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## Foundation audit leads to changes

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The Colby Community College Endowment Foundation has approved a change in its scholarship policies after an audit found that 15 percent of the foundation scholarships awarded last year by the college were given to students who did not fit the scholarships' criteria.

The foundation board decided at their Thursday meeting that they will pay this fall's scholarships directly to qualifying students rather than relying on the college to pay them.

Nick Wells, the foundation's director, said he has received several complaints from parents and college alumni that the school has not paid any financial aid or billed students yet this fall.

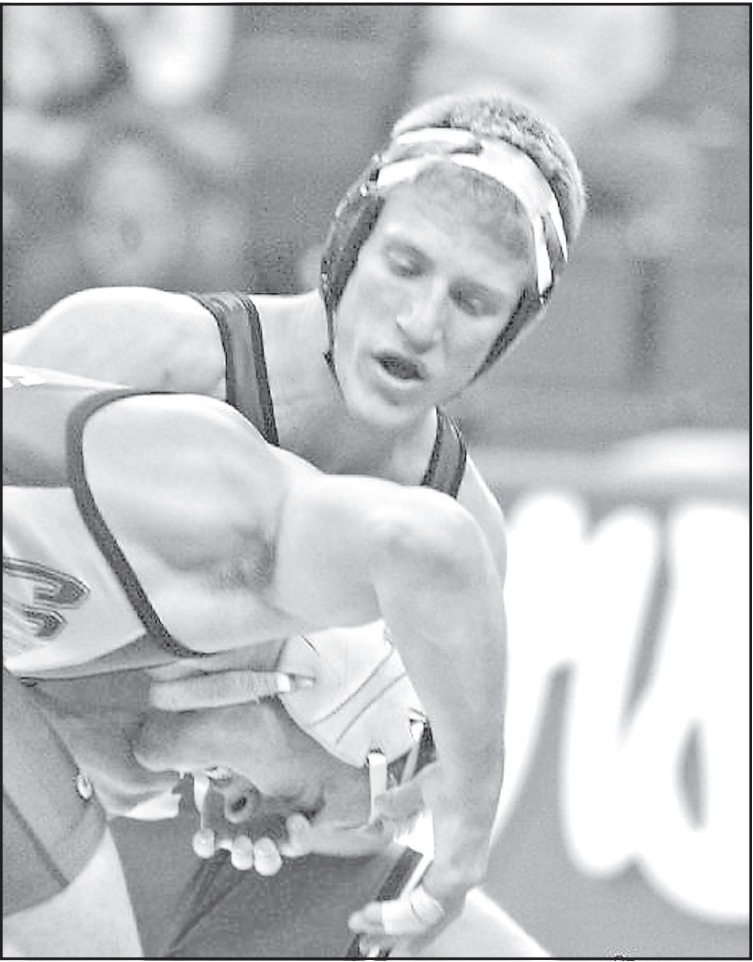
Students don't know how much they owe for this semester or how much financial aid they have received, and students who would have received funds to buy books or pay for housing have not yet been given those funds.

This semester, said Wells, many of the foundation's college-administered scholarships were not even awarded until after school started, which defeats the recruiting purpose of those scholarships.

"Given the college's current financial condition," said board member Vernon Hurd, he isn't comfortable with the college controlling the students' access to scholarship funds.

Hurd made the motion to change the foundation's policy to issue scholarship checks directly to the awardees, rather than the

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Huskers.com

Colby High alum Matt Murray earned NCAA Academic and Athletic All-American honors during his wrestling career for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Murray caught his University of Wyoming opponent in a headlock during this 2003 wrestling match.

## Colby wrestler to be honored

By R.B. Headley  
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Matt Murray's infected lungs had broken his heart.

Less than one year after wrestling for an NCAA Division I national championship, this Colby High alum couldn't even complete his last title shot due to pleurisy — inflammation of a double-layered membrane surrounding the lungs.

The condition can make breathing "extremely painful," according to webmd.com.

"It happened at the most inappropriate time possible. Matt got sick a week before the Big 12 (Conference) tournament," University of Nebraska-Lincoln and U.S. Olympian wrestling coach Mark Manning said.

"It was heartbreaking," Murray confirmed about something far worse than the shattered jaw he

suffered diving into an opponent one year earlier.

Fans can only wonder what might have capped that superb 2005 season.

Yet it won't change how nearly 90,000 will be cheering on Murray Saturday afternoon.

Among thousands who've competed for the Nebraska Cornhuskers, Murray is among only 307 to achieve what should be every student's ultimate goal:

Academic All-American.

Many of the 234 still living will be honored during halftime at Nebraska's home football showdown against Big 10 Legends division leader Michigan State.

"I've been taking it in stride. To be honest, I didn't realize it was such a big deal until a few days ago," Murray said. "I got awards in school, but I would just keep

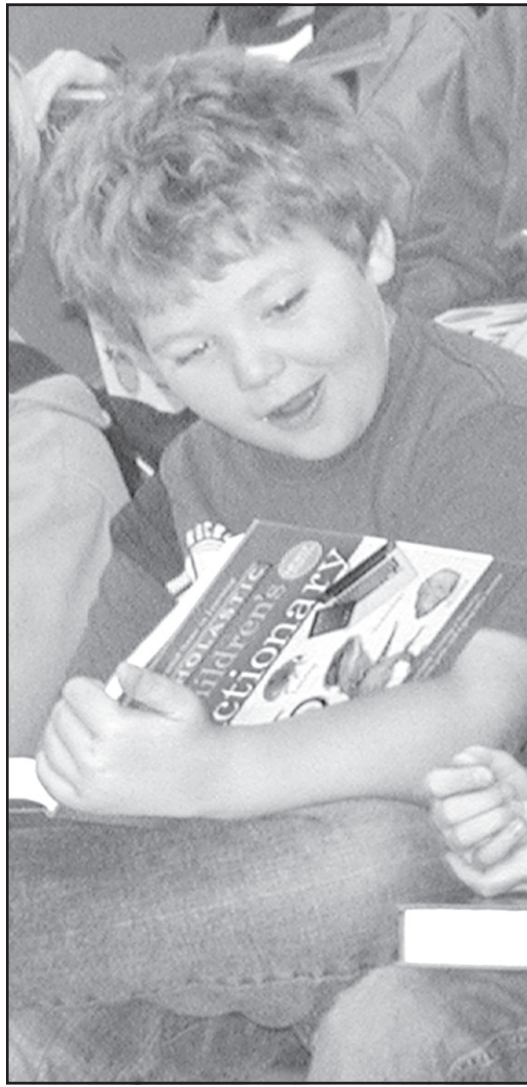
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SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Colby Grade School third graders Jake Olson (above, left), Tyler Rehmer Logan Haggard and Ethan Zerr looked on this morning in the school gym as the Colby Rotary Club passed out dictionaries. They were among 58 third graders who got a dictionary from the club. Rotarian Patrick Toth (below left) gave a dictionary to Sophie Williams (dictionary presentation). Haggard (below) found something to grab his attention in his dictionary.

## Dictionary gift opens the door to new learning



## K-State women to collect food

The Women of K-State at the Northwest Research-Extension Center will take donations of food and money with their "Community Can" food challenge at a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Thomas County Office Complex.

The challenge invites community groups, businesses or other "teams" to donate the most money or pounds of food by the date of the reception. For example, said Becky Darling, one of the organizers, employees of one beauty shop could challenge another shop to compete.

Donations will go to the Genesis-Thomas County food bank and the Food 4 Kids backpack program, which was started over 15 years ago after teachers noticed how distracted some of their students were when they came to school hungry.

To participate, form a team, gather donations and drop them off at the conference room in the office complex between 3 and 6:30 p.m. that day, when volunteers will be there to weigh the food taken in. Donors will be recognized in the Colby Free Press according to the

weight or amount of money they contribute, said Darling.

Volunteers will be on hand at the reception to answer questions and give tours of the food bank.

Genesis needs nonperishable food or money to buy other food, including meat for holiday

food baskets to be given out on Saturday, Dec. 14. For most of this year, Genesis provided food to an average of 90 families each month, but that number rose to 163 families in October, Darling said. About 40 households with school-aged children rely on the Food 4 Kids program during Christmas and spring break.

## Author to speak at museum

A new season of Food for Thought programs opens begin at the Prairie Museum of Art and History at noon Thursday, featuring Atwood native Albert Hardon, a writer and descendent of Rawlins County homesteaders.

Hardon, a lifelong farmer, has written several books available in the museum's gift shop, including "Memories of a Dust Bowl Kid," "A Soldier's Story: Korea 1952-1954," "Echoes of the Past" and "The Legacy of the Homesteaders." He recently added a collection of poems, "Poems of the Plains."

At Food for Thought, Hardon will share stories about growing up on a northwest Kansas farm, reflecting on the many changes that have occurred in the field of agriculture over time.

The talks are held at noon on the third Thursday of every month from November through March. December's presentation, scheduled for Dec. 19, will feature historian Joyce Thier. A light lunch is served at no charge.



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