spring Creek, said Ky Nichols, director of environmental and regulatory compli-

ance for Cushing, Okla.-based Plains Marketing, which owns the pipeline.

Estimates differed on how much oil spilled into the waterway since Thursday, when the leak was discovered by a farmer checking on his cattle.

Officials of Plains Marketing estimated Monday that 200 barrels of

oil had flowed into the creek based on the amount that moves through the pipe daily. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment officials put the spill at 200 to 1,000 barrels.

Crews worked around the clock on the cleanup, laying booms on the water to contain the oil and direct it into hoses that carried it into tanker

trucks.

The workers used pitchforks to scoop oil-coated twigs and leaves from the surface to prevent the debris from being sucked into the tanker trucks.

Shawn Roberts, a spokesman for Plains Marketing, said the company was trying to pinpoint the cause of the leak.

### Colby Brewster Rexford



## Rain returns to the forecast

**Tonight...**Clear. Lows in the 50s. South winds around 10 mph.  
**Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the 80s. West winds 10-15 mph, becoming northeasterly 5-15 mph. **Thursday night...**Cloudy. Lows in the 50s. A 50 percent chance for rain and/or thunderstorms. East winds 10-20 mph. **Friday...**Cloudy. A 30 percent chance for rain and/or thunderstorms. Highs in the 70s. East winds 5-15 mph.

**The numbers**  
Tuesday's high, 79  
Low this morning, 53  
Records for June 23, 105 in 1943 and 45 in 1916  
Year ago today, 99 and 63  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
June's total, 3.20  
Soil temperature, 64

**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**  
• June 22 = 1.651 million gallons  
**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.

## Briefly

### Heartland SHARE delivery Saturday

Heartland SHARE delivery is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Sacred Heart School gym. A share is \$17.50 plus two hours of volunteer community service. The menu for this delivery is ham and cheese Hot Pockets, mesquite chicken breasts, ground beef patties, corn dogs, deli sliced cooked ham, potatoes, carrots, lettuce, red peppers, peaches, nectarines, cantaloupe, fruit cups and spaghetti. There are few shares left. If anyone is interested in ordering, they should call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

### City begins street work

Colby city crews began chip sealing streets this week. Motorists are also being asked to remove all vehicles from the following streets before 9 a.m.

Those include Smith Drive; Fifth Street (from Smith Drive to Walker Avenue); Avenue (from Webster Street to College Drive); Pine Street (from Range Avenue to Country Club Drive); College Drive (from Range Avenue to Country Club Drive). For questions, call the Public Works Department at 462-4420.

### Class reunion scheduled

The Colby High School Class of 1984 has scheduled its 20th reunion for July 2, 3, and 4, coordinators of the event said. In an effort to communicate with others in that class, a website has been set up for registration and other information. The address is: www.colbyhigh-1984.com

### Colby pool notes changes

Officials at the Colby Community College swimming pool are reminding everyone about summer hours and recent changes in the open swimming hours, said Debbie Schwanke. They are: lap swimming Monday through Friday from 5:30 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; open swimming: Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

### Wheat harvest office in operation

The Colby wheat harvest office is in operation, said Roger Hale, manager, who also reminds everyone that the office at a new location this year and has a new phone number. The office is at the east end of the Oasis Travel Center and the number is 460-0800.

### Girl Scouts seek help

Donations are needed for Girl Scouts in Colby who will be attending summer camp in July at Camp Hansen, Kirwin Lake, said Brette Pfeifer, coordinating activities. Items requested include one and three pound coffee cans with lids; pillow cases (whites and light pastels); clear fingernail polish; rubber O-rings (for making water bottle holders); clear sealant spray, bubble gum, and old 45s (records) and 33 long play record album covers. Pfeifer said she would be glad to pick these items up by calling her at 460-6006 or toll-free at 1-877-280-9836. For those wanting to drop items off to her, they can do so between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., weekdays, at the Scout Office, or the Kansas Country Store.

