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College raises money for new fitness center

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby Community College board discussed a proposed fitness center that will be built on land south of the college near the Quilt Cabin when it met Monday.

The center will cost \$350,000, said Public Information Director Debbie Schwanke, and the college already has raised close to \$200,000. It has raised \$100,000 itself, Schwanke said, to match a

\$100,000 challenge grant from the Pierre Henry Foundation.

Schwanke said cost about \$300,000 to buy the land. The college completed that transaction, buying the land from the Davis family.

President Lynn Kreider said the center will reduce spending for athletes to use weights off campus.

In other business, the board:

- Changed its meeting time from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month.

- Agreed to hold the next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at Thomas Hall on campus, because the regular meeting date would have been Presidents Day.

- Heard Waites report the college had spent \$6.9 million of its \$13.2 million budget between July 1 and Dec. 31.

“Expenditures are tracking as expected,” he said, adding that the budget year ends June 30. Waites said the college spends more at

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Special-needs meeting here

By Vera Sloan

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A meeting to discuss ways to better serve “special-needs” children will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, in the Little Theater of the Colby Community Building.

Heather Moore, project coordinator for the state Department of Health and Environment, said the purpose is to get ideas on how to enhance available services by networking them together.

Anyone who works with special needs children is encouraged to attend the meeting, she said. Most of

the time will be used for open discussion about what the needs are, what works and what doesn’t work.

“We are looking for input from those who work with special-needs children,” said Moore.

The session is one of several “town hall” meetings are being held across the state under a three-year grant from the department by the University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities.

The goal is to ensure that Kansas youths with special health-care needs and their families receive services that meet their needs to help them live healthy, productive and independent adult lives.

For information, e-mail Moore at hmoore@kdehs.gov or call (785) 296-4747.

Attorney general defending state against school lawsuit

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The Kansas attorney general asked the state Supreme Court on Thursday to reject an attempt by school districts to reopen litigation over state money.

The districts make up the group Schools for Fair Funding, which filed a motion with the high court last week. The motion argues the state had backed out of its agreement to meet a 2006 ruling that forced the state to increase spending for public schools by \$1 billion.

Attorney General Steve Six argues in a 14-page response that lawyers for the group, which says it rep-

resents 74 school districts, are trying to get around a 2005 law that slows down such cases.

Six said that law requires the Legislature to get notice 120 days before anyone can file a lawsuit over school funding. The law also requires the case to be heard by a three-judge panel.

“This unprecedented motion is an attempt to evade the new procedures,” Six wrote. “Inasmuch as plaintiffs seem to allege a constitutional violation beginning in 2009 and want a new trial in the district court, and nothing from this court but an order sending them there, there can be no other explanation.”

John Robb, an attorney for the school districts,

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Orange and Black tips off



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Morgan Bell (foreground), supported by Katrina Kaus (10), drove to the hoop during the first round of the Tom Bowen/Paul Wintz Orange and Black Classic on Thursday. The Colby High School girls faced off with Goodland and the boys played Ulysses. For full results, see Pages 9 and 10. The action continues tonight as girls play Wichita South at 6:30 p.m. and the boys play Scott City at 8:15 p.m. in the high school gym.

’50s street racer returns to his ’67 dream car of yore

By Vera Sloan

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Not many people drive a car for 29 years, race it, sell it and then wish they had it back.

Marvin Lovenstein says he loved hot cars from the time he was in high school, and that love is as strong today as it was then. He sold his beloved 1967 Chevelle Malibu in 1995, for the same price he paid for it new, \$3,200.

Later, he decided selling the car had been a mistake. He made it his mission to find an exact duplicate, no matter what shape it was in, and restore it.

Now, he’s restoring a second Malibu, and will use it for a street

car and for something he can take to a rod run here and there across the country.

“I probably was the terror of the town, or at least one of them, through high school — and had the tickets to prove it — but never had a wreck while racing. He graduated from Colby High in 1958, he said, and still thinks about some of the buddies that used to tear up and down the streets back then, including Alvin Koenig, Jerry Swanson, Allen Miller and Dennis Buford.

Racing was in his blood then, and it still is 52 years later. He does it in a restored version of the car he raced for 29 years.

He said his love for restoration is equal to his love for racing, and

he has a trunkload of trophies — more than five dozen — to prove it.

Lovenstein says he finds his beloved Chevelles in the weeds, sitting out behind a fence somewhere, or wherever else they might be abandoned.

His ability to fix and restore cars came from a career in the Air Force. He enlisted right out of high school in 1958, and trained as a jet-engine mechanic.

His taste for competition grew even stronger when the squadrons of fighter planes he worked on competed in how well they performed. One of his favorites, he says, was the F-106A fighter.

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Marvin Lovenstein of Colby proudly holds the championship trophy he won for the 2009 drag racing season with his 1967 Chevelle Malibu. He spent five years restoring this one to match the brand new one he bought in 1966. After driving it for 29 years, he sold it for \$3,200, the same price he paid for it new. He says they just don’t make cars like this one anymore.

Briefly

Lab results available Monday

Anyone who gave blood for the Wellness Committee lab tests may pick up their results from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday outside the Little Theatre at the Colby Community Building. An explanation of the results will be given at 5:30 p.m. and again at 6:30 in the theater. The Kansas Lions vision van will be outside from 4 to 7 p.m. offering free screening exams. For information, call Jeanene Brown at (785) 460-4850.

Learn to write great resumes

The Pioneer Memorial Library will have an on-line workshop on “How to Write An Effective Resume That Gets Attention-and Interviews” from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday with a webinar by resume expert and author Barbara Safani. For information, call librarian Melany Wilks at 460-4470.

Meeting set for medical class

An enrollment meeting for the emergency medical technician class will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the ambulance building on South Franklin Avenue. Anyone who wants to enroll must attend. The class will begin Thursday, Feb. 4, and run Wednesdays and Thursdays, plus two Saturdays each month, until May 15. State grants cover the cost. For information, call Dawnelle Umberger at 460-4585.

Heartland to hold barbecue

Heartland Christian School will hold its annual barbecue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, at the school, 1995 W. Fourth St., with barbecue pork, corn, salad, baked potatoes and dessert. Donations will be accepted. For information, call the school at 460-6419.

County to start testing sirens

Thomas County will test the tornado sirens at noon on the first Monday of each month beginning Feb. 1, said Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan. The tests will continue all year if weather permits. For information, call McMahan at 460-4516.

County van to run half days

The Thomas County transportation van will run from only from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 2, and Wednesday, Feb. 3. For information, call Kristi Mann at the county clerk’s office, 460-4500.

Rotary to serve soup at game

The Colby Rotary Club will hold its annual soup supper from 5 to 7:30 Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Colby

Community Building during the high school basketball games with Goodland. The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. For information, call Sara Bryan at (308) 530-8363.

Girl Scout cookies on sale here

Girl Scout cookies are on sale through Sunday, March 7. If you don’t want to buy cookies for yourself, you can ask Scouts to deliver them to Genesis Food Bank or Kansas military units and families. If you have not been offered cookies by Feb. 1, call Mint Culver at 460-6005 or Penny Cline at 460-2929.



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