



COLBY FREE PRESS

6 pages

Money concerns are agreed upon by college board

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

After a series of closed sessions totaling an hour and 10 minutes to discuss contract/salary considerations for non-unit employees, the Colby Community College Board of Trustees came to an agreement Monday night.

They decided to raise support and classified staff for a dollar amount of \$12,650 to be distributed among classified and support staff; to raise the classified staff 3.85 percent; to give the deans a 2 percent raise; and to give the president of the college a raise of \$3,310 per year.

The total benefits package comes to approximately \$71,200. They will pay \$280 towards single or family health coverage for the next fiscal year.

The salary of President Mikel Ary this next year will be \$89,277, an increase over his present salary of \$85,967. Prior to approving the increase, Dr. Ary pointed out that the median salary for community colleges in Kansas is \$91,747, which put him \$6,000 below the median without the increase. He is third in the longest tenure in the state, and his salary is fifth from the bottom.

In other business:

- The board presented a plaque to Chuck Moore for his service as a trustee. He is going off the board.
- The board signed an agreement with Southwestern Bell for Internet access for the college. Southwestern

Bell bid \$14,388 per year to provide a full T1 line to the college. The board's attorney, Dave Starkey, had reviewed the proposed contract which was presented at the June 4 meeting and brought it back for the board's approval. It will be effective for three years, beginning in July.

- Ary said he had received a suggestion that since the Bedker Memorial Building had been named for a donor who donated \$650,000, the Ag Building might be renamed the Carr Ag Building, since the Carr estate had donated \$1 million to the college. He said this was just a suggestion, but he will come back with more specifics at the next board meeting.

- The board approved 'with regret' resignations from Sue and Gary Webb. Mr. Webb was with the horse production program and had begun the competitive horse team. Mrs. Webb had done statistical work and reports, according to Ary. Mr. Webb has a contract at Southwest Missouri State College in Springfield, Mo.

- Ary said the addition to Living Center North, the men's dormitory, is proceeding. Work is to be completed before school starts in August.

- He said Aug. 10 is the completion date set for the murals in the Bedker Building that Kenneth Mitchell is painting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is at 5 p.m. Monday, July 2. The meeting is open to the public.

Jump! Jump!



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Clayton Rubio, Mikayla Lobato and Tess Kryzcki found something more interesting than the games at the Colby recreation fields on Monday

night. The trio was captivated by a frog and seemed oblivious to the games around them.

County commissioners hear budget requests

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners heard budget requests for 2002 at their Monday afternoon meeting at the courthouse. The Thomas County Extension Office and the Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council made their requests.

Commission Chair Ron Evans said the governing board expects the valuation of the county to be up a little this year, which will provide a little more money at the same mill levy, but this is purely speculative, and will not be known until the final figures are in.

Peg Tole, Extension executive board chairwoman, said they are asking for a small increase. They propose to increase salaries 3 percent, are increasing the equipment fund in hopes of getting a better vehicle for transporting youth, and increased capital outlay. Total increase of their proposed budget is 3.5 percent. Kansas State University pays a portion of the expenses of the Extension office, and the county pays part.

Reba White, area Extension director, said she would file the proposed budget, and then when the actual figures are in, and signatures obtained, she will then send it in.

Nina Carpenter, executive director of alcohol and drug abuse council, said

they were asking for the same amount of money as contained in the current budget. On July 15, the council will be moving into an office at 1525 West Fourth Street, where they will have a much larger building. "We are looking forward to providing a more adequate facility for our clients," she said.

Reporting on the council's activities, Carpenter said from June 1, 2000 to May 31, 2001, 83 alcohol and other drug evaluations were done at the Thomas County location. Seventy-eight clients participated in treatment programs, 15 consultations were made and 50 persons attended the alcohol and other drug information school.

Thirty-nine percent of the evaluations were DUT's; 30 percent were referrals from probation, community correction or directly from the courts; ten percent were detox evaluations; and the remainder were referrals from family, self, mental health and physicians.

The clients admitted for treatment programs participated in 12-week sessions, continuing care group, individual sessions, family therapy and education groups, according to Carpenter. She said they are providing group counseling four times weekly. Forty-six percent were referred from the judicial system, 35 percent were family or self referrals and the remain-

der were from physicians, mental health, treatment programs, and SRS, she pointed out. Thirty-three completed their treatment programs, 23 left without completing and 22 are still in treatment. Forty-five percent were state funded, and 55 percent were insurance or self pay, she said.

State funded clients must meet the state criteria which follows federal poverty guidelines, according to Carpenter. The alcohol and drug abuse council is reimbursed by the state for services provided within a monthly cap. They contract annually with the state to provide managed care services, and they also have a sliding fee scale for those in need but who do not meet state criteria. They do not turn anyone away due to inability to pay, according to Carpenter.

In other business at the meeting:

- The county formally notified the city of Colby of their intention to build a gravel road south of I-70 on the Ross Rodenbeck property, south of City Limits, to connect the east I-70 interchange and a new asphalt road to be constructed by the city with Highway 25. They approved a letter to the city, saying, "Once the Ross Rodenbeck property has been surveyed and platted and the 100-foot tract of ground at the end of the City road on Horton Avenue to Country Club Drive has been

dedicated to the public. The County Commissioners will then build a gravel road from Horton Avenue to the east to connect to Country Club Drive."

- Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, brought his employees, Wes Rummel and Daryl Arnberger to the meeting, and introduced Arnberger who had just started working at the landfill.

The commissioners complimented the crew on the new haul road they are constructing to the site of new pits to be constructed. Jumper said they would need some millings on the road on the north side of the property, and he plans to make a gravel road on the south side. He said the price of metal is depressed, and he has some metal out there which would cost \$2,200 to get rid of. The commissioners said to contact the state and see if he could use the metal to fill the old pit without counting it towards the 20 tons per day average necessary to keep the landfill open.

The commissioners want to be ready to close the existing pits and open the new ones in case the monitoring well should show contamination. No one knows exactly what was put into the landfill before it was regulated as it is today.

Jumper said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment had done a routine landfill inspection June 12 and found no violations.

Mattson's condition 'extremely critical'

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A young Colby man's condition

following a fall into a grain bin last Thursday night is "extremely critical and the outlook doubtful," according to a report from his parents, Herb and Brenda Mattson today.

JR Mattson

JR Mattson, 22, was flown to Swedish Hospital in Englewood, Colo., after being transported by the Thomas County Emergency Medical Services to Citizens Medical Center shortly after the incident.

The accident, officials said, occurred when JR, along with his brothers, were in the midst of repairing a grain bin and during that process he fell.

The mishap occurred at the family-run business, Mattson Farms'

Custom Seed Cleaning, six miles west of Colby on Highway 24.

Hospital officials said that at this point the Mattsons wanted to let people in Colby and the area know how thankful they were for all the thoughts and prayers they received.

Anyone interested in sending a message to the family can either use the hospital's website or send cards through the mail. The website is: www.swedishhospital.com and hospital officials said that once at the site messages can be delivered to JR's family by going to "patient e-mail service," which is the fifth choice down from the top, open the information page, and where it asks for room number, type in "critical care."

E-mail messages are delivered to the family from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, a hospital spokesperson said.

All other communications can be mailed to: Swedish Hospital, 501 E. Hampden Ave., Englewood, Colo., 80110. Officials said no flowers will be accepted in the critical care unit.

JR graduated from Colby High School in 1998.

Wyandotte Nation files suit over 1,920 acres in Kansas City

KANSAS CITY (AP)—The Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma acknowledges giving up much of its Kansas territory to the U.S. government in 1855, when it agreed to relocate to a reservation in northeast Oklahoma.

But in a federal lawsuit filed Monday, the tribe claims it never ceded three tracts along the Missouri River in what would become Wyandotte County.

Those tracts, totaling 1,920 acres, cover much of what is now the Fairfax Industrial District and other prime commercial land in northeast Kansas City, Kan. Also on the land are the sprawling plant sites of the General Motors Corp.'s Fairfax assembly unit, the Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corp. and International Paper Co.

The tribe wants the land back, along with monetary damages.

"The government made the mistake," said Robert W. Pohl, an Overland Park attorney for the Wyandotte Nation.

"They gave land to settlers that they didn't have the right to give. That's the bottom line."

The tribe, based in Wyandotte, Okla., is suing all parties currently claiming ownership of the land, Pohl said.

The list of defendants includes the Unified Government of Kansas City, Kan., and Wyandotte County, and the three national corporations. The lawsuit also names as defendants the federal government and unnamed hundreds of other owners of land in the disputed area.

"Our title is superior to any title currently purported to be in effect," Chief Leaford Bearskin, elected leader of the

3,900-member tribe, said in a written statement.

Pohl said it was in researching the tribe's rights regarding a cemetery in the city that the Wyandotte Nation discovered the two treaties.

Under the 1848 treaty, the tribe acquired nearly 39 sections of land at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers from the Delaware Tribe. Thirty-six of those sections, or 23,000 acres,

were purchased. The other three sections, or 1,920 acres, were gifts.

The 1855 treaty ceded most of the land to the federal government. The tribe kept four parcels: the site of two churches, four acres along the Kansas River and the Huron Cemetery.

The lawsuit filed Monday, however, claims that the tribe also did not give up the three sections that were gifts from the Delawares.

Briefly

Weather: Back to warmer

A gradual warming trend will mark the remainder of this week's weather for the Colby area, according to the National Weather Service. Tonight, cloudy, a 40 percent chance for thunderstorms, low 50-55 and east winds 5-15 mph. Wednesday, cloudy, a 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, high near 75 and east winds 10-20 mph. Wednesday night, cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, low 50-55.

Thursday, partly sunny, dry, the high right around the 80-degree mark. Colby's high Monday was 104 and the over-

night low this morning was 55. That 104 was not a record, as the record high for June 18 was 107 set in 1936. Monday's thunderstorm produced 0.04 inches of rain, bringing the month's total to date to 0.41 inches.

The records for June 19: 105 in 1988 and 39 in 1985. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Navy band comes to Colby

The U.S. Navy Ceremonial Band is back in the Great

Race and race director Tom McCrae couldn't be happier. "There is nothing quite like seeing and hearing the U.S. Navy Band round the corner onto the specially decorated main streets of our host towns and come marching through the History Channel Great Race gate," said McCrae.

Colby will be a lunch and fuel stop for the race, a precision event featuring pre-1951 cars along with sports and specialty cars from the 1960s. The band was out of the race for the last four years because of budget cuts in the Navy's recruiting program.

Great racers came up with \$50,000 of their own money,

according to McCrae, to get the band back in the race.

The band will open the show at 11:15 a.m. Friday with a 10-12 minute performance, followed by the National Anthem sung by a Navy singer.

Taxes due Wednesday

Thomas County Treasurer Donita Applebury said today that the second half of the 2000 property taxes are due in the treasurer's office by Wednesday.

For information or questions, call Applebury at the treasurer's office, 462-4520.

