



Trustees analyze costs, value

By Sam Dieter
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Colby Community College trustees reviewed a cost-benefit analysis of the college academic programs at their meeting last week, covering how much each of the academic programs costs and how much the college made from each the year ending in June.

Dr. Greg Nichols, vice president of academic affairs, walked the trustees through the analysis, which he said is an improved version of one he presented at the November meeting.

"We need to keep in mind that we are an institution of higher education," President Stephen Vacik told the trustees. "We are not a business."

Counting money that comes directly from students, Nichols said, the analysis showed that the

college is losing money from all its academic programs. Expenses such as classroom supplies and instructors' salaries cost the college \$4,298,667 last fiscal year, but student tuition, student fees and fees for certain courses brought in only \$2,804,012.

The college would have made \$4,869,058 in revenue from its academic programs – and thus an overall profit – if the summary had counted money from the state, he said. Two summaries at the end of the analysis showed revenue from the programs both with and without the state money.

But Nichols told the trustees he did not think it would be accurate to count the state money as revenue from academic programs, because the state state gives a "block grant" to each college each year which has nothing to do which

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College nears donation goal

Colby Community College has raised most of the money it needs to have by the end of the year to get a matching donation from the college endowment foundation.

Audrey Hines, one of the college trustees, said Monday that the college has \$200,000 out of the possible \$250,000 the foundation has promised to match. The college has until the end of the year to raise \$250,000 for college

President Stephen Vacik's "campaign for change."

Foundation Director Nick Wells offered to match the money at the annual foundation meeting on Thursday, Oct. 11. The foundation will match any donations up to \$250,000 that the college raises from Oct. 11 until the end of the year.

Hines encourages people to get their donations in by Tuesday.

New funds aid foundation

The Thomas County Community Foundation has two new funds, the Cummins Central Power Endowment Fund and the Thomas County Heritage Fund, said Executive Director Melinda Olson.

The Cummins Central Power Endowment Fund is a donor-advised payroll-deduction fund, meaning the firm's employees will make regular donations and recommend grants from the fund each year. Olson said it is that first of that type here.

Employees choose a set amount

from their paychecks to donate each pay period, much like United Way, she said, and Cummins Central Power Corp. will match each employee's donation dollar for dollar.

"We work for a great company that cares about its employees and shows it by investing money back into the community we live," said Samuel J. Failla, distributor general manager for Central Power.

Olson said she hopes more busi-

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Nativity comes to life

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
A goat stood watch (above) at the Living Nativity last weekend, in front of husband and wife Richard and Mary Schroeder, who played Joseph and Mary, and "wise men" Reagan Coulter (left), Tisha Carter and her husband Kade Carter. Coulter's wife Katie Coulter (right) played an angel at the nativity at the Jane Johnson Ranch north of Colby. Clara the goat (below) was a big hit at the nativity. Johnson helped introduce her to Jude Horinek, 2, while Jude's grandfather Tony Horinek looked on.



Wellness Challenge aims to get county fit

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Anyone looking to get fit after the holidays can join in the Thomas County Coalition's 2014 Wellness Challenge, designed to encourage people here to live a healthier lifestyle.

The coalition is an alliance of nonprofit and government agencies which promotes healthy living. Kasiah Rothchild, director of the county Health Department, said the challenge started years ago with a

weight-loss focus, but this year the coalition wants to focus on many aspects of healthy living.

Dr. Doug Gruenbacher, a Quinter physician, will speak about healthy living at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, at the Colby Community College Student Union.

Gruenbacher founded the Castle Rock Wellness Center to provide a gym and exercise classes. He is an avid runner and helped carry the torch for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Citizens Medical Center supports the challenge by offering discounted lab tests

to participants and others. Blood will be drawn from 6 to 9 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 9 through 11, and Monday, Jan. 13.

Available tests include cholesterol, diabetes, thyroid and heart. Prostate cancer screenings are also available. Prices range from \$20 to \$35 per test.

Participants will receive education and tools to live a healthier lifestyle, keep food diaries and exercise for at least 150 minutes per week during the 17-week event.

They also get a test in the Bod Pod,

which estimates their ratio of fat and lean tissue. Participants get into the pod, the air is drawn out and a computer provides three estimates.

Most challenge activities are logged online, with participants earning points for each completed activity.

The participant who earns the most points gets a cash prize at the end of the challenge, based on overall healthy lifestyle changes rather than how much weight each one loses.

Everyone who signs up is automatically entered in Walk Kan-

sas, a team-based program that encourages participants to walk during March, April and May. The challenge concludes on May 14 at the end of Walk Kansas.

To join the challenge costs \$40. For information, contact the Health Department at 460-4596 or findir@thomascohealth.com or the Thomas County Extension Office at 460-4582 or diann@ksu.edu.