



Fly fishing classes begin soon

An introduction to fly fishing will be offered by Colby Community College 8 a.m. Saturday, April 21, in the Student Union, room 108.

The class will continue at Villa High Lake located south of KXXX/KQLS radio station on South Range Avenue.

“Tim Yager will be the instructor for the five-hour class,” said economic development director Barry Kaaz.

“Tim created a web-based fly fishing business in 1993 and later opened a shop in Lawrence.”

His e-commerce business has become one of the most successful fly fishing businesses in the industry.

Several national articles have been published highlighting Yagerflies as a successful company.”

Class topics will include basic gear and assembly, fly tying knots, basic types of flies, casting and fly fishing for trout, bass and bluegill. Participants are asked to register by April 18.

Cost is \$15 per student includes equipment rental.

To register or for more information, contact Kaaz at (785) 460-5429.

Kayaking in Colby



KATHY DAVIS-VRBAS/The Square Deal

Ten Boy Scouts from Atwood and four other individuals participated in the introduction to whitewater kayaking course March 24, at the Colby Community College swimming pool. The Boy Scouts received training certification enabling them to be awarded the kayaking patch. All attendees received a certificate of completion on kayak basics and rolling, allowing them

to proceed to kayaking on a river. Class basics included learning to “wet exit,” basic paddle strokes, Eskimo roll, rescue from another kayak, sizing the paddle to the kayaker and kayak and paddle nomenclature. Students will also have an opportunity to participate in a follow-up Colorado River two-day course later this spring.

Auction to offer treasures

Treasures from the Seven Seas is the theme for this year’s Colby Community College Endowment Foundation scholarship benefit auction.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, at the Comfort Inn Convention Center, 2225 S. Range Ave.

The doors will open at 4:45 p.m. with dinner served at approximately 5:30 p.m. The live auction will begin at 7 p.m.

Donated items include swimming pool passes, a Nintendo Wii game system, red cherry tree, college sports apparel, gas grills, jewelry and hotel packages.

New this year to the auction is a dinner for six prepared by Colby Community College President Dr. Lynn Kreider to be served in his home.

Other items include a 26” Sony LCD television, grandfather clock, lawn mower, Ron Prince autographed football, 3,000 watt generator, patio furniture, movie passes and several collectibles.

For more information or to purchase a ticket to this benefit auction, contact 460-4684.

Former Kenya student crosses country to medical career

By Debbie Schwanke
Public Information Officer

A desire for a career in medicine is the motivation that drives Betty Rotich (Nakuru, Kenya) to run five to 12 miles each day.

Rotich, a sophomore at Colby College, was recently named the National Junior College Athletic Association Track Athlete of the meet at the indoor track championships in Lubbock, Tex.

Rotich led the Lady Trojans indoor track team to a seventh place finish — the first top 10 finishing during head coach Jeff Becker’s tenure.



Rotich

Rotich won the mile (5:10.19), the 3,000 meters (10:20.92) and the 5,000 meters (17:30.50). Earlier in the season, Rotich captured first place at the cross country national championships in El Paso, Texas.

“My favorite race is the 5,000 meters,” said Rotich. “The mile and 3,000 meters are too fast.”

Rotich began her running career after graduating from high school and attending college for six months in Kenya.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to do,” explained Rotich. “I really wanted a career in medicine and knew that wasn’t possible unless I found a way to pay for school. My uncle lives in North Carolina and coaches long-distance runners.

He told me that running cross country and track could be a path for me to accomplish my goal of a medical career.”

Rotich did not run cross country or track in high school. She at-

“The scholarship was not what I expected. My uncle knows coach (Jeff) Becker and he encouraged me to transfer to Colby. It was a good decision and I’m glad I came.”

— Betty Rotich

tended a private school and was a member of the soccer team.

“I weighed too much in high school to be a good runner,” said Rotich.

“The first thing I had to do was lose weight. That took about a year and then I trained for another 24 months in Kenya.

I ran several local and regional races and started having some success. I trained with professionals and considered going to Europe to run professionally.

“I really wanted to go to school

and decided to give it one more year to get a scholarship offer from a school in the United States. “I have a wonderful mom and she inspired me to keep trying.

She told me I could do it and she was right.”

Rotich was offered a scholarship by Missouri Baptist College in St. Louis, Mo. She attended one semester at the school and then transferred to Colby Community College.

“The scholarship was not what I expected,” said Rotich. “My uncle

knows coach Becker and he encouraged me to transfer to Colby. It was a good decision and I’m glad I came.”

Rotich is a pre-nursing major at Colby. She plans to transfer to a four-year school next year.

“I have not made a decision about where to transfer,” said Rotich.

“I’ve had several offers and will continue to run cross country and track to pay for my schooling.”

Colby head coach Jeff Becker is completing his fifth season as head coach of the men’s and women’s cross country and track teams.

“I am very proud of Betty and the entire women’s indoor track team,” said Becker.

“She is a quality athlete with an exceptional work ethic.”

Colby’s outdoor track season continues on Saturday at the Alex Francis Relays in Hays. The national association championships will be May 17-19 in Coffeyville.



Betty Rotich, a sophomore at Colby College, paced herself during a 2006 cross country meet.

Leadership group recognized

Colby Community College business students recently returned from the Kansas Phi Beta Lambda Conference held in Salina.

Phi Beta Lambda is the largest professional business leadership organization for college students in the United States with over 12,000 members.

In addition to attending informational meetings, the students competed in several events.

“The students did very well in the competition,” said advisor Diane Williams.

“Jessy Schlichenmayer (Burlington, Colo.) took first place in business communications and word processing.”

Schlichenmayer and Jenna Faimon (Stratton, Neb.) took second place in desktop publishing. Aman-

“The students did very well in the competition. Jessy Schlichenmayer (Burlington, Colo.) took first place in business communications and word processing.”

— Diane Williams, advisor

da McNay (Colby) and Amanda Slate (Mankato) followed with a third place finish in the desktop publishing competition.

Pete Chamberlain (Lakin) finished second in financial analysis and decision making.

McNay was second in job interview. First and second place winners are eligible to compete in the national competition in June in Chi-

cago. “The third place winners may also be eligible for the Chicago competition because Jessy can only compete nationally in two events,” explained Williams.

“Additional Colby students will be selected to compete as Kansas representatives.”

Crystal Pounds, Colby instructor, is co-sponsor with Williams for the organization.

Ralph Nader to speak at college

The Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby Community College will host Ralph Nader 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center located on the college campus.

Nader will speak about global

warming, officials said.

Nader will be available to autograph copies of his latest book “The Seventeen Traditions” following the lecture at about 8:30 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center lobby.

The book is about the earliest

days of his own life, where he revisits 17 key traditions he absorbed from his parents, siblings and people in his community.

There is no charge to attend this lecture.

For information, call Lecture Series Director Tom Moorhous at 460-5534.



Nader

Proposing a plan



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby College

Dr. Lynn Kreider, Colby Community College president, spoke at one of four public forums scheduled in Colby, Brewster and Rexford to discuss the proposed Wellness/Activities Complex. Thomas County voters will cast their ballots on Tuesday to decide if the college should issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$4,490,000 and certificates of participation in the amount of \$10,510,000 to fund the project. If approved, the bond requests will result in a tax increase of approximately \$165 a year for a home with a market value of \$120,000. Free babysitting services will be available on April 3 at the Campus Bookstore to allow parents to vote. More information and a copy of the ballots will be in Friday’s Colby Free Press.

All photos and stories

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