



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Candidate would put college in spotlight

*Editor's Note. This is the first of a two-part series about the two finalists for president of Colby Community College. Friday's Free Press will include a story about Clayton Tatro from Garden City Community College. He spoke today in Colby.*

**By John Van Nostrand**  
*Colby Free Press*

Dr. Lynn Kreider wants to be a part of a good thing and said that good thing is Colby Community College.

Kreider, who resigned in November as CEO of Louisiana Delta Community College in Monroe, La., is one of two finalists for president of Colby Community College. The vacancy was created by the October 2005 resignation of Dr. Mikel Ary. Glenn "Skip" Sharp has served as interim president since Ary left.

A question-and-answer meeting between Kreider and the community was held Wednesday on the college campus.

"You folks are doing something right," Kreider told the audience.

Kreider explained his personal history before answering a variety of questions. Kreider is a native of Lancaster, Pa., and served 20 years in the Air Force. He is married and has three grown children.

He was at Louisiana Delta since its debut in 2001 when enrollment was 260. Last fall, enrollment was approximately 1,500.

"I like challenges," Kreider said. Before Louisiana Delta, he was dean of professional and technology studies from 1997-2001 at Jackson State Community College in Jackson, Tenn. He held a variety of administrative positions at Delaware Technical and Community College in Dover, Del., from 1989-1997.

Aftermath from last year's hurricanes influenced him to resign.

Kreider said much of Louisiana's political and financial interest has been on rebuilding where the hurricanes did the most damage. Because of that, he said the northern part of the state where Louisiana



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Dr. Lynn Kreider spoke to the audience Wednesday during a question-and-answer session with the public. Kreider is one of two candidates for president of Colby Community College.

Delta is located has lost priority in many ways. A planned building purchase for the college was vetoed because of funding.

"It is a very difficult state," he said. "We owe the federal govern-

ment three billion dollars and we have no idea where it will come from."

But he likes the state Colby Community College is in.

When asked from an audience member, Kreider explained the three reasons he likes the college. He likes the enrollment numbers, respects the relationship the college has with state administration and the publicity the college receives locally.

"You are very rural," he said. "But it's not the area, it's the people, community and the college."

Kreider commented how the college can market some of its strengths to improve. He said he wrote his dissertation on retention in community colleges and noted sports programs, college band and student-based organizations can do that. He also commended Colby for its academic standards with student-athletes.

"It is totally successful," he said.

Louisiana Delta Community College does not have athletic programs.

Kreider also explained how he could attract more students to Colby.

Using Colby Community College's veterinarian technician program as an example, Kreider said those kind of programs can be used as specific reasons to advertise the college nationwide through niche marketing. He said that worked for Louisiana Delta's strength with its unique underwater welding course that has received much attention.

Complementing that, Kreider said the college may want to entice parents of potential students to consider Colby because of their influence on their child. Students don't have to go immediately to a four-year university he said.

"It's not that it is less expensive," Kreider said, "but you can get a quality start and transfer."

Knowing Colby Community College credits can transfer to four-year universities, Kreider said students can still acquire that coveted degree after Colby.

"When you leave, you can do what you want to do," he said.

## Bomb threat, no threat

**By Patty Decker**  
*Free Press Editor*

A suspicious package found Monday on a lawn at Friendly Acres Mobile Home Park created quite a stir for residents, firefighters and police.

The incident started when police were called at 5:46 p.m. to investigate a package, which the caller said "looked like it could be a bomb," said Detective Gary Shull Wednesday. The device was a little bigger than a shoebox.

Police Officers Ron Alexander and Shane Finley went to the scene, along with the Colby Fire Department.

As an added precaution, Thomas County Deputy Marc Finley, who has extensive military training of explosives also responded. It was determined while the package appeared to be assembled like a bomb, there was no visible power source.

The fire department tested the liquid in the plastic bottles of the device. Tests showed the liquid was water.

The device was not a threat.

Shull said one of two roommates living at Friendly Acres was studying bomb construction. The roommate might be in the military preparing to serve in Iraq that could require him to have knowledge of explosive devices.

The other roommate told police the fake bomb, which was in his roommate's bedroom, bothered him so he threw it out in the lawn. A neighbor walking by saw the device, turned it over for a closer look and called police.

Officers called the roommate who made the contraption. Shull said the man did confirm the roommate's story and said he made it to look like the real thing.

"It really did look like it was put together to resemble a bomb, complete with electrical tape and plastic bottles filled with water," Shull said. No charges were filed.

Dem bones . . .

Colby Community College students (from left) Alex Gentry, Natasha Fromholtz and Teresa Berens listened to Nancy Arendt explain how to use a trowel Tuesday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The students are taking a class on forensic archaeology at the college and are learning how to conduct a dig on the museum grounds. Arendt and other members of High Plains Archaeology Group are helping with the dig for the class which is taught by Linda Davis-Stephens.

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

## Colby home burglar convicted

**By Jan Katz Ackerman**  
*Colby Free Press*

Three 2005 criminal cases were almost finished in Thomas County District Court in Colby on Wednesday.

**Home burglary**

Defense Attorney Bruce Flipse represented two co-defendants in a home burglary from Nov. 7.

Kody Huff, 19 of Akron, Colo., pleaded guilty to breaking into a home on North Range Avenue. According to court documents, taken from the home were a digital camera, a computer cord, four watches, and 132 personal checks totaling a value less than \$1,000. That constitutes a Class A misdemeanor, a count which was dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

The actual break in of the home constitutes a felony, for which Huff faces between 11 and 34 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000.

Judith R. Perry, 23 of Akron, Colo., told Judge Glenn Schiffner she conspired with Huff to break into the same home. She faces five to 17 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000.

Flipse said both Huff and Perry within one week of the break-in in Colby stole a pickup in Rawlins County. They have pleaded guilty in that county and face sentencing in Rawlins County June 6.

Sentencing in Thomas County is set for 10 a.m. on June 7. Both Huff and Perry remain free on bond.

**DUI**

Another case involved a Colby man pleading guilty to driving

drunk for the third time.

Eric D. Emberson, 35, told Schiffner he had been drinking while operating a vehicle in Thomas County Nov. 11.

Appearing in court with Flipse, Emberson said it was the third time he had been charged with having driven while drunk.

Originally charged with one count of DUI and one count of driving on a suspended license, as part of a plea agreement Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick asked Schiffner to dismiss the license charge for Emberson's guilty plea on the felony DUI count.

Depending on a drug and alcohol evaluation and presentence investigation, Emberson faces between 90 and 365 days in prison and a fine up to \$2,500.

Sentencing has been set May 3.

**Possession**

Patrick McNeal, age unknown, of Denver, Colo., pleaded guilty to possessing marijuana with the intent of selling it in Colby June 25 and July 22. As part of plea negotiations, Wyrick asked Schiffner to dismiss one of three cases against McNeal. Scott Showalter of Goodland represented McNeal in two of the cases, Cal Williams in the third.

Schiffner told McNeal for the two cases in front of him Wednesday, that depending on the outcome of a presentence investigation he faces between 14 and 51 months in prison and a fine up to \$300,000.

The case Williams is involved in is still pending in magistrate court.

McNeal is scheduled for sentencing May 3.

## Oberlin girl, Colby boy suspected in sex exploitation

**By Jan Katz Ackerman**  
*Colby Free Press*

Law enforcement in Thomas and Decatur Counties are offering little information about a possible sex exploitation case late last month.

Little is being said about the involvement by a 13-year-old Decatur County girl alleged to have taken provocative photos of herself

with a Web cam. Those photos are under investigation in Oberlin. The teen is alleged to have taken photos of herself and sent them to a male teen in Colby March 30.

Decatur County Sheriff's Deputy Patty Skubal on Wednesday confirmed the investigation as ongoing.

"No charges have been filed as of yet," Skubal said.

Colby Police Detective Sgt. Gary

Shull said involvement in the case by his department has been limited to an interview of the boy who is over 14 years old.

Kansas law allows for records involving juveniles over the age of 14 open to the public unless a judge decides it's in the best interest of the child to close the case. Until formal action is taken by one or both counties, officials are likely to remain

relatively quiet about the case and the name of neither teen is being disclosed.

"Some states probably call it possession of child porn if you receive it," Shull said. "There is no ongoing investigation in Colby or Thomas County concerning this matter."

Decatur County Attorney Steve Hirsch said while he's aware of the

## Mel McDaniel to grace Colby Community Building stage Friday

**By Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*

Colby will be the first stop Friday in the return of a country music legend.

Mel McDaniel will kick off a tour supporting his first album since 1993 7 p.m. Friday at the Colby Community Building. The concert is sponsored by Colby radio stations KXXX and KQLS The Ride.

Concert goers will have the chance to hear for the first time

music off McDaniel's latest release, "Reloaded."

"I think folks will like it," McDaniel said.

"Ya'll are the first state where we're starting. We're starting off with a bang."

A 1996 accident in Lafayette, La., took McDaniel off the road, and a long



M. McDaniel

recovery kept him from recording. He was playing a venue still being renovated and fell from the stage into an orchestra pit.

McDaniel is known for songs like his No. 1 hit "Baby's Got Her Blue Jeans On," top 10 single "Louisiana Saturday Night," and "Stand Up."

He enjoys playing his older music, and listens to country radio now to see what's relevant.

"I pay attention to what people

want," he said.

Though he still writes some of his own music, he now chooses to go look at what other writers have produced.

McDaniel said there are many good writers turning out good songs.

As a musician, he said he and his band prefer to work year round, and they already have dates scheduled through November.

"I'm ready," he said. "We don't like sitting around. We like to

work." He loves performing, and is looking forward to the chance to introduce people to the new album.

At least four songs will be included in the set list for Friday's concert, including "Horseshoes and Hand Grenades," "Shoeshine Man," "Jukin'" and "Help Me Make It Through The Night," which was written by Kris Kristofferson.

"That's one of my favorite songs," McDaniel said.

Tickets will be available at the door.