



8 pages

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College pins down wrestling facility

By Andy Heintz

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At long last, Colby Community College athletes will get a wrestling facility, housed in a health center open to the whole community.

College trustees heard plans for the center at a special meeting Wednesday. The money will come mostly from a \$246,000 federal grant the college received earlier for a health center, said President Lynn Kreider. No college or

local tax money will be used for the half-million-dollar-plus project.

"We are very mindful of using taxpayers money," said Debbie Schwanke, college information director. "It's going to be a very cost-effective building."

The facility, between the Living Center East and the tennis courts on the northeast part of the campus, will be completed by August.

"The 12,000-square-foot building will include a wrestling room, free weights and basic locker rooms," Dr. Kreider said.

Schwanke said the project will include new equipment,

"It will house an exercise room with treadmills, elliptical machines and stationary bicycles, in addition to a room full of free weights," she said.

Schwanke said college officials they having been trying to get a wrestling facility for the school's championship wrestling program for a long time.

"We needed a facility to attract people to our wrestling program," she said. "This new facility should be a big boost"

Activities from the current fitness center will be moved to the new building.

The old building will be converted to a training and physical therapy room that will include hot and cold tubs, Schwanke said.

It will be used by athletic trainer Kip Nelson to tend to athletes and also give the members of the physical therapy assistant program a place to work on clients,

"The federal grant was awarded to the school to promote fitness and wellness in the northwest Kansas area," Schwanke said.

The Pierre Memorial Fund will provide \$100,000 for the project, Kreider said. The trustees of the fund are requiring the college to match this amount, but he said the school is close to securing the match.

The school will use \$106,000 from previous donations to the Wellness Center campaign to help pay for the facility.

Kreider said he has been talking to area contractors about the project.

"I have been in conversation with several area contractors who have indicated their willingness to supply construction materials at their cost," he said.

Candidates both pushing experience

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Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn is running a write-in campaign against one of his former deputies, Rod Taylor, who won the Republican nomination for sheriff against the incumbent in the August primary.

Both are out campaigning for support in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 4, in a race which has produced charges and countercharges in an exchange of letters in this week's papers. (See the Wednesday and Friday issues of the Colby Free Press.)

Both men have a straightforward messages they hope will register with voters, but there is an undercurrent of unspoken issues in the race as well.

Baughn said his experience — four years as sheriff and nine years as undersheriff — makes him the right person for the job.

Baughn said he started working part-time in for the sheriff's office in 1972 and has worked full-time since 1985. He has occupied several positions during his years working at the office, including part-time special deputy, road patrol deputy, sergeant and working at the jail.

"I have the experience of administering the sheriff's office and jail," Baughn said. "I have served on multi-jurisdictional enforcement (drugs and other criminal activity) and I know how to manage a budget."

Baughn said he didn't think Taylor had enough experience to be sheriff.

"I don't see a part-time deputy taking over the role of sheriff as being good for the county," he said.

Baughn said if he is re-elected, he plans to decrease his department's presence on Interstate 70, where officers go to catch speeders and, sometimes, criminals or drug runners passing through.

"The biggest complaint I hear from the public is that they constantly see cop cars on the Interstate," he said.

Another project he plans to pursue, the sheriff said, is putting



Baughn



Taylor

together a committee of people from Thomas County to serve as a sounding board of recommendations meant to help better serve the citizens of Thomas County.

"Getting a group together for organized planning is the right thing to do," he said.

Baughn said he thinks the role of a sheriff is to be a peacekeeper. "We aren't overly aggressive," he said. "We are there to serve the people."

Taylor, a retired state patrolman, said he is running for sheriff because he believes there needs to be a resurgence of responsibility, accountability and respect for the sheriff's office.

He said he believes a number of areas in the department can be improved through leadership and professionalism.

"You have to lead before you serve," he said, adding that he will not show any favoritism if he is elected sheriff.

"One thing a good leader has to do is show leadership abilities in their relationships with the rest of the staff," Taylor said. "You cannot show favoritism to one individual."

Taylor said he feels he has the experience required for the job.

"I started working in law enforcement when I was 23 years old," he said, "and have continued working ever since

"Experience, education and service has prepared me to be a good leader for the taxpayers of Thomas County."

Taylor said he was with the Kansas Highway Patrol from 1966 to 1998, starting as a trooper and working as a sergeant, master trooper and K-9 handler. After retiring from the patrol, he said,

See "SHERIFF," Page 4

Walking the whole crew



Jennifer Burr was out walking the family this morning, despite the cool temperature and breeze, pushing baby Cody in his carriage and walking Stella, the golden retriever. Caitlin Burr,

5, was riding her bike on the family outing, stopping now and then to pick up an aluminum can. She collects cans for spending cash, her mother said.

CYNTHIA HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Orchestra plans three concerts for season

Colby's Pride of the Prairie Orchestra plans "a musical celebration of sounds" for this season.

The group, which draws players and support from the Tri-State Area of northwest Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwest Nebraska, will open the 2008-'09 season at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, with "Celebrating the Season" at the Colby Community College Frahm Theater. Conductor will be Andrew Salvador, director of the Burlington High School and Middle School bands in Colorado.

At 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, in conjunction

with the Western Plains Arts Association, the orchestra will offer "Celebrate the Love of Sound" at the Decatur Community High School auditorium in Oberlin with Salvador as conductor.

At 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 3, the group will return to the Frahm Theater for "A Musical Kaleidoscope" with conductor Stacey Williams, director of the Colby Middle School band.

Anyone interested in joining the orchestra can do so — all ages and skill levels are accepted. Rehearsals are from 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays at the college band room. For information,

call board member Sharon Kriss at (785) 460-2800.

Tickets for the concerts are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors.

The group also offers sponsoring memberships in the Friends of the POP for \$10 for students (includes one ticket); \$30 for adults for one ticket; \$60, sponsor two tickets; \$150, patron, six tickets; \$300, benefactor, 10; and \$500 Conductor's Circle with 20.

Send contributions and memberships to Treasurer Karen

Briefly

Brewster homecoming Friday

Friday is Homecoming for the Brewster High Bulldogs, with a community pep rally downtown at 4 p.m. and the traditional football at 7 p.m. This year the opponent Thunder Ridge High. There will be no school for students in Brewster on Monday, as teachers and administrators take the day to attend a reading conference in Colby. Classes will resume for both grade and high school at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

School plans sale Saturday

The Heartland Christian School plans a garage sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the school gym in Colby. Money from the event will be used to help pay for a junior-senior class mission trip to Washington in March.

Special athletes to bowl here

Special Olympics athletes from the western part of the state will be bowling here on Saturday. The Colby Bowl will donate use of the facility for the event, which will start with registration at 9 a.m. Opening ceremonies will start at 9:30 a.m. and pizza will be served after bowling. Teams from Scott City, WaKeeney, Oakley, Atwood, Colby and Goodland have attended.

Cars provided for race session

The RC Club (Racing for Christ) will get together at 2 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church, at the corner of Grant Street and Webster Avenue in Colby. Anyone 10 or older is invited. The club is free and cars are provided. The club normal-

ly meets on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Call Kent Higerd for information at (785) 462-3440 or 443-1209.

Square dancers twirl Saturday

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club of Colby will be meeting and dancing from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Everyone is invited.

Knights selling Tootsie Rolls

The Colby Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Tootsie Roll drive in conjunction with Helping People with Intellectual Disabilities Days this weekend. Knights will be in front of Wal-Mart and Dillon's to hand out candy and gather donations. The money goes to the Knights' state council. Eighty percent will be used to help the Prairie Development-

tal Center in Atwood and 20 percent to the special Olympics basketball tournament at Fort Hays State University in March and for religious education of those with mental disabilities. For information or Tootsie Rolls, call Jerad Lange at (785) 460-1130 or Tom Pardee at (785) 460-0356.

Rain Monday silences sirens

Bad weather Monday prompted Thomas County officials to put off the monthly test of the tornado sirens for a week. The test will be at 10 a.m. Monday.

Single seniors plan potluck

A new group for singles 50 and over is forming in Colby. The second gathering of the group, More Fun Together, will be a potluck at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. Bring a dish to share. For information or a ride, call (785) 462-6342.