

Ballot buddies



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School forensics students (l to r) Jasmine Brown, Corky Ress, April McAdams and Paige Pfeifer worked the ballot check table during the Colby Forensics Invitational Tournament

Thursday at the high school. Forensics coach Nancy Rundel and the team members were responsible for organizing and running the only home forensics tournament of the year.

College's president job down to two

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees announced the names of the two candidates for the school's open presidential position. The names of Clayton Tatro and Dr. Lynn Kreider were released during the board's regular meeting Thursday.

The two will be interviewed during campus visits April 5-6.

According to a release from the college, Tatro is the dean of learning services and chief academic officer at Garden Community College, a position he has held since 2001.

Kreider is the first chief executive officer and chancellor of Louisiana Delta Community College in West Monroe, La.

Dean of fiscal affairs Dan Erbert talked about the interviews, and scheduling challenges.

He said a public forum will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5 with Kreider and another at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6 with Tatro.

The board is asking Rich Epp to moderate both sessions.

The board will also hold special meetings and have dinner separately with both candidates and their spouses during the two days.

Also on the agenda was the possibility of putting up a new dorm. Interim college president Skip Sharp said he wanted the board's consensus on the issue, and the go-ahead to get drawings and find out possible costs and bring it back to the board.

Sharp said the ideal choice for replacement would be the north dorm, and replace it with a three-story traditional dorm.

"We need to keep the dorm functioning while building a new one,"

he said.

"We need to finish off that part of the campus."

He suggested a fall, 2007 completion date for the new dorm.

Along with the new dorm, Sharp also proposed building the Wellness Center nearby, where it and the new student living quarters could take advantage of already available parking.

Board member Kenton Krehbiel asked how the dorm would be financed.

Sharp said it could be done with bonds, and wouldn't need to be put to a vote.

Krehbiel said he liked the idea, and wanted to see more.

Sharp also suggested new freshmen and scholarship athletes could be required to live on campus, thereby guaranteeing a certain amount of residents for a new facility.

Board member Larry McDonald said students would probably want to live in a new dorm anyway. Cleona Flipse, board member, agreed, and said present conditions have been an issue.

"The dorms have been a big complaint," she said.

The board also head about the possibility of expanding part of the nursing program.

Dean of Instruction Chris Bishop told the board they have permission from the state to increase enrollment in the licensed practical nurse program this fall.

They can now expand from 20 to 30 students this fall.

Bishop also reported on the status of course schedules. She said the summer class schedule has been printed, and the fall listing will go to press soon.

They're also making progress on the 2006-2008 college catalog.

Attorney general fined by ethics panel

TOPEKA (AP) — Attorney General Phill Kline was fined \$1,500 by the state ethics commission Thursday because a consulting firm working for his campaign violated a Kansas law that restricts the soliciting of campaign funds from lobbyists.

Kline's office reported the problem last month, saying invitations for a Feb. 28 fundraising event were

mailed to some lobbyists by mistake.

The law says statewide officials, legislators and candidates for their offices can't seek money from lobbyists while the Legislature is in session. Lawmakers began their session in January and won't adjourn until May.

The Governmental Ethics Commission could have imposed a fine

of up to \$5,000. In cases dealing with violations of the same law last year, the commission fined a state senator \$3,000, but a Kansas House member only \$1.

The commission voted 7-0 in Kline's case after a brief public hearing and 15 minutes of discussion in a closed session. Kline's campaign paid the fine shortly after the committee's meeting ended.

Commission member John Solbach, a former House member and Lawrence attorney, said the mailings appeared to be "an honest mistake," which is how Kline's staff had described them.

But Solbach said the commission wanted to educate candidates and send a message that it takes violations of campaign finance laws seriously.

Heartland Christian School's administrator to leave area

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

Opportunity knocked a second time for Richard Roberts.

Roberts, administrator at Heartland Christian School in Colby, is leaving the position at the end of the school year to become administrator at Elyria Christian School near McPherson.

"It was God's leading," Roberts said. "We have needs in our family that will help our children that are not offered here."

Roberts, 46, knows of Elyria because the school offered him the same position two years ago.

"It sounded intriguing," he said. "But I told them I'm committed here. But then they called again in November."

Knowing the needs of his family, Roberts said he could not pass it up a second time. Elyria opened in 1983. The school has an enrollment of 204, about three times the size of Heartland's enrollment of 68. Elyria has preschool through 12th-grade classes.

"It will be a challenge because it is larger," Roberts said. "But we are excited about it."

"We have had more and more

affirmations for us to do this."

Heartland and Elyria do have some connections. Roberts said when Heartland was being created, board members used Elyria's policies and mission statement as a guide.

Roberts is Heartland Christian's first administrator. School board President Craig Myers said before Roberts, the school had a head teacher, not a typical administrator. It was a situation the board was not comfortable with. After the schools' first two years, the board hired Roberts.

"He brought a lot of organization and administrative experience," Myers said. "He kept us on track."

Roberts has been in Christian education for 25 years and came to Colby from Cadillac, Mich.

Myers said Roberts led Heartland at important times in the school's development. The school initially started in 1995 in Mingo but moved to the current facilities in Colby four years ago. Under Roberts, the school also created high school classes. Roberts, and his wife Susan teach classes.

Roberts said he does not deserve the credit for those developments during his tenure.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Heartland Christian School Administrator Richard Roberts assisted students with a weekly chapel service earlier this week.

"It was not because of my leadership," he said. "It was the people giving of themselves. I was glad to

see the staff come together and be unified. It is neat to see how God brings us together. It was the right

people, the right place and the right time."

Roberts appreciates the efforts

Kansas photographer praised by governor during funeral in hometown

FORT SCOTT (AP) — Gordon Parks came home Thursday to be buried near his parents and eulogized at a funeral service in a church he wouldn't have entered as a child because he was black.

He was remembered as a man who used his talents as a photographer, writer, composer and film-

maker to battle racism and poverty during a life that came full circle from a humble beginning to an exalted end in his hometown.

Born in 1912, he was the youngest of 15 children. Parks lived in what he later recalled as a world of racism and poverty, but also where his parents gave him love and taught

him to believe he could do whatever he wanted.

Over the years, his views tempered. Shortly before his March 7 death at his home in New York at age 93, Parks said he considered Kansas his home and wanted to be buried near his parents.

At the service Thursday, speak-

ers, including Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and musician-actor Avery Brooks, talked about Parks and what he did.

"Gordon Parks was a man who knew no barriers to his own talent, and he used that talent to bring down the barriers that walled in so many of his countrymen," Sebelius told

roughly 600 people attending.

"And he used the body of his work to blow away the blinders that kept us from seeing that the plight of the poor is the plight of us all," she said.

Looking out over the audience of blacks and whites sitting shoulder to shoulder, Brooks began speaking

softly and then his voice rose.

He said Parks felt that "to stand and be counted was the only way to live." Kurt Baker, who worked with Parks on several of his films including "Shaft," said, "He was from here and went everywhere ... he left such ripples across so many lives. He's left soul shadows."