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College exceeds new enrollment goal

By Andy Heintz

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Colby Community College has met and surpassed its goal for new freshmen by 20 students.

Glenn “Skip” Sharp, vice president of student affairs and marketing, told the college board at their Monday meeting that the school had passed its goal of increasing freshman enrollment by 50 people this year. He said freshman enrollment at

the college has increased by 70. Last year 531 freshman attended the college and this year that number has jumped to 601.

Tom Waites, vice president of business affairs at the college said this would help offset some of the losses the college will be forced to incur due to state cuts in public education. He said it wouldn’t offset all the cuts.

Debbie Schwanke, public information director at the college, said the state would decrease education spending to the school by at least \$430,000.

In other news, the board:

- Heard President Lynn Kreider say Walmart had given the college a \$1,000 grant for the boy scout pow-wow held at the college in early August. Schwanke said the college donated \$500 of that money to a group trying to get a boy scout troop started in Oakley.

- Approved the college’s allocating \$2,500 to the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees for marketing purposes. The group includes all 17 community colleges in Kansas. The colleges

tell state legislators the positive effects they have on local economies, the number of students they train for future jobs and the important roles they play in relation to economic development in Kansas, said Schwanke.

- Heard Waites say the college has spent \$2.3 million out of its 2009/2010 budget this year. He said they still have 83.1 percent of the original amount. This amounts to \$10,125,000.

- Listened to Kreider tell them that Jim Fellhoelter of Thomas County had donated

200 yards of sand to the college farm. Schwanke said Par Electric of Colby had also donated poles that will be placed around the arena in order to keep the sand in place. Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs at the college said Thomas County workers will be hauling the sand over to the arena. He said the school wanted to get the sand into the arena before the college western show at the arena on Saturday, Oct. 10 and Sunday, Oct. 11.

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Booster club plans locker room

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Colby All Sports Booster Club is looking to continue improvements to Dennen Field, this time adding a locker room for opposing teams.

High school football teams visiting Colby are currently housed in the corner of the bus garage and agriculture building, but the club is aiming to change that, having been given the official go-ahead from the Colby School Board to plan a new dedicated locker room. The project would also include a new public rest room, a storage area and possibly a room for the officials.

While Tom Rundell, the new vocational agriculture instructor, has cleaned and reorganized much of the building since last year, a new locker room facility would help improve relations with visiting teams.

Shawn Stephens, booster club president, presented the idea to the board at their meeting Monday.

She said the group has been discussing the project for more than a year, but it is still in the planning stages.

“We know it’s going to be a major project,” she said. “We don’t know how long it will take.”

The booster club also oversaw the previous improvements to Dennen Field in 2006-2007. Stephens said the club knows that the current economic climate makes fund-raising more challenging.

“It’ll be a bit more difficult this time,” she said. “I’m hoping we get a lot of help from the community.”

The board gave Stephens approval to continue planning the project. Board President Janice Frahm said the board would like to be able to contribute funding to the project, but is currently unable to.

In other business:

- Superintendent Terrell Harrison presented Frahm with a certificate for attending education courses at the Kansas Association

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Soggy weather delays wheat planting

WICHITA (AP) — Widespread rains across parts of the Great Plains have stalled winter wheat seeding, fueling anxiety at a time of bountiful global stockpiles and plummeting prices.

Few farmers are as anxious to get into fields as those in Kansas, by far the nation’s largest winter wheat grower with 8.5 million acres planted last season.

But muddy fields have kept Kansas farmers from planting much this fall with just 9 percent of the wheat seed now in the ground, the National Agricultural Statistics Service reported Monday. Normally by this late in the year, 17 percent has been planted in the state.

Kansas and Oklahoma are the top two wheat producers last year. In Oklahoma, just 17 percent has been seeded compared to the normal 25 percent so late in the season, the service said.

“Moisture is good to have, but in some areas it is concerning. Too much moisture hasn’t allowed guys to get into fields,” said Justin Gilpin, executive director of Kansas Wheat, a joint venture of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers and Kansas Wheat Com-

mission.

The rain is not only delaying wheat planting in the state, but also stalling fall harvest of crops like soybeans. That could ultimately affect the acres planted for the 2010 crop because growers in central and eastern Kansas often double-crop winter wheat behind soybeans, Gilpin said.

Kansas farmers have a narrow window, optimally between Sept. 20 and Oct. 15, to get the crop into the ground in time to give it a chance to get rooted before winter sets in, said Bill Spiegel, a Kansas Wheat spokesman.

But winter wheat planting is just slightly behind the five-year average when the 18 top wheat-growing states are factored in. The service reported that overall about 24 percent of the winter wheat has been planted, just slightly below the 25 percent average.

In Texas, farmers have 32 percent of their wheat fields seeded, while Nebraska has 56 percent planted. South Dakota growers have half their wheat acreage seeded.

It is uncertain this early in the

See “WHEAT,” Page 3

This one checks out



PAT SCHIEFEN/Goodland Star-News

Kansas Highway Patrol Troopers Perry Frey of Goodland and Andy Schippers of Colby checked children’s car safety seats at the parking lot of the Goodland Walmart on Friday morning. The troopers were accompanied by Trooper Tod Hileman, the public resource officer out of the Hays office. Checks were

done in Colby on Sept. 12 at Walmart. The checks were made as part of the National Child Passenger safety week. The week tries to remind parents and caregivers that safety seats may protect small children from death in a car wreck.

Endorsement starts fight in Kansas senate race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kansas Rep. Jerry Moran picked up an endorsement from Republican Sen. John McCain on Monday, touching off a tussle with his Senate race rival over earmarks and air tankers.

McCain, the GOP’s 2008 presidential nominee, said in a statement Monday that Moran has a proven record of fiscal responsibility and has opposed wasteful earmarks. The Arizona senator has long opposed earmarks.

The campaign of Moran’s opponent, fellow Republican Rep. Todd Tiahrt, said Moran’s fiscal restraint is recent and comes at the expense of Kansas.

Moran and Tiahrt are vying for the seat that will be vacated by Republican Sen. Sam Brownback when his term ends in 2010. Brownback is running for governor.

McCain won Kansas in the 2008 November presidential election, but the state’s Republicans picked Mike Huckabee in the GOP caucuses.

Moran campaign spokesman Aaron Trost said that like McCain, Moran has worked against wasteful spending by opposing earmarks. Earmarks, also called pork, set aside funding for projects specific to a district or state.

Trost pointed to an Aug. 12 report from the conservative Club For Growth that gave Moran a 96 percent score for his votes on 68 amendments seen by the group as “anti-pork.” Tiahrt’s rating was 29 percent.

Trost said Moran has requested earmarks, but also supports a moratorium on them.

“While the current system is in place, Jerry will make responsible requests for his district, like securing projects for the Air National Guard and the Air Force,” Trost said.

Moran sponsored or co-sponsored 25 earmarks totaling \$17.4 million in spending bills for this fiscal year, ranking him 273rd out of 435 House members, according to the Center for Responsive Politics

Tiahrt campaign spokesman Chuck Knapp



Jerry Moran

countered that Moran only recently “got religion” on earmarks.

“Congressman Moran is trying to have it both ways,” Knapp said. “He fights against them and requests them.”

Knapp also said that McCain’s endorsement of Moran is not surprising, given the Arizona senator’s work to block an air tanker deal for Boeing Co. to replace aging Air Force refueling tankers. The contract would have yielded jobs in Kansas but was scrapped amid criticism by McCain that it was costly to taxpayers. A revamped \$35 billion air contract is up for grabs and Boeing is competing for it.

Trost said Moran “strongly supports the air tanker. The delegation’s united behind that.”

Knapp said Tiahrt has brought important funding to Kansas through earmarks that fit his criteria. He named funding to help find the BTK serial killer, and a railroad project in Wichita. He said Moran voted against the B-52 program.

Tiahrt sponsored or co-sponsored 29 earmarks totaling \$62.5 million for this fiscal year, ranking him 56th of 435 House members.

Briefly

Sale offers nearly new dresses

A formal dress sale continues from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight and Thursday in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church. Shop for homecoming, Christmas and New Year’s dresses, as well as some accessories. Proceeds will go to Genesis and the Salvation Army. For information, call Sue Draper at 460-6332.

Church offers Bible study

The Colby Wesleyan Church is offering Beth Moore’s Bible study, “Stepping Up: A Journey through the Psalms of Ascent,” from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday through Nov. 18 at the Pioneer Memorial Library. A second group will meet from 9 to 11 a.m. every Thursday at the church, 320 W Pine. For information or to register, call Joy Rothfuss at 443-5170.

Parade set for Recovery Month

The Central Kansas Foundation and the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center plan a Recovery Month event, starting with a parade downtown at 1 p.m. Saturday, followed by a barbecue at Fike Park. There will be cash prizes for parade entries. For information or to enter the parade, call the center at 460-8177 or the foundation at 460-5885.

RC Club to hold Sunday races

The First Baptist Church RC Club will hold races at 2 p.m. Sunday. Kids 10 or older and adults are welcome; the church can provide cars. The club will be giving away a the remote-control truck prize that racers have been competing for all summer. For information, call 462-2867.

Methodists plan dinner, auction

The Colby United Methodist Church will have its

2009 Mission Dinner and Auction at noon on Sunday in the fellowship hall. The event will feature dinner and a silent auction, with a live auction following the meal. For information, call the church office at 460-2761 or Ronda Bachman at 460-3859.

County van off on Tuesday

The Thomas County Transportation Van will not be running on Tuesday. The van will also be running from 12:30 to 4 p.m. instead of regular hours on Friday, Oct. 9. For information, call Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

EMT class meeting Oct. 7

An information meeting for Emergency Medical Technician B classes will be at 6 p.m. on Oct. 7 at the Thomas County Ambulance Building. Classes begin Oct. 13. For information or to sign up, call Dawnelle Umberger at 460-4585 or 443-0176.

Crew needs Eagles’ T-shirts

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is looking for new and old Colby Eagles T-shirts for a fund raiser. Shirts can be dropped off at the ambulance building on South Franklin, near the hospital, or someone will come get them. For information or a pickup, call Dawnelle Umberger at 443-0176.

City picking up grass clippings

City crews continue to pick up grass clippings. Clippings must be at curbside by 8 a.m. on your regular trash day in a separate tipper can from household trash. For questions, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.



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