



COLBY FREE PRESS

College needs both questions to pass April 3

By **Patty Decker**
Free Press Editor

When Thomas County taxpayers go to the polls April 3, they will decide on two special questions related to Colby Community College's proposed wellness activities complex and student housing facility.



Kreider

"Voters must approve both questions if they are in favor of the project," said Dr. Lynn Kreider, college president, "since the 115,000 square foot Wellness/Activities Center cannot go forward if one question passes and the other is defeated."

The two questions relate to the funding sources for the project — one calling for about \$4.5 million in general obligation bonds and the other calling for about \$10.5 million in a certificate of participation.

The project can take advantage of lower interest rates using general obligation bonds, which are guaranteed by the state at a lower interest rate of 4.15 percent rather than going solely on certificate of participation bonds, which have a higher interest rate.

Based on economics and state law, the college can't ask for more than \$4.5 million in general obligation bonds.

The board unanimously approved the two questions at a recent special meeting. Voters, wanting to have the questions on the April 3 ballot, filed a petition with the Thomas County Clerk's by the March 5 deadline, which forced the issue to a vote.

"We could have voted the entire \$15 million using the certificate of

participation bonds, but due to economics, the board chose to go with the two questions," Kreider said.

The way the process works is should voters approve both questions, bonds would be issued by the college and carry a fixed interest rate.

College trustees approved the maximum amount of general obligation bonds guaranteed or \$4.5 million, which is why the remaining amount is in certificate of participation bonds.

Since the project totals \$20 million, Kreider said he is committed to raising the additional \$5 million in grants and contributions, earmarked for the new 260-bed dormitory.

The \$15 million would include a 2,400 seat gymnasium, auxiliary gym, wrestling room with spectator seating, locker rooms, elevated walking track, free weights, machine weights, cardio center, offices, all-purpose classroom, large concession area and vestibule.

Much of the proposed complex will be available to the community for outside activities such as Mid-America Youth Basketball tournaments, concerts, exhibits and other events.

If passed, the \$15 million bond issue will mean a property tax increase over 20 years.

Kreider said, a home with a market value of \$120,000 would see an additional \$165 increase a year. In previous meetings, he explained that would be about \$14 a month.

For farmers, the increase on a dryland quarter of farmland with a market value of \$110,000 would mean a \$45 increase. On an irrigated quarter valued at \$224,000, a \$91 yearly increase.

Kreider encourages questions from taxpayers by calling him at 462-3984 or stopping by his office in Thomas Hall on the Colby College campus.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Doris and Lyman Adams, center, accepted roses from the Lady Trojans Softball team. The Adams are parents of Carl, who was a longtime coach of the softball team and died in December. The field was named after Carl on Saturday.

Softball field named for coach

By **Tisha Cox**
Colby Free Press

Years from now, Colby Community College softball fans and players will have a reminder of a longtime contributor to the program and the school on game days.

The softball field at Colby Community College campus was named the Carl Adams Softball Field during a dedication ceremony Saturday. Adams, the 20-year head softball coach, died from a heart attack Dec. 23, 2006.

He coached the team to a 552-467 record.

Adams also served as the school's athletic director since 1999 and a dorm director.

College officials said the field



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

The softball team handed out roses for the dedication ceremony. Adam was the head coach for 20 years, and he died in December.

was being named for Adams in honor of his commitment and dedication to the college and its students.

Adams' family, including his parents, Doris and Lyman Adams, stood on the pitcher's mound while the softball team received out roses,

which they later gave to the family, in honor of Carl.

"Naming the field is a legacy for the field, and the team," Doris said.

Carl's brother, Lyman Adams Jr., said the field dedication was an honor.

"We're very honored as a family the college chose to name the field after Carl. He loved the college and its athletics."

College President, Dr. Lynn Kreider, said his time working with Adams was too short, but they will honor his memory by going on with plans he had for the softball field. Kreider is in his first year as president. He began in July.

"We'll make sure we have the best team possible, and that the field looks sharp," Kreider said.

Kansas State's new lab on front lines of biosecurity

MANHATTAN (AP) — Randy Phebus, food microbiologist and professor of food safety and security at Kansas State University, didn't get much of a response when he first proposed the idea of a new lab that would aim to protect the nation's food supply.

He and other researchers made a presentation to the Senate in 1999 to make a case for why the country needed such a center.

"There was a lot of yawning that day by

the panel of officials," he said.

But then came Sept. 11, 2001.

"And all of a sudden, there were a lot of people paying attention."

Now the new \$50-million Biosecurity Research Institute, a full-size, agricultural and food safety biosecurity laboratory, is scheduled to open later this month at Kansas State.

Researchers there, led by Phebus, will study pathogens considered possible terror-

ist weapons, including anthrax, and staphylococcus and botulinum toxins. The laboratory has a live animal holding area, a slaughter floor, meat processing equipment and the capability to bring in objects as large as an airplane cabin for contamination and de-contamination experiments.

The new lab is also Biosafety Level 3, the second-highest laboratory security level in the U.S. It is assigned to laboratories that use toxic agents that may cause serious or

potentially lethal disease as a result of inhalation.

The highest level, Biosafety Level 4, is reserved for labs that handle the most dangerous agents, including fatal viruses without cures, such as ebola, and toxins for which there are no antidotes. Those products will not be handled at Kansas State.

The university's older food safety lab is a Level 2, which handles less dangerous agents and smaller amounts of contami-

nants.

"In the old lab, we might have a small vial of bacteria and be doing tests on small quantities of foods," Phebus said. "In here, we're talking about being able to spray the entire carcass of a cow with a pathogen such as anthrax or botulinum."

Much of the lab's work will be validating processes or technologies for the government, other research institutions or commercial food companies.

Museum makeover

The gallery at the Prairie Museum of Art and history is being remodeled. Museum director Sue Taylor said the remodel will allow better use of space for meetings and other activities. Nothing is being moved out, Taylor said, the exhibits are only being moved around. Even with the remodeling, the museum will celebrate Women's History Month Sunday with activities, and an art exhibit by local artist Lillie Plummer.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Saint Francis school considers new gym

By the *Saint Francis Herald*

Building a second gym at Saint Francis High School has been a discussion item for the school board the past few months.

Several years ago, the addition of a second gym was proposed.

The first drawing was referred to as the "dream gym." However, the cost was more than the board was interested in pursuing.

The drawings went back to the architect who scaled them down and presented five different ones. From those drawings, the board selected one which has been looked at and talked about but, then, put on the back burner.

The newest plan calls for a gym floor 94-feet long, 10-feet longer than the present gym. The architect

said many of the gyms being built today are the longer length.

Seating would hold 1,500 people, would have an exercise track, area for concessions, restrooms and a lobby which could possibly be used for other events such as the bloodmobile.

The money to pay for the gym could come out of the Capital Outlay Fund which could possibly have enough to pay for the project. No bids have been sent out so the cost is not known; however, in 2003, the cost was estimated at \$1.5 million. The funds could also be raised with a bond issue or through a lease purchase.

No decision was made. The board will discuss the new gym at the next meeting.

**General election April 3
Plan to vote!**