



8 pages

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# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Bid on 250 items at college auction

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press  
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Just a few tickets remain for the annual Colby Community College Endowment Foundation Auction at 5 p.m. Saturday at the City Limits Convention Center.

The auction helps raise money for the foundation's scholarships, said Director Nick Wells. Last year, the event netted about \$80,000. This isn't the endowment's only fund raiser, Wells said, but it's the most social.

"It's a great evening of fun and fellowship," he said. "I've had people say to me 'I go to a couple weddings and this all year.'"

To get tickets, call Wells at 460-4684. Cost is \$35 per person or \$250 for a table of eight. The center seats about 360 people,

he said, and the event usually fills up the room.

Wells said the doors will open at 5 p.m., and people will have a chance to walk around and look at the auction items before dinner. The prime-rib dinner will begin at 5:30. Wells said the goal is to have everyone done with dinner by about 7 p.m., when the auction starts. The whole event should be over by 9:30 p.m., he said.

Wells said he picked out the prime rib himself, and it will be smoked by Traci Galli. City Limits will take care of the rest of the meal.

Wells said the foundation will put about 100 items up for live auction and about 150 for the silent auction. The silent auction will be broken up into three parts, he said, which will last about a half hour each.

"They're staggered so people can keep track of the items they want," Wells said.

Farm and Ranch Realty is handling the live auction, Wells said, with several of their in-house auctioneers. Steve Bugbee, who works the ring at Colby Livestock Auction, is also pitching in.

The auction items come from individuals and businesses all around the area, he said. Items include a seven-day Alaska cruise, an iPad, bags of Golden Harvest seed corn, designer purses and more.

Each department at the college built windmill centerpieces for the tables. The information technology department made a windmill out of circuit boards – it's motorized – while the art department made one out of paint brushes. Wells said he made his out of brand new dollar bills.

The windmills will be auctioned along with the other items.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

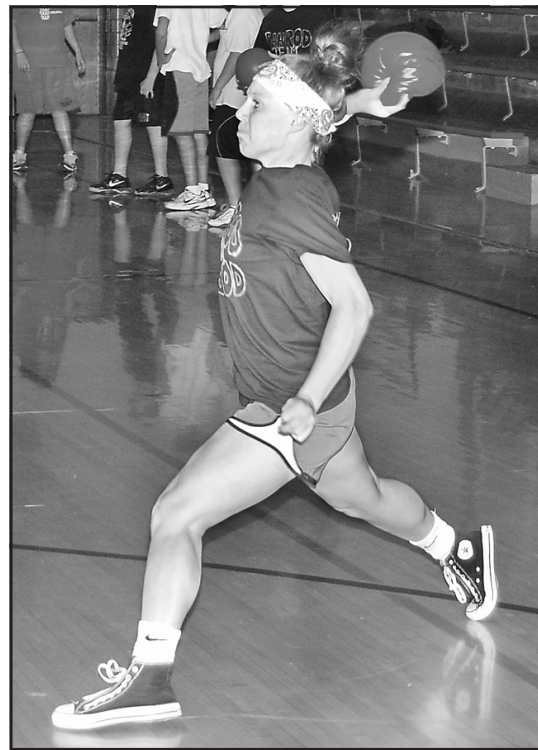
College Endowment Foundation Director Nick Wells examines some of the windmill centerpieces built by the college departments.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

## Dodgeball nets \$1,700 for relief

Colby High senior Shelby Terrell (left) prepares to fire a ball at the opposing team at the "Dodge a Disaster" dodgeball tournament Friday at Colby Grade School. Eighteen teams in two categories faced off in tournament brackets. Teams of high schoolers (above) played against each other and adults while middle-schoolers were in their own category. High school senior Caitlyn Wark (right) threw the ball across the court during one matchup. The tournament was organized by the high school's Young Humanitarian club and the Red Cross. The groups raised \$1,700 for the Red Cross' disaster relief fund.



## First case of pine wilt found in Thomas County tree

By Marian Ballard

Colby Free Press  
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An "always-fatal" disease that's been killing pine trees to the east and creeping across the continent has turned up in Colby.

Thomas County Extension agent Clint Milliman reports that there has been a positive test for

pine wilt in trees here. Owners are being advised to keep an eye on their pines and report any that may be infected.

The invasive, insect-borne disease has been steadily moving westward across Kansas, Extension experts says. It is said to be always fatal to infected trees.

While spread by a flying beetle called a pine sawyer, the damage

is done by pinewood nematodes carried by the beetles. Both beetles and nematodes spend the winter in dead pine wood, said Megan Kennelly, plant pathologist with K-State Research and Extension, so the best time for control is before they emerge around the first of April.

The only sure way to halt the disease is to destroy dead pines –

remove the tree and immediately chip or burn the wood. Firewood cut from affect trees can spread the disease, so it's best not to store the logs.

Milliman said he and forester Jim Strine are still investigating the source of the infestation, though one possibility is firewood brought from an infested area.

While some samples sent to the

Kansas State University diagnostic lab from Thomas County have proved negative, Milliman stresses the need to have suspect trees tested.

"Usually, the first symptom is off-color, gray-green needles, or wilt," said Megan Kennelly, a plant pathologist with K-State Research and Extension. "Those needles then turn brown, but don't

fall off. Typically, that happens in late summer or early fall, and the trees is dead within a few weeks or months."

If you suspect a problem with your trees, the extension agent said, call Milliman at 460-4582.

For more about pine wilt, go to [www.plantpath.k-state.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=943](http://www.plantpath.k-state.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=943).

## Briefly

### Hospital plans childbirth classes

Citizens Medical Center will offer a four weeks of childbirth classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays starting April 7. Women due to deliver before August should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin July 7. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital Education Department at (785) 460-4850.

### 'Rolling Thunder' of prayer soon

For the second year, Operation Rolling Thunder will call people to prayer for the 30 days leading up to the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5. Anyone in northwest Kansas, individuals, groups or churches, interested in participating in a prayer team from Tuesday through May 5 should contact Marsha Berens at 462-0388.

### Scouts invite girls to bowl

All girls in fourth through sixth grades are invited to spend Friday night with area Girl Scouts as Girls Go Extreme – Bowling from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday at the Colby Bowl and Fun Center, 1175 S Range. Girls will join in bowling, games, dancing and pizza. Parents are welcome, too. Cost is \$5. For information, call Becky Ayers, membership services manager, at (785) 259-6743.

### Pilots to talk safety Saturday

The Federal Aviation Administration will sponsor the 2011 National Safety Stand Down, a full day of discussion for pilots on accident factors and approach-landing reviews, starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the Colby Municipal Airport. For information, call Mark Ostmeyer at 460-4438.

### Supper, auction to help man

Help raise money for John Morgan at a benefit supper and silent auction from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday in the Colby High School commons. The proceeds will help with medical bills from a motorcycle accident Feb. 16. For information, or to donate, call Mandy Focke at 462-2120.

### Church offers concert on video

The Colby Berean Church will have a free Gaither Homecoming video concert at 6 p.m. Sunday at the church, featuring a group called Alaskan Homecoming. For information, call the church at 460-2863.

### School plans scrapbooking day

Heartland Christian School is planning a free scrapbooking day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday in

the school commons. Supplies won't be available, so buy them ahead of time. For information, or to reserve a table, call Lucy Wood at 460-2721.

### Dance team tryouts Monday

The Colby High School dance team will tryouts for the 2011-2012 squad at 6:30 p.m. Monday and next Thursday in the high school gym. Tryout packets are available in the middle and high school offices. For information, call sponsor Denita Rodgers at 460-1325.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 8 3



Weather Corner



National Weather Service  
**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.  
**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. North wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.  
**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Breezy, with a southeast wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph.  
**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 46.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 72.  
**Sunday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy and blustery, with a low around 30.  
**Monday:** A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy and breezy, with a high near 48. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.  
**Monday Night:** Mostly cloudy and blustery, with a low around 29.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.  
**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.  
**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 69.  
  
Wednesday: High, 60; Low 31  
Precip: Wed. Trace  
Month: 0.56 inches  
Year: 0.99 inches  
Normal: 2.11 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)  
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
Friday 7:29 a.m. 8:08 p.m.  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

House debating budget bill again today

By John Milburn  
The Associated Press

TOPEKA – After weeks of committee deliberations, the House was set today to debate its version of the 2012 Kansas budget, armed with marching orders from the governor to get it done.  
The bill outlines some \$14 million in spending for the fiscal year beginning July 1, which includes spending about \$6 billion in state money. It closes a projected \$493 million shortfall without raising taxes.  
Late Wednesday, the House Republican caucus took a recess from its session to hear Gov. Sam Brownback urge the 92-member delegation to get its work finished on the budget.  
“I do need your support to get this done now,” Brownback told the Republicans. “We have to do this, and we have to show the people of Kansas we can govern. We

have to show we can govern as a party.”  
The House budget would create an ending balance, or reserve, of some \$80 million by June 2012. Senators approved their version Tuesday with only about \$8 million in reserves.  
One other key difference is the cuts to public schools. The Senate cuts state aid to the 289 Kansas school districts by \$226 per student, while the House cut is \$250. Brownback has recommended \$232.  
The governor said he didn’t go to the House caucus out of a sense that the budget process was in trouble. He also said he wasn’t picking sides between the two versions.  
The Senate plan comes closest to the governor’s own proposal, which would eliminate a \$493 million budget shortfall and save about \$7.5 million. Brownback said Kansas had to get its fiscal affairs in order, and developing the right policies

takes time.  
“It’s probably going to take some hard swallowing,” he said.  
Republican House Speaker Mike O’Neal said the governor’s call for a budget was helpful on the eve of Thursday’s debate.  
“Everybody’s got their different ideas how the budget should look,” said O’Neal, from Hutchinson. “I’m not asking for a particular budget; all I’m asking for is a budget.”  
He said it was important that the House and Senate get a budget in front of negotiators before a scheduled recess that starts Saturday. That gives them time to find a compromise and digest new revenue estimates to be released April 15 by the state’s advisory group of economists and researchers.  
Conservatives said the message they took away from Brownback’s remarks was not to back off deeper spending cuts just to get

the governor or Senate to agree.  
“I don’t know if it was helpful or not,” said Rep. Anthony Brown, a Eudora Republican. “It’s going to be a legislative process and we’re going to do what the House is going to do.  
“I do think it resonates with some Republican members when the governor comes and says, ‘We need a budget.’ Whatever it is, we have to have a budget.”  
Rep. Owen Donohoe, a Shawnee Republican, said Brownback seemed to invite more cuts and wasn’t discouraging the process.  
House Minority Leader Paul Davis said Brownback’s action suggests there is dis-sension among his fellow Republicans.  
“Most of it’s coming from the extreme right that believes that we need to make more devastating cuts to essential state services,” the Lawrence Democrat said.

NASA making last-ditch effort to call Mars rover

By Alicia Chang  
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) – The prospect of ever hearing from the stuck Mars rover Spirit is fading after it failed to respond to repeated calls from Earth.  
Despite the dismal outlook, NASA will make a last-ditch effort to communicate with Spirit, which fell silent a little over a year ago. If there’s still no contact in

the next month or so, the space agency will scale back its listening campaign for Spirit and focus on its healthy twin, Opportunity.  
That Spirit has not called home suggests that something is more seriously wrong than just a power issue, said program manager John Callas at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.  
The solar-powered rover became bogged in a sand trap in April 2009 during a routine drive.

Despite efforts to wiggle free, it remained stuck and could not tilt itself toward the sun as the Martian winter approached. Without an adequate amount of energy reaching its solar panels, it went into hibernation last March.  
Engineers had expected Spirit to wake up once there was maximum sunlight where it’s trapped. But summer solstice in southern

Mars came and went earlier this month with no response.  
Ray Arvidson, of Washington University in St. Louis, had put the odds of hearing a signal by now at less than 50-50. Still, he stands behind attempts to call it.  
Ground controllers are paging Spirit over a range of frequencies and at various times during the day in case its internal clock

stopped working and it lost track of time. They also are commanding the rover to turn on its backup radio transmitter in case the main one died.  
At some point, NASA will have to declare Spirit lost if there’s no word. When that happens, efforts will be reduced to sporadic listening for it through the end of the year, Callas said.

Congress accepting artwork for U.S. Capitol

Entries are being accepted for the 2011 Congressional Arts Competition, open to all high school students in the 1st Congressional District. The winning work will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.  
“Every day, I walk through the Cannon Tunnel of the Capitol Complex and see students’ artwork from across the country adorning the walls,” Congressman Huelskamp said. “It is a wonderful program, and I look forward to receiving new submissions from Kansas students.”  
The new Jerry Thomas Gallery and Collection at the El Quarte-lejo Museum in Scott City will hold

the 2011 competition.  
Competition is in seven categories: paintings, drawings, collage, prints, mixed media, computer-generated art and photography. All submissions must be received between 1 and 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday, April 8, at the gallery, 902 W. Fifth St. in Scott City.  
Awards in each category will be announced by Huelskamp at a reception at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 17, at the gallery.  
For information, contact Lynn Ballinger at the congressman’s Dodge City office, (620) 225-0172, or go to huelskamp.house.gov/serving-you/art-competition.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Saturday Evening										April 2, 2011	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Transformers						Local				
KBSL/CBS	College B		College Basketball				Local				
KSNK/NBC	Harry's Law		Law-Order L.A.		Law & Order: SVU		Local		Saturday Night Live		
KSAS/FOX	Cops		Cops		Local		Fringe		Fame	Local	
Cable Channels											
A & E	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		Purgatory	Manhunter	The First 48		
AMC	Shawshank R.						The Black Dahlia				
ANIM	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Bad Dog!		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		
BRAVO	House		House		House		House		House		
CMT	Billy Madison				Beer for My Horses				Stroker		
CNN	Muslims Next		Piers Morgan Tonight		Newsroom		Muslims Next		Piers Morgan Tonight		
COMEDY	Chuck		Employee-Mnth				Harold and				
DISC	Sons	Sons	Sons	Sons	Sons	Sons	Sons	Sons	Sons	Sons	
DISN	The Suite Life Movie		16 Wishes		Deck		Wizards	Deck	Deck	Deck	
E!	Liar Liar				True Hollywood Story		The Soup		After Lat	Chelsea	
ESPN	SportsCtr	Tyson's Hits		Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter		SportsCenter			
ESPN2	NHRA Drag Racing		2010 Poker		2010 Poker		2010 Poker		2010 Poker		
FAM	Happy Feet		Monsters, Inc.				Robin Hood				
FOOD	Challenge		Challenge		Challenge		Iron Chef America		Challenge		
FX	Tropic Thunder		Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Archer	White Chicks			
HGTV	Candice	Block	Secrets	Antonio	House	House	Hunters	Hunters	Secrets	Antonio	

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

HIST	Journey to the				Underwater Universe				Journey to the						
LIFE	The Perfect Teacher		Abandoned		Coming Home		One Born Ev.								
MTV	The Real World		Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		RJ Berger		The Real World		Teen Mom				
NICK	2011 Kids' Choice Awards		Victoriotu		2011 Kids' Choice Awards		SpongeBot		Lopez						
SCI	Meteor		Meteor		Ice Twisters										
SPIKE	Exit Wounds		Executive Decision				Exit Wounds								
TBS	Fam. Guy		Fam. Guy		Yes Man		Nick and Norah								
TCM	Loneliness-Runner				Billy Liar				The Dresser						
TLC	Strange		Strange		Strange		Strange		Strange						
TNT	Hitch				Get Married?		My Baby's								
TOON	Scooby		King/Hill		Stroker		Freaknik: Mus.		Bleach		Kekkaishi				
TRAV	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures						
TV LAND	The Best		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond						
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		The Patriot								
VH1	Fighting Tempt				Fabulous		Fabulous		Shocking Breakups						
WGN	NBA Basketball				News/Nine		Scrubs		How I Met		South Pk				
Premium Channels															
HBO	Sex and the City 2				It's Complicated				Sex and t						
MAX	Bad Boys II				Splice										
SHOW	Shameless		Nurse		Tara		The Joneses		Nurse		Californ.				

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Sunday Evening											April 3, 2011											
	7:00		7:30		8:00		8:30		9:00		9:30		10:00		10:30		11:00		11:30			
KAKE/ABC	Secret Millionaire				Desperate Housewives				Body of Proof				Local									
KBSL/CBS	Country Music												Local									
KSNK/NBC	America's				Celebrity Apprentice								Local				Dateline NBC					
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons		Burgers		Fam. Guy		Cleveland		Local													
Cable Channels																						
A & E	Criminal Minds				Criminal Minds				Breakout Kings				Breakout Kings				Criminal Minds					
AMC	Se7en				The Killing								The Killing									
ANIM	Taking on Tyson				River Monsters				River Monsters				River Monsters				River Monsters					
BRAVO	Housewives/OC				Housewives/OC				Housewives/OC				Happens		Housewives/OC		Happens					
CMT	Lethal Weapon								Stroker Ace								Beer for My Horses					
CNN	CNN Presents				Piers Morgan Tonight				Newsroom				CNN Presents				Piers Morgan Tonight					
COMEDY	Employee-Mnth				Harold & Kumar												Tosh.0					
DISC	MythBusters								MythBusters				MythBusters									
DISN	Good Luck		Good Luck		Good Luck		Good Luck		Sonny		Sonny		Good Luck		Good Luck		Hannah		Hannah			
E!	Kourtney		Kourtney		Kourtney		Kourtney		Kourtney		Holly's W		After Lat		Chelsea		Kourtney		Holly's W			
ESPN	Wm. Basketball				Wm. Basketball												SportsCenter					
ESPN2	MLB Baseball												SportsCtr				The Fab Five					
FAM	Monsters, Inc.				Ratatouille								Whose?				J. Osteen		Ed Young			
FOOD	Chopped All-Stars				Chopped All-Stars				Challenge				Cupcake Wars				Chopped All-Stars					
FX	White Chicks				Hancock								Two Men		Two Men		Two Men		Two Men			
HGTV	Holmes on Homes				Holmes Inspection				House		Hunters		Income		Income		Holmes Inspection					
HIST	Ax Men				Ax Men				Swamp People				MonsterQuest				Ax Men					
LIFE	BabysitterSedu				Army Wives				Coming Home				Army Wives				Coming Home					
MTV	Teen Mom 2				Britney		Facebook		RJ Berger		The Real World				Jersey Shore				Britney			
NICK	My Wife		My Wife		Chris		Chris		Lopez		Lopez		The Nanny		The Nanny		The Nanny		The Nanny			
SCI	S. King's The Stand				S. King's The Stand								The Langoliers									
SPIKE	Bad Boys								Bad Boys								Coal					
TBS	Yes Man								Yes Man								Anchorman					
TCM	Movie								Movie								Movie					
TLC	Cake Boss				Sister		Sister		Strange		Strange		Sister		Sister		Strange		Strange			
TNT	Hitch				Last Holiday								Leverage		Leverage		Leverage					
TOON	Star Wars: Clone				Baby Blue		King-Hill		King-Hill		Fam. Guy		Fam. Guy		Robot Chicken							
TRAV	Conqueror				Conqueror				When Vacations				When Vacations				When Vacations					
TV LAND	M*A*S*H		M*A*S*H		M*A*S*H		M*A*S*H		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		Roseanne			
USA	Law & Order: SVU				Law & Order: SVU				Law & Order: SVU				Face/Off									
VH1	SNL in '90s				One Hit Wonders								SNL in '90s									
WGN	How I Met		How I Met		How I Met		How I Met		News/Nine		Replay		Monk				Monk					
Premium Channels																						
HBO	True Blood				Preview				Mildred Pierce				Just Wright				Gervais					
MAX	S.W.A.T.		Splice						The Final Destination				Life-Top				Life-Top		Life-Top			
SHOW	Nurse		Tara		The Borgias								Borgias		The Borgias				Borgias			
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