



10 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

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Serving Thomas County since 1888

President of college to move on

Colby Community College will be looking for a president by the start of next year since President Stephen Vacik has taken a job at a school in Kentucky.

Dr. Vacik was chosen from three finalists to be president of Maysville Community and Technical College in Maysville, Ky., starting Jan. 1.

"Personally, leaving Colby will

be bittersweet as we have made many friends over the last four years," Vacik said in a statement. "Professionally, I am gratified in the tremendous progress the college has made, due to the hard work of our faculty and staff and the support of our community. We set out a goal before us to

See "PRESIDENT," Page 2

County wants expert advisor

Thomas County will be looking at architects over the coming months after discussions Monday between the commissioners and County Attorney Kevin Berens.

The Criminal Justice Strategic Planning Group recommended the commissioners hire an architect for advice on the future judicial complex and which bidding method to use, said Commissioner Mike Baughn.

Baughn asked Berens, who at-

tended the commissioners' regular meeting, whether the county needed to put out a Request for Qualifications before selecting an architect.

Berens said no formal bidding process is required for professional services, but he recommended the commissioners compile a written list of what information they want from each potential firm so

See "ADVISOR," Page 2

Colby mayor named to board

Colby's mayor has been named to the board of the League of Kansas Municipalities and will help guide the organization and represent it with the state Legislature next year.

Mayor Gary Adrian was named as one of the 12 directors for the league during its annual convention Oct. 13 in Wichita. As one of the directors, Adrian said, he will go to monthly meetings in Topeka, helping decide policy, including what the state's cities want to

lobby for in the Legislature.

Adrian said the league represents 622 towns and cities in the state; Erik Sartorius, the league's executive director, said 584 are members.

"I was really excited to be on (the board)," Adrian said. "Very few people from western Kansas get put on that."

Adrian filled a director's seat left by Topeka Mayor Larry Wol-

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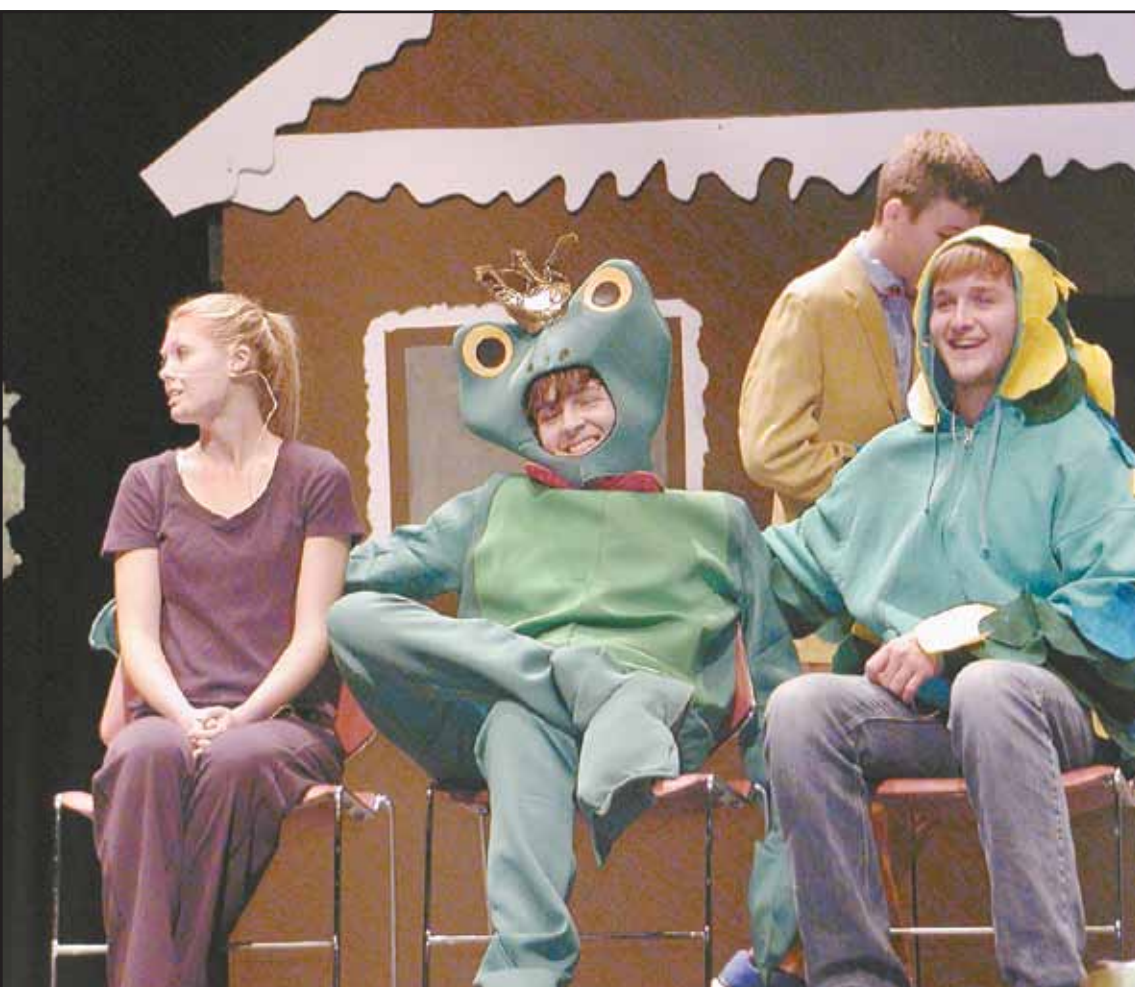


Making art come together



Retired artist Barbara Stevens, (above, left) talked with Suzanne Schielke about one of her drawings Friday at Colby Community College. Stevens taught about a dozen local artists and students how to come up with creative ways to make paintings, using everyday objects such as stamps to make designs. Instructor Rebel Jay, (left, at left) a former student of Stevens who invited her to the college for this month's Studio Friday, talked with Marilyn Surmeier as she added her own design. When painting, Stevens said, an artist does not ever make a mistake; they can paint over something if they do not like it. Barbara Highland (below) brought her 5-year-old great-granddaughter, Jayla Highland, with her to the class.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Bridget Bickner, left, Cheyne Weis, who plays the frog prince and Zach Young, who plays a talking fish, rehearsed Monday night in the Colby High School auditorium. In the scene, they compete in a game show with Hayden Reinert as host, an altered version of one of the original Grimm fairytales in "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon," a play to be performed Thursday and Friday at the high school. Bickner has several roles in the play.

High school play is 'Grimm' spectacle

Colby High School students will perform a spoof of classic fairy tales on stage this week in the theater department's yearly production.

The students will perform the comedy "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday at the high school. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students.

Supper will be available from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. before Friday's play, served by the Colby High debate team in the high school commons. Donations will be taken.

Alec Onstad and Kelly Sloan will play television show hosts introducing a lineup of original Brothers Grimm fairy tales, each of which is connected to a larger story. Drama teacher Nancy Rundel, who is

directing the play, described it as a mixture of various fairy tales, picture-perfect endings and a twisted plot line. Twenty-seven students are acting in the play, with two in the stage crew.

Don Zolidis, a professor of playwriting at Ursinus College near Philadelphia, wrote the play in 2007 to be performed by high school theater students. It combines parts of over 200 fairy tales – well known stories like "Little Red Riding Hood" and more obscure ones such as "The Devil's Grandmother" – into a play that takes no more than two hours. Zolidis used to be a high school and middle school teacher, and his website lists over 30 plays he has written for teenagers.

Combine sales down

WICHITA (AP) – Sales of combines plummeted in October in the United States, but sales of two-wheel drive tractors remained steady.

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers reported Tuesday in its monthly snapshot that the number of tractor sales for the month remained unchanged at

19,528 when compared with the same month a year ago. Strong sales of two-wheel drive tractors offset declines in the sales of their four-wheel drive counterparts.

Overall total sales of farm tractors to date are up 4.1 percent for the first 10 months of the year, with some 179,923 tractors sold in

the United States.

But farmers bought just 583 combines in October, a drop of 49.3 percent when compared with the same month a year ago.



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Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 0. Wind chill values as low as -14. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 23. Wind chill values as low as -13. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming south-east in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 34. South wind 10 to 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 32.

Saturday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 9.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 30.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 16.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 39.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

Table with weather forecast details: Monday: High, 65; Low 8; Tuesday: High, 24; Low 7; Precip: Monday Trace, Tuesday Trace, Month: 0.01 inches, Year: 16.80 inches, Normal: 20.03 inches (K-State Experiment Station); Sunrise and Sunset: Thursday 7:26 a.m. 5:31 p.m.; Moon: waning, 58 percent (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Mayor named to board

From "MAYOR," Page 1

gast, who was elected as vice president, the league said. Wolgast replaced Terry Somers, mayor of Mount Hope, who became president. The vice president replaces the president, Sartorius said, and that seat is filled from the directors.

When a vacant seat appeared, Adrian said, the other directors quickly agreed that he should fill it. He has been going to the league's meetings throughout the 3 1/2 years he has been mayor. At those meetings, he said,

he asked questions, and that is what he feels the directors want on their board.

"People that don't go to those meetings are making a big mistake," Adrian said. "You find out about a lot of things that end up saving the city of Colby a lot of trouble."

The city has asked the league for guidance on many issues; Adrian said, and for a small fee, consulted with the league's lawyers, instead of paying an attorney's fee.

Directors serve three-year terms, Sartorius said, and vote

on new members at their annual conference. The governing body also includes the past president and earlier presidents, who can stay on the body as long as they keep their jobs in the cities they represent. The president, vice president, past presidents and directors all vote.

All of the officers and directors are high-ranking officials at Kansas cities, mainly mayors, but also including several city managers and administrators. Adrian said he and Stockton Mayor Kim Thomas are the only directors from western Kansas.

County wants expert advisor

From "ADVISOR," Page 1

each firm receives the same request.

Berens recommended the commissioners ask several firms to submit information about their qualifications then pick a short list of firms to interview before hiring one.

Commissioner Paul Steele said he thought the commissioners might need to decide whether the architect would be hired as a consultant only or would also design the project.

Any architectural contract would need to include a scope of work, Berens said, but added the architect could be hired first as a consultant and then the county could decide whether to keep that architect for additional services if needed.

Steele asked Berens to draft the written request, but the commissioners hesitated over what the request should include.

Baughn suggested asking for a portfolio of past work and list of qualifications.

Berens promised to work on a draft request, which he sent up later in the meeting.

"Mr. Chairman, I think that's what we need," Baughn said to Steele, referring to the draft request.

Baughn said he planned to send the request out to the firms

who have already expressed interest in the project, including a list provided by District Judge Glenn Schiffner, chairman of the county's Criminal Justice Planning Group, of firms with previous jail experience.

In other business, the commissioners

• Purchased an off-road vehicle for the noxious weed department. The bid from Colby Ag was lowest at \$3,020, which included a trade-in value of \$5,680 on the department's existing 2011 vehicle. Bainter Oil Service, the only other bidder, priced a 2014 model at \$3,670 and a 2015 model at \$4,730, including a trade-in value of \$4,000.

• Agreed to participate in the Kansas Association of Counties' Annual Compensation Survey. It costs the county \$175, but the commissioners said it could provide information about how the county's pay rates compare to others.

• Discussed republishing the budget because of increased spending in some areas, including county benefits. Steele said he anticipates that category will need an increase of \$170,046 based on average expense rates so far this year. County employees with significant health issues caused the county's health insurance claims to rise this year,

he said.

• Tabled deciding on a petition to vacate an easement in the El Chapparral subdivision since the city-county planning commission had not yet considered it. Berens advised the commissioners to let the planning commission act first.

• Declined to take action to fix a damaged township road in North Randall Township. Several complaints about the road have failed to prompt the township to fix the road. Berens told the commissioners the county could fix the road and bill the township for the cost but would have to sue the township if it doesn't pay.

• Questioned whether Berens or Assistant County Attorney Rachel Lamm should come to all commission meetings. Berens said he could try to make arrangements to be present if the commissioners wanted him to address certain agenda items, but that he likely would not attend all meetings.

• Authorized the installation of a \$5,595 expansion tank for the courthouse heating system after discussing the problem with Eric Dinges of Glassman Corp. Steele expressed concern over the cost, but Dinges said removal of the old ceiling-mounted tank, new piping and draining the entire system increased the project's labor costs.

• Raised office-complex lease rates by 3 percent.

• Approved payment of a \$412 invoice from Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball for services related to the Fair Board taking over its own payroll responsibilities. The commissioners agreed the county should pay the invoice since they initiated the change in responsibilities.

• Approved paying \$51,640 in bills.

• Increased the judicial district's credit card limit to \$2,000, bringing it in line with several other departments' cards.

• Took no action after a five-minute closed-door session to discuss nonlected personnel.

College president to move

From "PRESIDENT," Page 1

different, better and purposeful - and I think that we have done that."

Michael B. McCall, president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College system, announced Sunday that Vacik had been chosen for the job. The Board of Directors at Maysville Community and Technical College unanimously recommended him for the position, a statement from the college system said.

Debbie Schwanke, public information director at Colby

Community College, said she expects the resignation to be made official when college trustees meet Monday. Vacik was not available for an interview.

"I trust the Board of Trustees to make wise decisions in the days ahead which will position CCC for continued success," Vacik said in his statement. "Regardless of where I go or what I do in the future, please know that I leave a part of myself here, invested in the history and future of our college system."

Vacik has been president since 2011, and has worked at community colleges for 18 years. Before coming to Kansas, he was the academic dean and vice-president of instruction at East Mississippi Community College in Scooba. He also held jobs as a faculty member and administrator at Beville State Community College campus in Sumiton, Ala.

He has a bachelor's degree in English, a master's degree in history and a doctorate in higher education administration, all earned at the University of Alabama.

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LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

THURSDAY EVENING

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

FRIDAY EVENING

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Table of TV listings for Thursday, Nov 13, 2014. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, E!, ESPN, ESPN2, FAMILY, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NICK, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

Table of TV listings for Friday, Nov 14, 2014. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, E!, ESPN, ESPN2, FAMILY, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NICK, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

Think 'holly jolly jelly:' Christmas is on the way

Can you believe Christmas is only 44 days away! Thanksgiving is really late this year, which gives us a false impression of time.



Diann Gerstner

• Knowledge for Life

That means it's time for our annual Extension event: Harvest of Holidays. Help us celebrate our 12th annual program.

The Colby event will be held Tuesday, Dec. 2, at the Thomas County 4-H Building. We will repeat it at three more sites: Monday, Dec. 8, in Sharon Springs, Wednesday, Dec. 10, in Oakley and Monday, Dec. 15, in Atwood.

There is a supplies/registration fee of \$5 per person. Please register by noon Monday, Nov. 24, at the Extension office at the site you plan to attend.

I mentioned that this year's program was hands-on, and our theme probably gave us away. We will review safe techniques for preserving top-quality jams, jellies and sweet spreads.

Jellies and jams can be used to make wonderful appetizers and gifts. Have you had the pleasure of trying jalapeño jelly over cream cheese or raspberry jalapeño black bean dip?

Yes, for you K-State fans, the raspberry jalapeño black bean dip is a copy-cat version of the famous dip served at So Long Saloon in Aggieville.

We will be making jalapeño jelly and raspberry-jalapeño jam. Don't worry, the jelly/jam is not hot.

We will have some of the jelly and jam made and incorporated into appetizers for you to enjoy. To finish off the evening we will play some family games to get us into the holiday spirit and add lots of laughter.

Come join us to have some fun making jelly and jam for the holidays, laughing, having a good time and getting into the holiday spirit.

Diann Gerstner is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Thomas County Extension office.

Goodland Cornhusker shown in free documentary screening

'Unbeaten: The Life of Brook Berringer,' a film on the Goodland graduate and University of Nebraska football player who was killed in a plane crash in 1996, will be shown at 2:30 p.m. (Central Time) Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 15 and 16, at the Sherman Theatre in Goodland.

clots. Berringer led the team to seven straight wins and a trip to the Orange Bowl. The Cornhuskers ended the season with an undefeated record and were national champions.

Berringer played backup quarterback for the 1995 season, in which the Huskers won a second national championship.

Two days before the 1996 NFL Draft, Berringer died in a plane crash at age 22. He had been a pilot and was at the controls when the Piper Cub went down near Raymond, Neb.

Lake, was also killed in the crash.

More than 48,000 people attended a memorial service for Berringer, which was held before a game at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Neb. A life-size statue of him was put up at the stadium in 2006, and a trophy case at the Max Jones Fieldhouse was dedicated to him.

The film uses archival footage of Berringer as well as interviews with relatives and highlights from University of Nebraska football games. It was directed by Matthew Engel and Kevin Shaw.

Seniors recognized at Rexford game

Golden Plains High School recognized the nine members of the senior class for their accomplishments before the home football game Oct. 24.

Rexford.

Rebecca Bange, daughter of Chris and Vicky Bange of Menlo.

Shania Finlay, daughter of Sandy Finlay of Colby and Cody Finlay of Deerfield.

Bradren Korte, son of Tony and Kayla Korte of Rexford.

Austin Kyte, son of Millard Kyte and Sherri Kyte of Oberlin.

Alexus Luna, daughter of Patty Luna of Rexford.

Summer grads from region

Among the students graduating from Kansas State University this summer were two from neighboring counties.

Nearly 570 students completed degree requirements from Kansas State University this summer. Degrees earned include 313 bachelor's degrees, 206 master's degrees, 52 doctorates and five associate degrees.

Former student wins award

Kyle Summers, a former student at Colby Community College, has been selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as a 2014 Coca-Cola Leader of Promise Scholar.

Selected for the program, 207 Phi Theta Kappa members have been awarded a total of \$207,000 in scholarships.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is the largest honor society in higher education. Colby sponsors are Brent Wilson and Dr. Beth Fenton.

Siblings make sweet sounds together



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Caleb Garms, 10, sang with his 19-year-old sister Leesha Garms Sunday afternoon at Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby. About 50 people stopped at the church to listen to Caleb, his five older siblings and their parents David and Kris Garms perform Southern Gospel tunes.

Expo next week in McCook

The McCook Farm and Ranch Expo will return to the Red Willow County Fairgrounds next Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 20.

There will be a free producer breakfast from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Wednesday the 19th. The show opens at 9 a.m. both days and closes at 7 p.m. the first day and 4 p.m. the second.

'It's a great place to come see the newest and latest in farming and ranching technology practices,' said Darren Dale, show owner.

Exhibitors include farm and ranch equipment, seed and chemicals, agricultural services, irrigation manufacturers, financial providers, commodity organizations, colleges, governmental services, home services, furniture and art galleries and more.

horses and desire to train them began in 4-H while he was growing up in Inola, Okla. After many years of working with challenging colts and horses, Daily has developed and perfected his own techniques.

Also, returning this year will be the Tres Rios Silver Working Ranch Horse Sale at 6 p.m. Wednesday. Come out and bid on some of the finest ranch horses in the area.

In conjunction with the sale will be an FFA benefit auction. Several area FFA chapters are participating and will auction off an item they have made in class.

The fairgrounds are in north-central McCook, near W. Fifth and O streets.

For information, contact Darren or Tana Dale at (866) 685-0989 or dales@starexpos.net or go to www.StarExpos.net.

Agreement signed by schools

Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina has signed a specialized two-plus-two agreement with Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.

and complete the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice.

With this agreement, Northwest Tech becomes the first community college partner for Kansas Wesleyan's criminal justice four-year bachelor's program.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.



Markets

Table with market prices for wheat, corn, milo, and soybeans.

Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival Presents: GOSPEL SHOW A TRIBUTE TO VETERANS Sunday, November 16 • 2 - 4:30 p.m. • Frahm Theatre

The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon A comedy by Don Zolidis 'Come and enjoy a wacky evening of twisted fairytale fun!' Presented by the Colby High School Drama Department

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Free Press Viewpoint

Pipeline proposal deserves an answer

The Obama administration has been playing games with the XL Pipeline Expansion, designed to carry Canadian and U.S. oil to Cushing, Okla., from where it could be routed to any of dozens of refineries and shipping points in Texas and Louisiana.

The administration, under great pressure from its environmentalist backers, has held the proposal up for more than six years. But while it won't approve the project, it hasn't rejected it either.

And that's no way to govern. Any applicant is entitled to a yes-or-no decision. Backers could give up the project, plan something else – or sue in federal court, hoping for a better outcome.

As it is, they're just stuck on dead center.

The pipeline needs approval, oddly enough, from the U.S. State Department, since it's an international project, and not from the Environmental Protection Agency. But State has to get approval on an environmental impact statement before it can say yes or no.

Backers already have altered their plans to avoid the "environmentally sensitive" Nebraska Sand Hills, where crusty, conservative old ranchers joined with environmentalists to oppose the plan, fearing the oil might contaminate their groundwater.

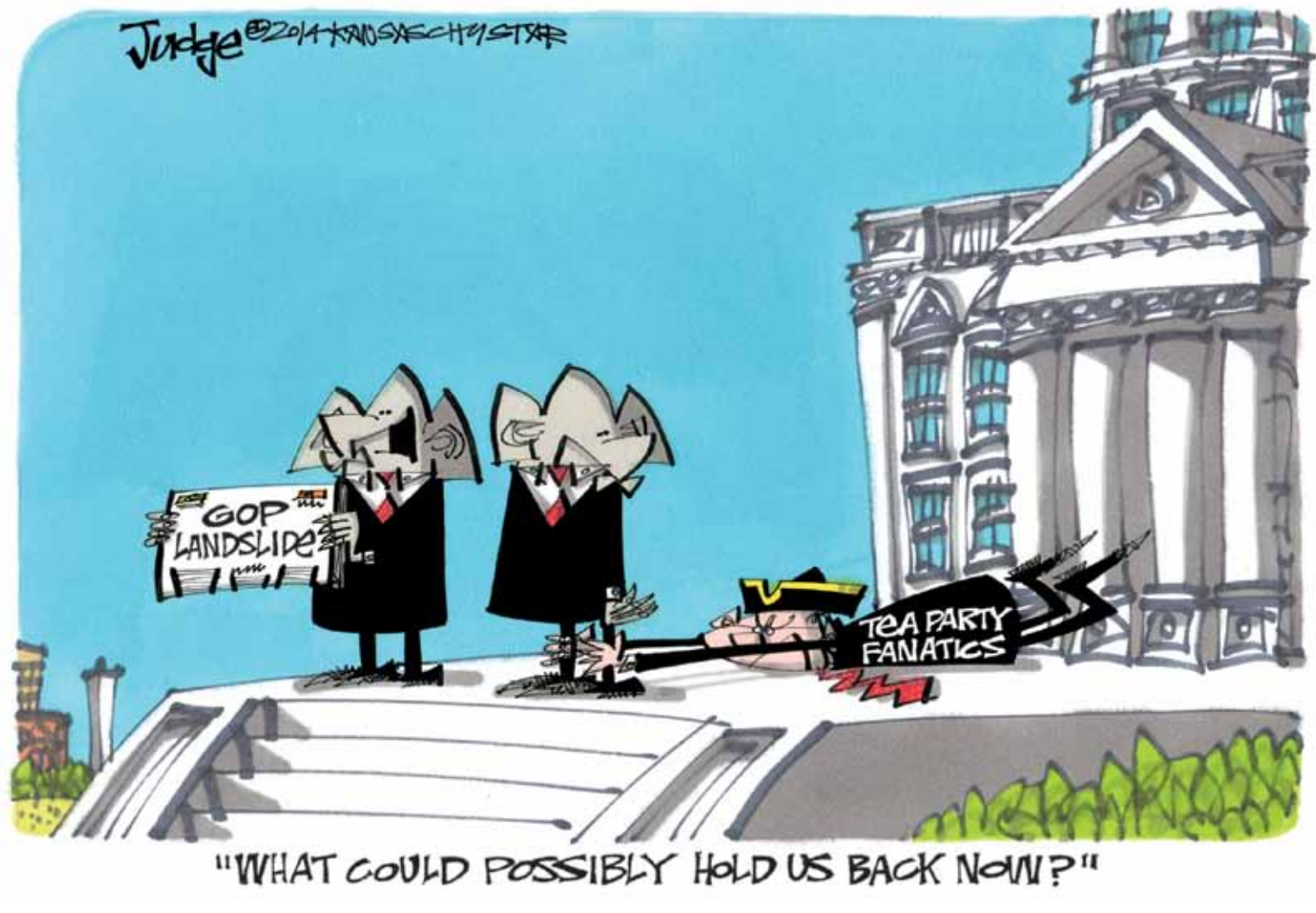
Now, however, farmers in eastern Nebraska have joined with "Farm Aid" entertainers including Willie Nelson and Neil Young to fight running the pipeline through their land.

Many enviros see the pipeline as moving "dirty oil," extracted from tar sands in northern Canada, and while there is some truth to that charge, that oil is being produced and will go somewhere, if not to Cushing and the U.S. market.

Others may want to keep the price of oil in the U.S. up to keep people's energy use down, but vastly increased U.S. production already has sent prices to lows the country hasn't seen in years. With plentiful oil and natural gas right now, there's not much chance we'll return to the "shortage" pricing of a few years ago.

The XL project may pass or fail environmental review. The courts likely will decide that. But it deserves a decision, and so do those on both sides of the fight. Rather than endless delays common in Washington, let's get the project out in the open and find out what happens next.

The U.S. could be benefitting from this oil supply, rather than China or some other distant customer in places where environmental concerns take a back seat to economic development. — *Steve Haynes*



Winter in the Rockies comes to Kansas

Ohhh. It's good to be back in Kansas, where the leaves are crunchy, the temperatures brisk and autumn is in the air.

Well, that's how I envisioned it when I left Colorado on Saturday, where the leaves are gone, the temperatures are freezing and winter is pretty much there to stay — for a long time.

I know, we complained that a freeze killed all the gardens, the leaves were clogging the gutters and we've had to bring in any house plants that we wanted to make it through the winter. But it was autumn when I left home just a few short days ago.

While a lot of the trees had dropped their leaves, and the sound of rakes had replaced lawnmowers, there are still some beautiful trees out there and the leaves were fun to walk through and wonderful to smell when they were burned.

Out in Colorado, it was 17 degrees when we arrived, and it dipped into the teens every night.

The days were gorgeous and sunny, and the mountains were beautiful with their peaks tipped with snow. But that same snow was also on the ground — not out in the open in most



Cynthia Haynes

- Open Season

places, but on rooftops, the north sides of trees and houses and on the higher roads.

We went for a walk one day on a road that wound up into the mountains. During the summer, this road is fairly busy with tourists going up to look for wildlife and see the old mine workings. In the winter, it's mostly deserted. We thought it would be a fine place to walk, since most of the trails seemed to be covered in snow.

The creek was running, not at peak flows, but like June, bank full with a tinge of mud. It must have rained and snowed over the weekend.

As we started out, the road was a little damp in spots. As we climbed higher, there were icy places, and it became downright muddy. Soon,

snow appeared beside the road, then on the road, and then we had our choice of walking in the slush or over ice-covered puddles that would probably drop your feet into six to eight inches of frigid water.

At night, the temperatures plunged into the teens, and each morning the car windows were covered with a thick layer of frost.

It didn't snow while we were there. In fact, during the day, the temperatures climbed into the 50s and 60s. But the sun set at 4:30 p.m. and the temperature started to fall. If you didn't get up at 7 in the morning, you felt like you'd lost half your daylight.

I knew winter would be coming to Kansas, but it was beautiful in both Colorado and Kansas when we came home on Sunday.

On Monday, I realized, we'd brought winter home with us. Who needs a Canadian cyclone?

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor'West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes@nwkansan.com

Write us

The Colby Free Press encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality.

COLBY FREE PRESS

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Choice cards going out to veterans

Just in time for Veterans Day, about 6,000 veterans across the Big First District will begin receiving Veteran Choice Cards in their mailboxes, thanks to bipartisan reforms I helped pass through Congress in August.

This is the first set of Choice Cards being sent by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans living more than 40 miles from one of the agency's health facility. An additional estimated 4,400 cards will be sent in mid-November to Kansas veterans who are still awaiting care after more than 30 days in the system.

Rarely do common-sense solutions to real problems enter into Washington's mindset. Yet this past spring, after news broke of the horrifying negligence, preventable veteran deaths and secret wait lists at the department's hospital and clinics, both Washington and the American people finally started paying attention to what I have been saying for years: this agency needs real reform.

As a cosponsor of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act, I was proud to see all the work I have done on the House Veterans Affairs Committee come to fruition as the president signed into law the biggest reform the agency has seen in decades.

With eight uncles who served in the Armed Forces, it is an honor for me to represent our nation's veterans and provide oversight and policy solutions to ensure they get the care they deserve and has been promised to them. Since the first committee hearing I attended, I have been amazed at the stonewalling, the



U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp

- Capitol Notes

excuses, the missed deadline and the culture of complacency condoned and encouraged by many political appointees and high-level bureaucrats.

The stories we heard coming out of the Phoenix Veterans Medical Center were only further evidence of why the department needs fundamental reform. After dozens of oversight committee hearings, finally my colleagues on the other side of the aisle understood what I had been saying for years: why don't we just give veterans the freedom to choose their own doctor and their own hospital in their home towns?

Veterans receiving the Choice Cards are eligible for care at their community hospital or physician's office, though they must call an agency hotline to confirm authorization for outside care. Within the next 90 days, all veterans who were enrolled prior to Aug. 1 or are eligible to enroll as a recently discharged combat veteran (within 5 years of separation) will receive cards. However, only those living more than 40 miles from a government health facility or waiting more than 30 days from

their preferred date of care will be authorized for outside care. The call center number to confirm eligibility is (866) 606-8196.

For too long now, the department has been more concerned with protecting its bureaucracy rather than serving our veterans. The Choice Card Program returns the focus back to where it should have been all along: the veteran and his or her family. As this law is implemented, I will continue to press the agency for accountability and ensure proper oversight of the program.

This Veterans Day let us remember to thank those that have served our country with valor. And let us hope that this Choice Card begins to correct the wrongs our own government has wrought upon our heroes.

Know that serving and representing those who have so selflessly devoted themselves to our country is an honor and responsibility I will never take for granted. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this new law, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Hutchinson office at (620) 665-6138.

Congressman Tim Huelskamp represents the 1st District of Kansas in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition to his membership on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Rep. Huelskamp serves on the Small Business Committee, the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade, the Subcommittee on Health and Technology, and the Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce.

Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774
roberts.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, 361-A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6527. Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202)

225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 136-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov

State Rep. Don Hineman, (118th District) State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 50-S, Topeka, Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7636 don.hineman@house.ks.gov

Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley



mallardfillmore.com Tinsley 11-12

Dragon monster stops Trojans again

Hutch tops Colby in Region VI finals rematch

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press
rbheadley@nwkansas.com

Carey Jones knows the Blue Dragon castle atop Region VI volleyball someday will surely fall. But on Tuesday, the crack in her voice showed how much she cared about her Colby Community College volleyball team. The Trojans powered through Butler and Barton to reach their second consecutive Region VI title match Monday afternoon. They took their best shots at home-team and reigning champion Hutchinson, even winning a set unlike last season's determined team.

Yet the powerful Blue Dragons had already rallied to win a 26-24 second-set thriller. They recovered from the one Colby victory to finish a 25-15, 26-24, 18-25, 25-20 win. "Playing the best teams in the nation (earlier this season) paid off. Because in the end, we were able to put up a really good fight," Jones said. "We missed some key serves and made a few mistakes. But we're going to get there, I'm not going to quit trying. It just takes a little bit of time."

Unfortunately, time to be Trojans ran out for All-Region VI hitter Adrianna Sosnowska and libero Danielle Rodriguez along with three other talented sophomores:

Savannah Gamble, Kamryn Forrest and Ariana Jacquez.

They leave as a class who helped Colby become Jayhawk Conference co-champions last season for the first time. Colby took second behind only Hutch again this season.

Sosnowska was sensational throughout the Region VI tournament. Her 23 kills against Hutch featured 11 alone during Colby's victorious third set — more than any Hutch opponent had delivered this season.

Besides earlier 16 and 10-kill performances, Sosnowska also averaged 16 digs in the three Region VI matches.

"Ada had perhaps the best weekend of her entire career," Jones said. "To have a double-double in ever match, to play defense like she did shows how far she has come since arriving here. She's a passionate kid who appreciates everything."

Passion also showed again in Jones while her voice began to crack.

"I'm sorry. I get emotional," she said. "It's sad to lose all of those sophomores. They've been a special group."

Libero Rodriguez made 47 digs during her final Trojan matches. Both she and Sosnowska are nursing students who will continue at four-year colleges next fall.

Meanwhile, the future always

looks bright when observing freshman Trojans like Mallory Mueller (all-Region VI honorable mention) and setter Miranda Geist among others. Mueller smashed 28 kills and Geist had 42 assists against Hutch, 110 during this tournament.

Region VI semifinals Colby 3, Butler 0

Muller's 12 kills powered the Trojans past Butler 25-21, 25-21, 25-16 earlier on Monday.

Butler had upset third-seeded Seward County to reach the semifinals, but couldn't overcome 15 Trojan ace serves.

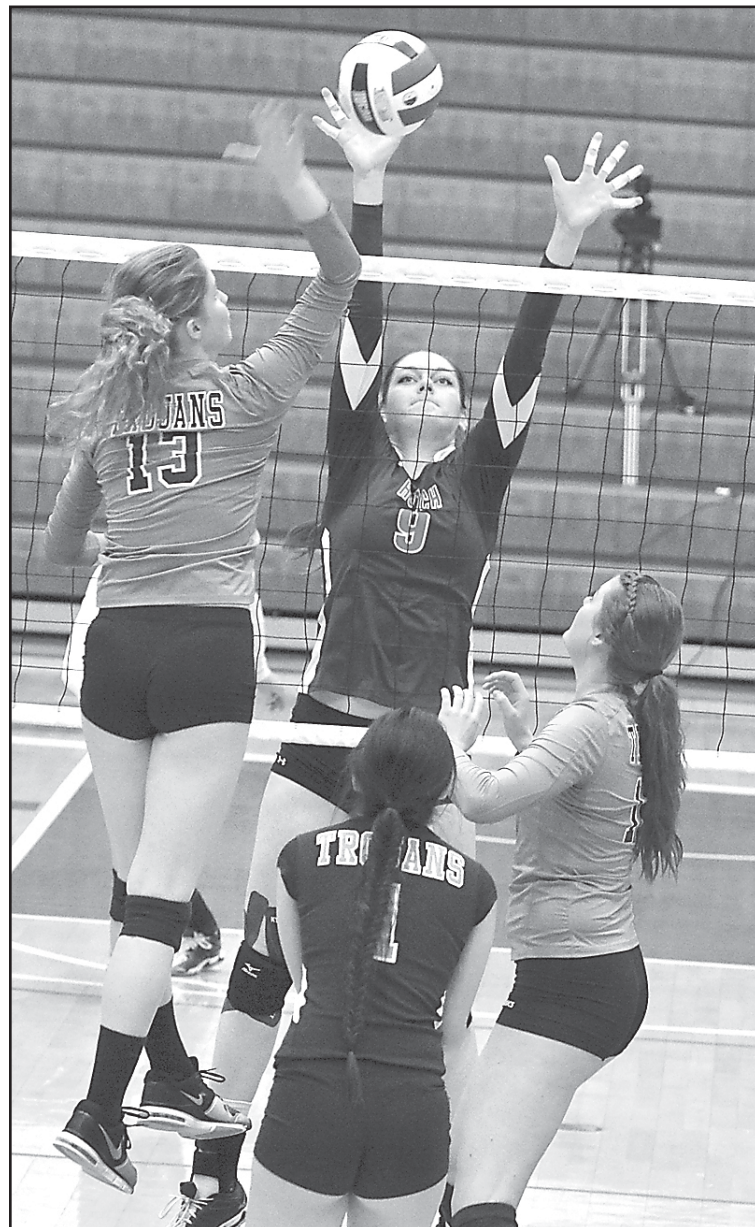
Complete Colby leaders — Kills: Muller 12, Sosnowska 10, Rebekah Pearce 7. Assists: Geist 28. Ace serves: Hillebrand 5, Pearce 4, Rodriguez 3. Digs: Rodriguez 18, Sosnowska 17, Gamble 6, Geist 6, Pearce 5. Block assists: Geist 3, Hillebrand 3.

Region VI quarterfinals Colby 3, Barton 1

The Trojans shook off a 26-24 opening defeat and took those next three sets 25-18, 25-16, 25-15.

Sosnowska crushed 16 kills to go with 18 digs.

Complete Colby leaders — Kills: Sosnowska 16, Mueller 8, Hillebrand 8, Pearce 7. Assists: Mueller 40. Ace serves: Ariana Jacquez 2. Digs: Rodriguez 22, Sosnowska 18, Geist 12, Pearce 8. Block assists: Mueller 9, Geist 3.



ANDREW CARPENTER/Hutchinson College Sports Information
Colby Community College freshman Laura Hillebrand was thinking kill past this Hutchinson Community College blocker during Monday's Region VI volleyball title match at Hutch. Freshman Miranda Geist (right) delivered the assist while all-Region VI libero Danielle Rodriguez (1) remained ready to defend.

Colby forward scores 32

The Colby Community College women's basketball team held Fort Carson to 30 percent shooting while sophomore power forward DeAndrea Williams delivered 32 points and 11 rebounds in Saturday's 84-61 victory over Fort Carson (Colo.).

Forward Amanda Miller was equally dynamic on offense or defense. She hit seven of 10 shots en route to 20 points, but also blocked five Fort Carson shots and made five steals.

Colby alum McKenna Ortner buried a trio of three-point shots

A glance at all leaders during this Ambassador Classic finale:

Colby (84) — Williams 32 points, Miller 20, Laura Dennis 11, Ortner 9, Deja Cato 7, Jada Grady 3, Audra Nowak 2. Three-pointers: Ortner 3, Dennis 3, Miller 2, Grady 1. Rebound leaders: Williams 11, Miller 9. Assists: Cato 12, Nowak 3. Steals: Miller 5, Dennis 3. Blocked shots: Miller 5.

Western Nebraska 74, Colby 56

Colby came 10 points closer to the unbeaten Ambassador champion than any of four other foes this season.

However, the No. 16 nationally-ranked Cougars took control behind Noa Talia's 19 points and a defense allowed just 26.3% shooting.

Williams went inside for another double-double (16 points/11 rebounds). Miller added 11 points while hitting two of three from beyond the arc.

A glance at all Trojan leaders:

Colby (56) — Williams 16 points, Miller 11, Dennis 9, Ortner 6, Nowak 6, Cato 4, Grady 3, Danielle Santos 2. Three-pointers: Ortner 2, Miller 2, Dennis 2, Grady 1. Rebound leaders: Williams 11, Dennis 7. Assists: Cato 4, Williams 2. Steals: four Trojans with 1. Blocked shots: Miller 2.

Eagles earn high honors

Colby High senior Jay Ziegelmeier and junior Keegan Morgan were selected to participate as members of the Mid-Kansas Preparatory shooting team at the Association of College Unions Upper Midwest Conference Championship Shotgun Bowl in Grand Island, Neb., last weekend.

The Shotgun Bowl is a collegiate competition in which high school juniors and seniors are invited to participate.

Colby's Ziegelmeier and Morgan were asked to join by Tom Binyon, coach for the Wichita State University shooting sports team.

They shot sporting clays, skeet and trap.

Ziegelmeier placed third in sporting clays and Morgan placed third in trap.

Morgan was also selected to participate in a shoot off for a National Rifle Association \$500 scholarship against 11 other shooters. He won this shoot off.

The Colby duo's team was overall high points team for the high school division.

Ziegelmeier finished second high individually and Morgan was third. There were 26 individuals and five teams that participated.

Both Colby Eagles are looking forward to traveling to San Antonio, Texas in February where they will participate again.



Colby High School

Colby High junior Keegan Morgan (left) and senior Jay Ziegelmeier display their awards earned during the recent Midwest Conference Championship Shotgun Bowl.

Ducks, Frogs leap in football rankings

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Oregon jumped from No. 4 to No. 2 in the newest College Football Playoff Top 25, leapfrogging unbeaten and defending national champion Florida State.

The Ducks earned another quality win this past Saturday, beating Utah by 24 points on Utah's field. Florida State, meanwhile, beat Virginia at home by 14 points.

Mississippi State remains No. 1, while TCU leaped to No. 4 over Alabama for that Final Four playoff spot. Meanwhile, Kansas State dropped to No. 13 after a loss against TCU Saturday night.

Alabama holds No. 5 just ahead of one-loss contenders Arizona State, Ohio State and Baylor. All three of those teams scored big wins over ranked foes last weekend.

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Rattlers trip Trojans

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press
rbheadley@nwkansan.com

Eight straight road games look-really good if they include stops at Miami Beach (not Miami, Okla.), maybe the Bahamas or even Bangor, Maine; where it's a balmy 54 degrees today.

None of those places are found on Colby Community College men's basketball schedule — and coach Rusty Grafel seemed happy about that fact.

Comfort is the farthest thing from coach's mind after a 68-60 home loss to Otero (Colo.) Junior-College Tuesday evening.

"We're just not good enough right now. We've won some games (4-2 record overall), but we're not playing with the right toughness and it showed tonight," Grafel said. "Road games is where you find the true identity of a team. They're going to have to play twice as hard away from home to get wins. It's not ideal for anyone, but it might be just what we need to get things rolling in the right direction when (Jayhawk) conference games begin."

The Trojans started hot Tuesday night, blazing ahead 20-10 in less than 10 minutes. Freshman guard Brian Starr sent a pair of three-point sizzlers through that Colby Community Building net.

Colby maintained a narrow 32-30 lead into halftime which clearly frustrated Otero Rattlers coach Houston Reed, who released some "venom" while returning after the break.

"We (stink)," was the sum of Reed's remark. "We had 10 turnovers and they (Colby) weren't even pressuring us much."

Otero (4-2 record) did improve its odor after halftime and — unfortunately like about everything on Tuesday — Colby's cool start gradually went ice cold.

The Trojans hit just 26 percent of their second-half shots and struggled to 22 turnovers.

Colby still kept pace for several



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Freshman Khyree Wooten took a tumble over this Otero (Colo.) defender and the ball went flying during Colby Community College's home game Tuesday evening. Charging was called.

minutes. Top scoring Bruce Watkins Jr., finished a fast-break layup to bring Colby within 43-41.

Moments later, 6'10" freshman Ahmed Ismail made a strong spin move to the hoop and scored. The Trojans still just trailed 45-43.

However, the Rattlers suddenly struck for a crucial 12-3 run that made it 57-46.

"We weren't getting good shots and we got stagnant. Some of our guys have a scoring mentality, but we didn't play enough team basketball on the offensive end," Grafel said. "That carried over in our body language to the defensive side. We stopped getting rebounds and doing what we needed to do."

The Trojans got a quick spark

when sophomore Joey Meyer hustled and saved an errant pass. He flipped it back beautifully to freshman Khyree Wooten for a finishing layup.

Yet Colby never got closer than eight down the home stretch.

"I want to be really sad and really mad," Grafel concluded. "But what happened tonight is easily correctable. We're capable of being a real good team."

The Trojans' road games begin at Colorado Christian University's JV team Friday night and Air Force Prep Saturday afternoon.

Colby's unofficial scoring summary on Tuesday: Williams 15, Wooten 14, Starr 12, Ismail 7, Layton Leydig 6, Meyer 5, James Yarnton 1.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
It was full-speed pressure all game as both Colby Community College and visiting Lamar (Colo.) College topped 100 points at the Colby Community Building Tuesday evening. Sophomore guard Jada Grady (4) eluded two Loper defenders on this play. Other Trojans (from left) are freshman Jetta Smith (25), freshman Audra Nowak and sophomore Deja Cato.

Lopers dash to 112-103 win

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press
rbheadley@nwkansan.com

Lamar (Colo.) College's frenetic "fresh five" approach Tuesday night inspired Antowin Edwards to consider a new strategy of never seeing these Lopers again.

At least during the regular season.

"They won't be on the schedule next year," the Colby Community College women's basketball coach said after a combined 75 turnovers, 215 points and who-knows how many Lamar hockey-style-line changes added up to a 112-103 defeat.

Every few minutes during another stoppage in play, Lamar coach Tom Sutherland would send five fresh new and mostly speedy Lopers into the fray.

No fewer than five Loper guards are listed at 5'5" or shorter. They fired up many of Lamar's 61 three-point attempts on Tuesday.

Yet they've also allowed 101.1 points through seven games, and Colby's deep rotation of young talent built a 54-47 halftime lead.

Sophomore Deandra "Dee Dee" Williams began another delightfully dominant performance with 28 points and 21 rebounds.

Menahile, freshman guard Audra Nowak was often outrunning the tiny Lopers en route to her season-best 25 points.

Classmate Kylie Minish from Castle Rock, Colo., also enjoyed taking on several shorter foes from her home state. She sent a season-best 10 points through the nets.

"Overall, I was pleased with the team. It was a different style

of basketball we were forced to play," Edwards observed. "But when we were aggressive in the first half, we had them back on their heels."

Unfortunately, momentum moved to Lamar (3-4 record) during the second half and those Loperspulled away late.

The Trojans slipped to 3-2 overall while leaving Edwards feeling like there wasn't a lot of benefit to this non-conference game.

"Our kids will be so tired, we won't get a lot done in practice today," he said. "We won't see anyone play that style again this season, and that's good."

Colby's unofficial scoring summary: Williams 28 points, Nowak 25, Laura Dennis 16, Minish 10, Jada Grady 10, Deja Cato 6, Karly Kriss 3, Danielle Santos 3, Amanda Miller 2.

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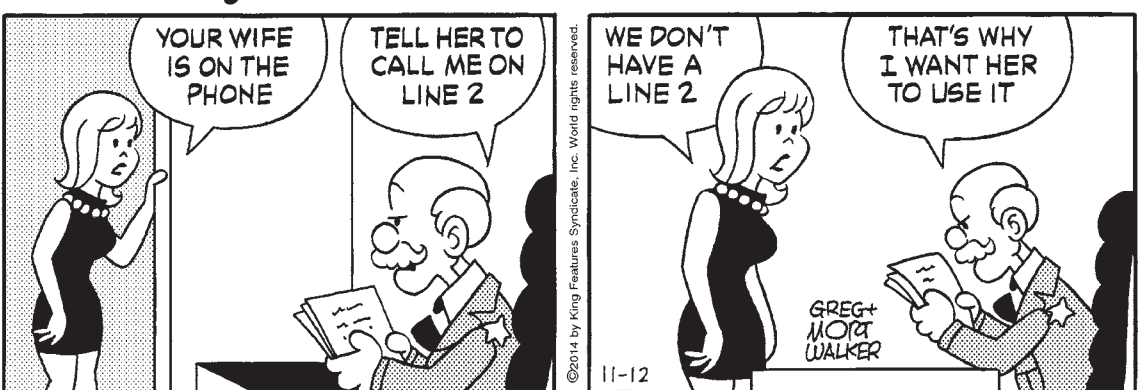


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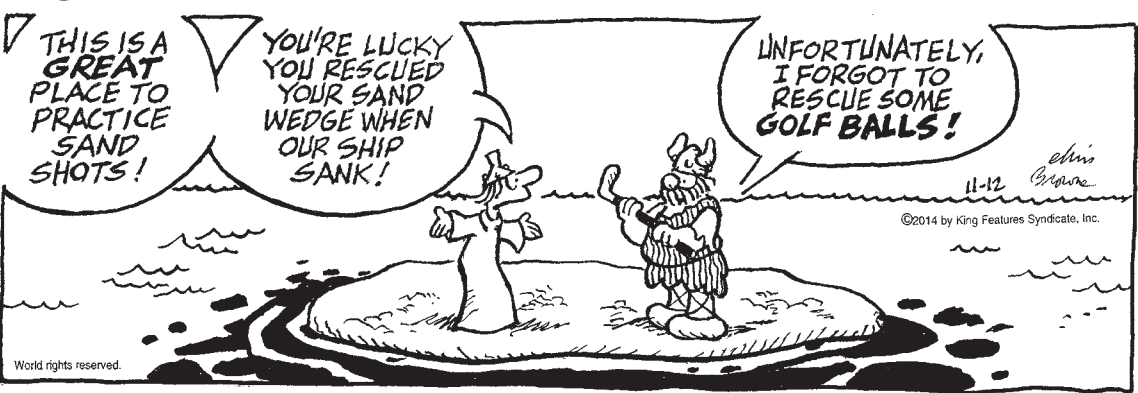
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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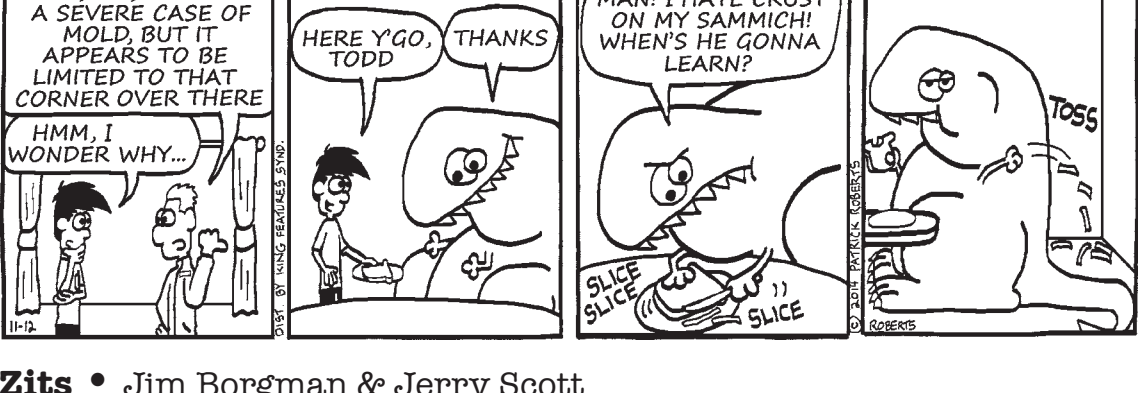
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



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Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Crush 'rocks' of onion powder

Dear Heloise: I buy the large onion-powder spice for quick recipes. Over time, however, the onion powder clumps together into rocklike balls and won't flow out of the container. I can't afford to throw away the "rocks," so how do I get them back to powder form? - D.G., Metairie, La.

The only hint is to crush them! Use a large spoon or even a serving fork to break up the lumps. The quality of the spice may not be exactly the same as when it was new. Moisture got into the container, causing the clumps. To prevent this, don't sprinkle over a steaming pot of soup or use a damp utensil to dip into the container. - Heloise

DICED TOMATOES

Dear Heloise: I keep a can or two of diced tomatoes on hand. When I want a salad but have no fresh tomatoes, I open a can of diced tomatoes. I drain off all the liquid and mix the tomatoes with my leafy salad items. It brightens up the dish and adds a zesty flavor. - Joe C., Clemson, S.C.

Hey, Joe, have you been looking in my pantry? I do the very same, and it's a quick fix when there are no fresh tomatoes in the basket. Tasty, too! There are certain staples that need to be in the pantry, and diced tomatoes are one of them! Added to soups, salads and pasta and casserole dishes, they come in handy on many nights! With cooler nights on the way, my Heloise's Spectacular Soups pamphlet can give you some great ideas for dinner! To order one, please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (70 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soups, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Keep rice, noodles, barley and macaroni in the pantry to add to broths for a hearty meal! - Heloise

IDENTIFYING EGGS

Dear Heloise: You mentioned coloring the water when hard-boiling eggs to identify them. I've always marked the shells with an "H" (for hard-boiled) in pencil before I refrigerate them.

We all burst out laughing when my visiting great-granddaughter opened the refrigerator door, turned to us with a puzzled expression and said, "Somebody's been writing on the eggs!" I think of her every time I make a batch now! - John in Florida

CARDBOARD PIZZA HOLDERS

Dear Readers: What to do with the circular cardboard the frozen pizza comes on? Don't toss it - make it into something else. Cover with aluminum foil and use to put cookies, pastry or a cake on when taking the goodies to a potluck, etc. Nothing to worry about returning. - Heloise

APPLE PEELS

Dear Heloise: When my significant other makes an apple pie, she saves the peelings for me. They are great snack items, even hours later and if some are a little brown. I can eat several apples' worth and feel moderately full. And it is the healthiest part of the apple! - Tom S., Colorado Springs, Colo.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ 8 6, ♥ 6 5 4 2, ♦ J 10 5, ♣ K 8 4 3. WEST: ♠ K 7 2, ♥ 9 3, ♦ Q 9 8 4 2, ♣ 9 6 5. EAST: ♠ Q 10 9 5, ♥ Q J 10 8, ♦ 7, ♣ J 10 7 2. SOUTH: ♠ A J 4 3, ♥ A K 7, ♦ A K 6 3, ♣ A Q.

The bidding: South 3 NT, West Pass, North Pass, East Pass. Opening lead - four of diamonds.

Look Before You Leap

Three notrump looks so easy to make on today's deal - especially after an opening diamond lead - that the casual player might well ask "What's the problem?" Yet it contains a trap that would very likely snare many unsuspecting declarers.

After the diamond lead, South pauses briefly to count his winners and sees nine in plain view - one spade, two hearts, three diamonds and three clubs. Having made this determination, he puts up dummy's jack of diamonds, which holds, and cashes the A-Q of clubs.

It is at this point that South begins to realize that his initial assessment of his prospects might have been premature. The difficulty lies in the fact that although dummy's king of clubs is the game-going trick, there is no way to reach dummy to collect it.

Try as he might, South will find himself fighting a losing battle. If, for example, he tries to get to dummy by leading his remaining low diamond toward the 10-5, West takes the queen, leaving South with the lone A-K opposite the 10.

The solution is not really difficult, provided declarer negotiates the first hurdle. Before he plays to the opening trick, he should note the blockage in the club suit and take immediate steps to unravel the situation.

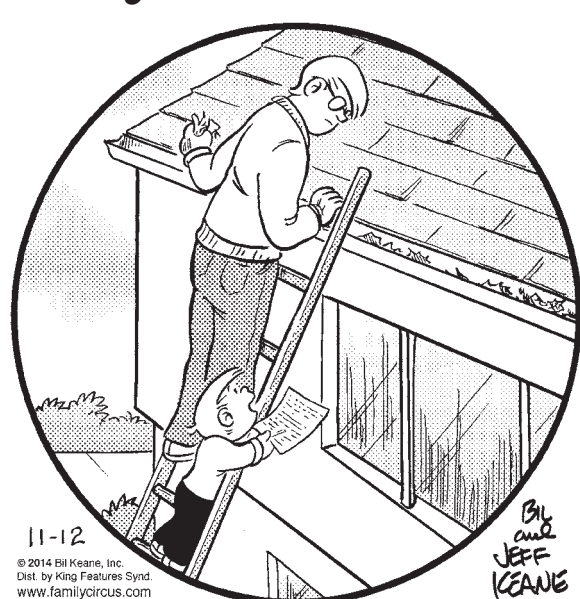
This can be done easily by playing the five of diamonds from dummy rather than the jack or ten. East's seven is taken with the king, and the A-Q of clubs are cashed. South then leads a low diamond toward the J-10.

West can take his queen now or later, but the result is the same in either case. Nine tricks are assured, regardless of what the defenders do.

What the deal points up is that the impulse to play high from dummy at trick one must be curbed until the hand is examined as a whole. In other words, look before you leap!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Daddy, can you check the spelling on this homework?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

9x9 Conceptis Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 5, 8, 4, 1, 9, 7, 6, 8, 5, 2, 3, 4, 8, 6, 8, 4, 5, 7, 4, 1, 2, 5, 3, 6, 9, 6, 3, 9, 4, 8, 7, 1, 5, 2, 2, 5, 1, 9, 3, 6, 7, 8, 4.

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/12

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 in a specific pattern.

Cryptoquip

RPFR AURRAD WUL YFO PFEUBZ

EDHX GUZ CHVGADQO YURP

PUO BDY NVQCTRDH, OV PD

NFAADL RXWD OTCCVHR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I AM AN AMAZINGLY CHEERFUL GUY. AT STORES, I'M USUALLY OFFERED THE SUNNIER CITIZENS' DISCOUNT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-41.

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