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College ups tuition to cover state loss

By Andy Heintz

The Colby Community College trustees, meeting Monday evening at Thomas Hall, unanimously approved raising tuition fees in the fall to partly offset state

In-state students will see their tuition raised \$4 a credit hour and international, established science," said Alan Waits, out-of- state and "border" students will college chief financial officer. "We hope

aheintz@nwkansas.com \$52 per credit hour for Kansas students, or about 8.3 percent, and from \$58 to \$68 for border-state students, about 17 percent. Out-of-state tuition fees will increase from \$87 to \$97, 10.3 percent, and has not finished the 2010 budget for the international tuition will go from \$112 to new fiscal year, which begins July 1. Waits \$122, nearly 9 percent.

"Establishing a tuition raise is not an of the cuts in the next couple months.

the tuition raise will offset half the money lege will soon be conducting a poll of its Tuition fees will increase from \$48 to lost in state budget cuts."

Waits said it's hard to determine how much money the school can recover, because they don't know how deep the state's cuts will be yet. The Legislature said the legislature will decide the extent

In other action:

• President Lynn Kreider said the col- rentals at full capacity.

out if they are in favor of a tobacco-free campus. Kreider said he hopes to see that

'It's a habit we don't need to have on campus," he said.

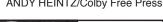
• Heard that payments for the new dorm have exceeded revenue by \$80,000 this year. Waits said the new dorm would generate about \$420,000 a year on room

The old dorms can house 200 people staff, faculty and student groups to find and the new dorm can hold 150 people, he said, but there were only 250 people in the dorms this fall, 100 below capacity. Kreider said the dorm has helped increase enrollment at the college, however.

> "We had more residential students than we had capacity with the two old dorms," Waits noted.

• Kreider said the school had a large

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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press ry Faber of Colby, climbed the playground equipment at Villa High Park on Sunday. Lincoln Myers (left), 4-year-old son of Shelly and Jim Myers, swung on the swing at the park while 1, (right) set out in search of

Voting booth to go on the road Workers from the Thomas through the county clerk's office.

County clerk's office plan to To receive an advance ballot in the take the polling booth to outlying towns in advance of the April 7 school and city elections.

The office will have satellite voting for rural towns at:

- Brewster Senior Center, 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday.
- Levant Township Hall, 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday.
- Rexford Red Barn, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Wednesday.
- Gem Community Building, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. next Wednesday.
- Menlo City Meeting Room, 9 to 11 a.m., Wednesday, April 1.
- Mingo Co-op, 1 to 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 1.

Advance voting can be done ing only.

mail, call the office at (785) 460-4500 or write to County Clerk, Thomas County Courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby, Kan., 67701. They will send you an advanced voting application, which must be signed and returned to receive a ballot.

Advance voting in person is available to any voter from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday, March 30, through Friday, April 3, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Monday, April 6, at the clerk's office.

Election day voting will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, at the Colby Community Build-

Officials learn how to avoid lawsuits

By Andy Heintz

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Thomas County officials learned how to avoid lawsuits at a meeting Tuesday evening at the Thomas County Fairgrounds Building.

the Kansas County Association to punitive damages, he said. Multi-line Pool, which handles the county insurance, talked to commissioners, the road and bridge supervisor, the county clerk and township officers.

The problem of litigation involving farming the roadway ditches and right of ways caused the most questions and problems.

"We are not enforcers," said Craig Summers, trustee for Summers Township. "If we are mandated to tear up these guys' crops, we are the bad guys. I don't think counties and townships can maintain these ditches for a year."

Ferrell acknowledged that there were too many miles and not enough folks to make sure all the right-of-ways were not farmed.

"My personal advice: do your best," said Ferrell. "Anyone who knew farming of right-of-ways took place will be included in a lawsuit."

He said public officials should contact the sheriff if someone has refused to stop farming the right of way. It's illegal to use that land, he said, because it can obstruct a driver's vision and lead to accidents.

Both federal and state lawsuits can be filed against the county, Ferrell said.

Federal laws are not usually

used in routine accidents, he said, but the more complex decisions involving personnel, law enforcements and/or land use frequently uses federal constitutional law or civil rights law.

If public officials don't follow the law it makes it more likely that Justin Ferrell, an attorney for plaintiffs will win, which can lead

Ferrell also talked about claims, where workers alleged that their constitutional rights had been violated. He said attorney fees can exceed the damages awarded on this type of suit.

Ferrell also covered lawsuits targeting people accused of deliberate indifference in hiring, training, supervision and discipline. He encouraged the county to keep high hiring standards.

He also talked about discrimination suits, where people file lawsuits against their boss because they feel they have been discriminated on the basis of their age, gender or color. These can result in punitive damages that cannot be insured, so the public officials would have to pay for them.

"Hello financial ruin," he said. He also talked about governmental immunity, which shields public officials from liability in some cases. However, he said, once an official gets in trouble after acting outside the scope of his or her authority they will lose this immunity, This can lead to the loss of coverage and liability insurance, punitive damages and the responsibility for defending yourself in a lawsuit.

Briefly

Films focus on Bible lands

A film series on archaeological digs in Israel which ters such as Abraham lived and walked will begin at 7 p.m. tonight at the College Drive Assembly of God church and continue at the same time for eight weeks. The public is invited.

Campus class to involve police

An "investigative scenario" for students in Linda Davis-Stephens' Homeland Security class at Colby Community College from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday may involve units from the Colby Police Department. Anyone on campus should that day not be alarmed, said Susan McMahan, Thomas County emergency management director. The activity is a closely monitored training scenario. For questions, call Davis-Stephens at 462-3984.

City 5K race set for Thursday The Colby Recreation Department' Second Annu-

Kaitlyn Faber, (above) 5-year-

old daughter of Robin and Jer-

Kaitlyn's brother Tyler Faber,

some adventure.

retraces some of the early sites where Bible charac- al Spring Fling 5K will kick off at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Community Building. Registration will begin at 5:30 on race day. This is a predicted time run, so you don't need to be in great shape, just finish closest to your predicted time. Contact the department for information at 460-4440.

Brother, sister to give history Ray Imhoff and Doris Johnson will offer a pictorial

history of early Thomas County sites and events, based on their mother's memories, from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. This is a last of the Food for Thought series, which featured a soup lunch and history program on the third Thursday of the month. Call the museum at (785) 460-4590 for details or to make a reservation

College president to report

The public is invited to the Colby Community College "State of the College Address" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. President Lynn Kreider will discuss new programs, existing programs to be expanded, current events and future plans and projects. If time allows, he will answer questions. Everyone is invited. For information, call Debbie Schwanke at 460-5411.

Group offers family portrait

The Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council is offering a 10-inch-by-13-inch portrait of vour children for a \$10 sitting fee. Sepia tone portraits, said to be a \$90 value, will be taken with vintage attire and props. Raffle tickets are available for a drawing for two portrait packages. Portraits will be taken by appointment on Saturday at the Colby

Community Building. For information or to reserve a sitting, call 462-6111.

FFA offers work, food

The Colby High FFA chapter will have a labor auction and mountain-oyster meal at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 27, in the school commons area. Students' labor, projects and various items will be auctioned off. Ag instructor Shawna Howell-Hoffman said they will have door prizes and giveaways. Everyone who attends will get a free bird feeder as a thank-you from Howell-Hoffman. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Call Howell-Hoffman at 460-5320 for questions.

