



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Fishing lakes get boost *Some fees lifted under new program*

By Tom (TD) Dreiling

Free Press Publisher

There's some good news out there for local and area fishermen, as they ready their gear for the season. Some fishing interests have already been seen around lakes in the area and more will move toward that opportunity as the weather continues to warm and the fish become more vulnerable. Or so we like to think.

Last year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks launched the Community Fisheries Assistance Program, LeAnn Schmidt, special assistant to the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks told the *Free Press* in a detailed release.

Using federal dollars derived from excise taxes on fishing equipment, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has leased fishing rights to 215 community lakes statewide, removing fees and improving access to nearly 12,000 acres of fishing waters.

To fish in participating lakes, she said, all a person needs is a Kansas fishing license (unless exempt by law).

Before the Community Fisheries Assistance Program, about 55 percent of community fishing lakes charged anglers an access fee. Now, nearly 90 percent of community

“

Anglers are excited. . .”

Jessica Mounts  
state wildlife and parks biologist

waters are open to anglers with a Kansas fishing license.

The following lakes in the *Colby Free Press* reading area are Community Fisheries Assistance Program participants:

Lake Atwood in Atwood, Villa High Lake in Colby, Ellis City Lake, Antelope Lake in Graham County, Logan City Lake, Smoky Hill Garden in Sherman County, and the St. Francis City Lake

Jessica Mounts, state wildlife and parks biologist, and fisheries assistance program coordinator, said anglers are excited about the fishing opportunities offered by places they've avoided before based on the cost to obtain a special permit.

“Anglers love it,” Mounts said, “but local governments across the state have also shown great interest in working with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to provide the state greater fishing opportunities.”

Lakes that were not charging ac-

cess fees were also eligible for the program. The fisheries assistance program funding formula is based on the number of water surface acres and the quality of the fishery, and facilities offered at these lakes. Larger lakes offering more facilities will receive greater lease amounts than a smaller lake with fewer facilities. By participating in the program, cities and counties will have increased access to resources and contact with area fisheries biologists, receiving priority status for fish stocking, habitat improvement services, and additional improvement grants, Mounts said.

Kansas fishing licenses may be purchased at any Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks office, at most places that sell fishing tackle, or online at [www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us).

For more information about the fisheries program, contact Mounts at [jessicam@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:jessicam@wp.state.ks.us) or phone 620-672-5911.

## Colby College raises tuition, fees

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

A proposal to raise both tuition and fees by \$2 in each of the two categories next year was approved by the Colby College board of trustees during their Monday meeting.

Information compiled by Skip Sharp, dean of student services, indicated that of the 19 Kansas community colleges, Colby was in the middle regarding both fees and tuition.

Following a unanimous vote from the trustees, tuition and fees for in-state students effective with the 2005-06 school year will be \$43 for tuition (up from \$41) and \$21 for fees (up from \$19) for a total of \$64.

Outreach tuition and fees went from \$41 and \$16 to \$18 respectively for a total of \$61 per credit hour.

Out-of-state tuition costs in Nebraska and Colorado went from \$51 to \$53 for tuition and \$19 to \$21 for fees, totaling \$74.

All other out-of-state students will pay tuition costs of \$82 up from \$80 and \$21 for fees, up from \$21, for a total of \$118.

International students will pay tuition costs of \$97 up from \$95 and fees of \$21 respectively.

The college board also debated the natural gas contract with Oneok Energy, which has an office in Hays, and whether or not to lock-in or con-

tinue using the price per month arrangement.

“These are the two issues,” said President Mikel Ary.

“I think Oneok has been a good provider,” said Kenton Krehbiel, trustee.

“We have saved money and they have done a fine job with us.”

After hearing pros and cons to either arrangement, the board decided to stay with Oneok Energy and consider locking in the price for natural gas prior to June 30.

However, board members also wanted to keep their options open by instructing Ary to come back to the board in the event prices look favorable to lock in before that date.

## City council members elect new chairperson, recognize others

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Three of the four new Colby City Council members were sworn in and two outgoing councilmen were recognized for service during the regular meeting Tuesday.

Phil De Young, Ward I, Tim Hutfles, Ward III, and Mark Beringer, Ward IV, took

the oath of office and Mitch Beims, Ward II, was absent due to another commitment.

Outgoing members John Bremenkamp and Eugene Wieland were both honored with a resolution of appreciation signed by Mayor Warren Hixson and the other council members.

Bremenkamp in Ward II served on the

council from April 17, 2001 until April 19 and decided not to run for another term.

Wieland in Ward III, who was the chair of the council, also decided not to seek reelection.

Both Wieland and Bremenkamp were commended for their assistance in “advancement and progress of the city.”

Armstrong, city manager, said she would miss Bremenkamp, having worked with him years ago when he was a Thomas County Commissioner.

As for Wieland, Armstrong said he was the last person around the council table who was there when she was hired.

“You have some big shoes to fill,”

Armstrong said to the newly elected councilmen.

Following the swearing-in, councilmembers nominated Ken Bieber and Mark Beringer to fill the chairperson's position vacated by Wieland. After voting by ballot to determine which one would take over, Bieber won by a majority vote.

## Here's how



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Gina Jennings (left) an occupational therapist at Medical Arts Rehab, located on the north side of Lantern Park Manor, and Lacey Clinesmith, a certified nurses aide also at Lantern Park, were two of five employees recertified in CPR on Monday at the facility. Jennings and Clinesmith demonstrated the correct two-person method of helping someone in cardiac arrest. The training was provided by Dawnelle Umberger at Lantern Park, a CPR instructor through the American Heart Association.

## Fire's aftermath



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore (above) said Monday's late afternoon fire at the Ted Hart residence, 985 E. 6th St., started in the basement when a child, playing with a lighter, caught a mattress on fire. By the time firefighters arrived at the scene, the fire was already out, he said. There were no injuries or major damage associated with the incident, he said.

## House ready to pass energy bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House is set to approve an energy bill that would open an Alaska wildlife refuge to oil drilling and provide billions of dollars in benefits to energy industries, but critics say it does little to reduce the nation's thirst for oil.

The legislation, expected to be voted on by the House today is certain to produce a confrontation with the Senate over protection of the Alaska refuge and over a provision in the bill that would help makers of a water-polluting gasoline additive deflect environmental lawsuits.

By a vote of 231-200, the House late Wednesday rejected an attempt to strip from the bill a section to allow oil drilling on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Alaska.

The House has given the go-ahead for drilling there twice in the past four years, only see the issue die in the Senate each time.

The House bill also would shield the makers of MTBE, a gasoline additive that has prompted dozens of lawsuits over drinking water contamination, from defective product liability claims. The issue was blamed for scuttling energy

“

It is clearly designed to help energy companies make more money.”

Nancy Pelosi,  
Democratic leader

legislation in the Senate in 2003.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, has insisted that the MTBE liability waiver be included, arguing that the oil industry produced MTBE to help meet government-imposed clean air requirements in the 1990s, so Congress should protect the industry against what is expected to be an avalanche of lawsuits that claim the product is defective.

The “safe harbor” for MTBE makers will leave communities and water districts around the country left to pay cleanup bills, said Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif.

She said dozens of members of Congress represent districts where water agencies or communities have filed lawsuits that would be thwarted if the MTBE liability waiver became law.

The bill calls for \$8.1 billion in tax breaks over 10 years, most of it

going to promote the coal, nuclear, oil and natural gas industries.

In addition it would give refiners and oil companies \$2 billion over eight years for shifting from making MTBE as the additive is phased out.

It also calls for \$2 billion over 10 years to fund research into oil and gas recovery in extremely deep areas of the Gulf of Mexico.

DeLay, who has been fighting allegations of unethical conduct involving his travels and other issues, has been the primary force behind both the MTBE industry assistance and money for deep-water drilling research.

“This is the majority leader's bill that we are debating here today,” Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said during floor debate Wednesday, alluding to the DeLay. “It is clearly designed to help energy companies make more money.”

