



Colby College president resigns post

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The Colby Community College board accepted the resignation of President Lynn Kreider after a closed-door session at a special meeting Monday at Thomas Hall. Kreider's resignation went into effect immediately. Board Chairman Cindy Black said today that college administra-

tors will continue to work on their regular jobs until an interim president is chosen. The meeting, which started at 10 a.m., lasted about 40 minutes, said Beverly Anderson, administrative assistant in the president's office. Board Vice Chairman Kenton Krehbiel made a motion to have a closed session to discuss personnel. He asked that board attorney John Gatz be present, with the option of asking Dr. Kreider to join later. Trustee Dale Herschberger seconded the motion.

Gatz spoke to Kreider and the meeting returned to open session at 10:17, then recessed until 10:30. When the board returned, Krehbiel made a motion for a five-minute closed session with Gatz and Kreider both present. Board member Mark Winger seconded. Kreider tendered his resignation after the board returned to open session, according to the unofficial minutes of the meeting. Krehbiel made a motion to approve the resignation and member Arlen

Leiker seconded. It passed unanimously. The board may choose an interim president when it meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday at Thomas Hall. Black said she didn't know if this subject would come up because the agenda for Monday's meeting had not been approved. Krehbiel and Winger said they would not comment on Kreider's resignation. Winger said he didn't think the board would talk about Kreider's resignation at any meetings, but they would discuss the

search for an interim president. Kreider also declined to comment. "It's time to move on," the ex-president said. The relationship between Kreider and the board has been strained most the year. The board voted to not extend the president's contract past its June 30, 2012, termination at a special meeting on April 7. The tension between the board and the

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County to get new radio system

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Thomas County will soon join the state's 800-megahertz radio communications system, which will improve radio coverage in the county and save taxpayers some money, commissioners agreed at their meeting Monday. The change will allow the county to meet new federal regulations requiring public agencies and businesses to switch to "narrow-band" radios to free up space for more channels. That switch has to be completed by 2013, but the county's old radio systems won't handle the new requirements. Going to the state system will save money for the county, since more changes are coming in 2018, said Susan McMahan, the county's emergency management director. "We are taking action to the benefit of all citizens of Thomas County," said commissioner Paul Steele. "We have gaps in the present system, areas where radio coverage is weak, and cell phone coverage that's not always reliable." Jason Moses of the Office of Emergency Communications with the state Adjutant General's de-

partment; McMahan, and Clair Schrock, county road supervisor, worked on a plan to show how many radios were needed and the total cost of \$78,323. The cost breakdown includes \$34,864 for the sheriff's department to come from the courthouse general fund; \$33,716 for the highway department from their equipment reserve fund; \$1,374 from the emergency medical services reserve fund; \$5,592 from the landfill reserve; and a state grant of \$2,775 for the Emergency Management department. Money for the new system will come from the current budget, said McMahan, and training is included in the purchase price. Equipment and training is all expected to be in place before the end of the year. McMahan said county workers can continue to use the old radios as long as they work, because there is no market for them. Steele asked if extensive modification would be needed to the base station at dispatch. Moses said the changes would be fairly simple. He said he expected the cost to be somewhere around \$3,000, but not more than \$5,000.

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College chefs to face off in cafeteria Wednesday

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Anyone looking for excitement next Wednesday night can head for the Colby Community College Student Union cafeteria-commons area to watch a "cook off" between students and faculty and staff. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. The idea was the brainchild of Brian Stohs, food service chef for the college. Dr. Keegan Nichols, vice president of student services, was asked to help with the event, something everyone thought would be fun for students, the faculty and their staff. "I was hoping to create some excitement and an appreciation for what goes on in the kitchen," Stohs said. Would-be chefs will use a special ingredient that is in the appetizer, the entree and the dessert. It will be kept secret until the beginning of the competition, similar to the Iron Chef Master Chef on

television. Members of the two teams will be chosen by lot. "There are a lot of names in the drawing box," said Dr. Nichols, "for students and the faculty and staff. We will be drawing at noon Friday in the Student Union for two teams of five." Stohs said all ingredients and equipment, down to the aprons, will be furnished, and that he will be on hand to coach and give advice, probably mostly to the students. The teams will have an hour to complete their culinary creations and have them ready to present to three judges, who will decide the winner based on presentation, taste and compatibility. The public is invited to get in on the fun and watch what's going on in the kitchen via a camera which will project everything onto a screen in the viewing area, Nichols said. Stohs said he will refreshments will be served.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Area families and Special Olympics athletes got a chance to see the big trucks up close at the Thomas County Fairgrounds after the World's Largest Convoy paraded through town Saturday. The convoy raised about \$25,000 for Special Olympics.

Truck convoy rumbles through Colby

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A parade of 35 trucks rolled into Colby from Oakley and Goodland for Colby's fourth annual World's Largest Convoy on Saturday, raising money for the Special Olympics. Parents, teens and children stood on the sidewalk on Franklin Avenue around 11 a.m. awaiting the arrival of one of the two groups. Eventually horns sounded out in distance, signaling that the trucks were close by. The massive trucks rumbled down the street along with a group of Colby and Goodland American Legion Riders on the way to the fairgrounds. The Colby National Guard unit had a truck riding in the convoy. Special Olympics athletes enjoyed the ride from passenger seats in many of the trucks. Jane Mentlick, a coordinator for the event, said about 40 Special Olympians attended the event, coming from area towns including Quinter, Hill City, Winona, Oakley, Atwood, Haddon, Hoxie and Goodland.



The convoy made a circle through downtown Colby. Starting at the Oasis truck stop, the rigs drove north on Range Avenue to Fourth Street, where they went east. They turned south on Franklin Avenue and drove to Davis Avenue, went west, then turned back onto Range and drove north to the fairgrounds.

The truckers eventually converged at the Thomas County Fairgrounds, where everyone enjoyed hamburgers, lemonade and soda pop with the Special Olympians. Awards given out to the truckers included best overall truck, most trucks, oldest trucker and truckers who drove the longest distance. The drivers voted on the awards. Jack Collins from Hoxie won for best overall truck; Donna Schwindt, a driver for Frahm Farms in Colby, was the oldest driver at age 79, and Kevin Burr from Louisburg, Neb., about 30 minutes southwest of Omaha, drove the farthest. Mentlick said Burr was just driving through town and thought the convoy looked like fun, so he decided to stay and be part of it. There was a three-way tie for most trucks between Goetz Trucking from Park, Haffner and Sons Trucking from Oakley and Cranston Trucking from Colby. They all had three trucks in the

convoy. The convoy raises money through driver entry fees, donations and an auction. Mentlick said they sold items that could help truckers, such as mud flaps, a free oil change and truck washes. Mentlick said in all, the event raised about \$25,000 this year. A fireworks show preceded the convoy Friday night at the fairgrounds, with both the Special Olympians and truckers attending. The night started with a brisquet dinner made by John Anderson from Colby. Dan Fields, a cowboy poet from Atwood, recited trucking poems. Then John Juenemann from Oberlin sang songs and told stories about truck driving. One of the songs was a trucker-version of "She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain" called "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Corner." He also sang "Home on the Range" and the National Anthem during the fireworks show. Mentlick said she wanted to thank all the sponsors, volunteers and anyone else who helped with the convoy.

Briefly

Church to cook pancakes
The Colby Berean Church will hold a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 210 Lake St. Donations will be accepted for the church's missions. For information, call 460-2763.
Walk for Alzheimer's Saturday
Come cheer on the teams in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Fike Park. The Memory Walk is a nationwide fund raiser for the Alzheimer's Association. Money raised will go to research and care. For information, call Brittney Johnson at 462-2104.
Evolution-creation talk Sunday
College View Baptist Church plans a talk on evolution and creation at 10:45 a.m. Sunday at the church. Robert Martin, founder of the Institute for Research

on Origins in Topeka, will speak. For information, call Wes Barnett at (361) 459-9348 or e-mail him at wesb@st-tel.net.
Legion has answers for vets
The Colby American Legion will offer a session for all veterans and families who want to learn more about veterans benefits at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Village Inn. The session is part of the American Legion-Veterans Affairs Tour, including state and district Legion officers. For information, call Charles Yunker at (785) 232-9315.
County office to close Tuesday
The Thomas County treasurer's office will close Tuesday so the staff can attend motor vehicle registration training. The office will resume normal hours Wednesday. For information, call the office at 460-4520.

County band looking for players
Anyone who plays an instrument is welcome to join the Colby Community College band for a performance at the Thomas County 125th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 9. The rehearsal schedule will be announced. For information, call Tony Schroer at 460-5519.
You could help sing out 125th
Singers from all over Thomas County can join the Thomas County 125th Anniversary choir, which will perform at the celebration at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Colby Community Building. Practices will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 at the Colby United Methodist Church. For information, call Jan Wolf at 460-3535.
Flu shot clinic next Wednesday
The Thomas County Health Department will

have a flu immunization clinic from 2 to 7 p.m. next Wednesday at the 4-H building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. For information, call 460-4599.
Church plans mission auction
The Colby United Methodist Church will hold a dinner and auction to raise money for missions at noon Sunday, Sept. 26, at the church. The church is looking for items to auction. These can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. For information, call the office at 460-2761.

