



COLBY FREE PRESS

College, area says goodbye to trustee

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Former Colby Community College board of trustees member Don Kready can't quite believe how he has been singled out. He was honored at a reception Thursday at the college student union. Kready left the board after the April 3 election after 28 years as a trustee.

He finished his seventh term on the board and did not seek reelection this year.

Don and wife Jo moved to Topeka to be closer to their children. "I can't tell you how much we enjoyed Colby," Don said. "Colby was so good to our family. This is a great honor and I don't think I deserved it."

During his years on the board, Kready witnessed many changes. The swimming pool, new Health Sciences Building, Bedker Building and an addition to the library were built during his terms. An addition was also built onto the Cultural Arts Center.

Finances and growing enrollment are two challenges for the future.

He has also gone through two college presidents. Kready was a board member when Dr. Mikel Ary was hired. Ary resigned during the 2005-2006 school year, and Dr. Lynn Kreider replaced Ary July 1, 2006. Ary was president 17 years.

He will be missed by those who have known and worked with him for years and even a short while. Kreider is in his first year as college president.

"Don helped break me in," Kreider said.

The two traveled together to Kansas Association of Community College Trustees meetings, and as a board member, Don helped Kreider transition into his job as president.

"I think he's a wonderful person and a true server of the community," Kreider said. "It's clear Colby is important to him. There aren't many people better."

Fellow trustee Kenton Krehbiel met Kready when he and his wife moved to Colby in 1973. They



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Wayne Horlacher, left, visited with Don Kready during a reception in Kready's honor at the Colby Community College student union Thursday. Kready served on the board of trustees for 28 years and has moved to Topeka.

switched their insurance to State Farm Insurance, which Kready owned for 35 years.

"It was one of the wisest choices I ever made," Krehbiel said.

He has served on the board with Don for 18 years.

"His insight and knowledge are immeasurable," Krehbiel said. "It's something we'll all look up to and try to do."

Trustee Cleona Flipse has been

on the board 14 years.

"He's great to serve with," she said. "I love him. He's a positive, good spirit. He never gets angry."

Don has also touched lives through his musical interests. He is a member of the Tumbleweed Barbershop Chorus of Colby and helped found the Sweet Adelines Chorus in Colby.

Bruce Bandy of Colby met Kready when he moved to the com-

munity to attend college in 1975.

"He's a mentor to me and many," Bandy said.

"He's an institution to himself. He helped bring talent and people to the community."

Bandy said Kready helped bring the arts to Colby.

"He's one of the best," he said.

Kready has sang with Dick Woodall in the same quartet for 54 years.

City asked to acknowledge native celebrity on I-70

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Colby City council members recently discussed the feasibility of erecting two signs on Interstate 70 recognizing Samuel Ramey as an internationally-known opera singer who was born and raised in Colby.

"At various times over the years, the council has talked about placing signage noting that Colby is the home of Samuel Ramey," said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

The most recent information, she said, was forwarded to the council from Deb Miller with the Kansas Department of Transportation.

In the letter, Miller was responding to an e-mail she received from Jean Bobick of Aurora, Colo., requesting signs be displayed reading "Home of Samuel Ramey, International Op-



Ramey

era Award Winner."

Miller sent the letter to Colby since it is the city which must request signs in writing.

After talking about the idea, Mayor Ken Bieber suggested the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau be involved in the discussions.

Bieber said the city would be glad to make the request; however, since the cost of the signs are not in budget, he and the council are hoping to get assistance.

Armstrong said the cost for two signs,

one at each of Colby's two interstate exits would be \$1,930 each. Dimensions for each proposed sign are 4' high by 10' on a green background with white lettering.

This is not the first time the city has recognized Ramey on signs.

Miller said signs were originally installed in 2002, but are typically maintained for a minimum of a year from the date they were installed.

With regard to Ramey, the signs were removed about a year after, but since then, the opera singer has been awarded a proc-

lamation by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, which means signs can again be installed, Miller said.

Sign maintained by the state can be removed after a year for any reason.

Under the transportation department's policy, only one person may be recognized per city.

Armstrong sent a letter to the tourism group and the matter will continued to be discussed at a future council meeting.

For questions, call Armstrong at 460-4410.

Facelift



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

A road closed sign blocks off access to Willow Drive at the entrance to Bourquin's Old Depot Restaurant and RV Park. Clair Schrock, county road director, said the road is closed from

Franklin to Country Club Drive. The turn at Country Club Drive is being straightened out, and new asphalt will be put down. The project's completion is slated in June at a cost of \$600,000.

Battle continues over school issue

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Documents on file in Gove County District Court in Gove, show Grinnell school board members Ben Dickman, Jody Beckman and Jacquelyn Teeter are suing Gove County Attorney Mark Schmiedler over a proposed recall of board members.

Schmiedler, in February, told them their effort to recall Duane Vollbracht and Scott Wellbrock failed the test for a recall. Francis Rudell was also named for recall, but his failed bid for re-election ends that move.

The effort to recall board members dates back to November.

Serving as a recall committee and citing violations of the Kansas Open Meetings Act, Dickman, Beckman and Marlene Wolf in November filed paperwork seeking the recall of Vollbracht, Wellbrock and Rudell.

Claiming Vollbracht, on Nov. 13, initiated an e-mail to two other board members calling it an illegal meeting under the Open Meetings Act. The recall committee also claimed Wellbrock and Rudell were guilty of board misconduct by talking to each other in a boys' locker room at the school during a recess of a special board meeting Nov. 6.

However, after reviewing the paperwork, Schmiedler, in a letter dated Dec. 1, told Dickman, Teeter and Wolf their petition failed to meet statutory guidelines for a recall.

On Jan. 11, Dickman, Teeter and

Wolf filed a lawsuit against Schmiedler in Gove County District Court. That lawsuit was dismissed for not having been filed in the proper timeframe of 30 days by their attorney, Paul Oller of Hays.

A second recall committee, of Dickman, Teeter and Beckman, petitioned to recall Vollbracht. They claimed Vollbracht, on Nov. 6 prior to a board meeting, lobbied in support of a merger agreement with Grainfield during supper with Ostmeyer, Rudell, Wellbrock and Dickman.

The second recall committee also cites the e-mail and locker room conversation as reason for recall. Schmiedler told Dickman, Teeter and Beckman in a letter dated Feb. 26 they failed to meet the test for recall.

Dickman, Teeter and Beckman have filed a lawsuit against Schmiedler and the case goes to trial May 31. While the first lawsuit listed Gove County Clerk Julie Hawkey as a defendant along side Schmiedler, she was not named in the second lawsuit due to the lack of grounds.

"They are appealing my decision telling them their petitions do not meet statutory requirements," Schmiedler said.

According to state law, anyone seeking recall of an elected official must meet specific criteria before a recall election can take place.

Schmiedler told Dickman, Teeter and Beckman, as he did Dickman, Teeter and Wolf, that Vollbracht's email did not constitute an illegal