



Foundation prepares for auction

By Christina Beringer
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A "Fiesta on the Plains" should shake up the town during the Colby Community College's annual Endowment Auction next month.

Diners can take a swing at buying piñatas made by college art students, a summer cruise, jewelry and many other donated items.

The prime-rib dinner will start at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at the City Limits Convention Center, 2227 S. Range. A silent auction will run throughout the evening and a live auction will start at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the fiesta are \$35 a person and corporate tables are \$250. They can be purchased by calling Nick Wells, director of the College Endowment, at (785) 460-4684 by Monday, April 9.

Wells said walk-ins will be welcome, but encourages people to buy tickets ahead of time.

Wells said about 100 items have been donated for the live auction and another couple hundred have been given to support the silent auction.

"We have a lot of great auction items this year," said Wells. "Some really nice jewelry has

been donated by individuals and area businesses. Mary Maxwell and Mary Hurtt make jewelry that they've donated. There are gold coins and vacation trips from weekend getaways to week-long cruises, too.

"An Alaskan cruise has been donated by the Frahm family and we have signed basketballs from Wichita State University, Kansas State University and the University of Kansas. Some of those balls have blankets that go with them that my wife Janet made."

Wells explained the fund raiser helps provide scholarships for students coming from out of state and from other countries.

He said he hopes they will also be able to replace an outdated X-ray machine for the Dental Hygiene Department.

"The \$40,000 machine will give our students the added advantage of becoming familiar with new technology already in use throughout the industry," Wells said, adding that every year, the foundation tries to raise more money than the year before. Last year, the auction grossed about \$103,000, a record amount, he said, and one they hope to break this year.

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105-year celebration



Kerri Llewellyn (right) of Farmer's State Bank in Oakley talked with a customer Thursday in front of a display of the changes in bank statements over the years during the bank's Business

after 5 event. For its 105th anniversary, the bank offered food and door prizes.

KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

City ready to create height, hazard regulations

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby City Council on Tuesday authorized officials to apply for a Kansas Improvement Grant to develop height and hazard regulations to protect Colby Shalz Field from construction in the county.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said representatives of the Kansas Department of Transportation-Division of Aviation met with the commissioners to explain

this grant, which will pay to develop a height and hazard ordinance for the entire county.

Armstrong said the city has an ordinance in effect, but there is none for areas outside of town.

The manager said the cost of the project is estimated at somewhere between \$30,000 and \$40,000, and it's a 95 percent state grant with a 5 percent local share. Councilman Fred Taylor asked whether, when the ordinance is established, if the proposed wind farm does not go in this

year, will it then force the wind towers to meet the requirement. City Attorney John Gatz said it would.

Acciona Energy, the company planning the wind farm, originally talked about putting in large turbines, but it has now proposed a height of about 390 feet, so Armstrong said this ordinance will not affect the firm at all.

Armstrong said these regulations are an effort to protect the airport's approaches from things being built out in the county that would interfere with landings and

takeoffs.

She said the Federal Aviation Administration has a set of requirements about how a pilot can fly into the airport. If a wind farm or other tower were to be constructed that was too tall, it could block a pilot's flight path.

The proposed height ordinance will be enforced on projects as they relate to the airport, she said.

In other business, the council:

- Awarded a bid for materials from Eagle Traffic Signals through a Take Charge

Grant to Gades Sales Co. for \$5,976. The bid had been approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission.

- Approved an agreement with R&S Digital Services for centerline and district vector adjustments and maintenance for the 911 emergency dispatch system for \$5,000. Armstrong said these services involve aligning the 911 address maps with aerial photography.
- Approved an agreement with Penco

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Serving food for fund raiser



SHARON FRIEDLANDER/Colby Free Press

Phyllis Dawes (left) and Salley Patten, volunteers for the Brewster Grocery Store fish fry, served food Saturday evening

for the fund raiser. The food served included catfish, steak fries, coleslaw and desserts.

Director travels to ocean's depths

By Seth Borenstein
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — The last frontier on Earth is out-of-this-world, desolate, foreboding and moon-like, James Cameron said after diving to the deepest part of the ocean.

And he loved it.

The Hollywood director, who knows a little about alien worlds having made the movie "Avatar," said when he got to this strange cold, dark place 7 miles below the western Pacific Ocean that only two other men have been to, there was one thing he promised to himself: He wanted to drink in how unusual it is.

He didn't do that when he first dove to the watery grave of the Titanic, and Apollo astronauts have said they never had time to savor where they were.

"There had to be a moment where I just stopped, and took it in, and said, 'This is where I am; I'm at the bottom of the ocean, the deepest place on Earth. What does that mean?'" Cameron told reporters during a conference call today after spending three hours at the bottom of the Mariana Trench, nearly seven miles down. "I just sat there looking out the window, looking at this barren, desolate lunar plain, appreciating."

He also realized how alone he was with that much water above

him. "It's really the sense of isolation, more than anything," the director said, "realizing how tiny you are down in this big vast black unknown and unexplored place."

Cameron said he had hoped to see some strange deep-sea-monster-like creature that would excite the storyteller in him and seem like something out of his movies, but he didn't.

He didn't see tracks of animals on the sea floor as he did when he dove more than 5 miles deep weeks ago. All he saw were voracious shrimp-like critters no bigger than an inch.

But that was OK, he said; it was all about exploration, science and discovery. He is the only person to dive there solo, using a sub he helped design. He is the first person to reach that depth — 35,576 feet — since it was initially explored in 1960.

He spent more than three hours at the bottom, longer than the 20 minutes Navy Capt. Don Walsh and explorer Jacques Piccard spent in the only other visit 52 years ago. But it was less than the six hours he had planned. He said he would return.

"I see this as the beginning,"

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