



# COLBY FREE PRESS

Two sections  
26 pages

## County budget could contain pay hikes

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners have tentatively decided to budget a 2.5 percent pay raise for county employees next year. That tentative decision to raise salaries came following two special meetings, Monday and Wednesday, dealing with crafting a proposed budget. They are continuing work on the budget today.

The commissioners said they think the mill levy will be around 30 mills, hopefully less, of which 1 mill is for the landfill.

"This budget is not set in stone," said commission chair Ron Evans, who added, "last year's mill levy was 27.970."

Part of the proposed mill levy increase, commissioners said, is because of the cost of operating the landfill, and part is because of rising costs of everything.

The valuation of Thomas County is \$71,174,247, up from \$68,253,874 last year.

The increased valuation means they could decrease the mill levy to generate the same amount of money as last year, or keep the mill levy the same to have more money for county services this year.

They are taking into account the budgets submitted by the various departments, and requirements of the departments, to try to meet the needs of the county while keeping within the amount of money available.

Budget amounts under consideration Wednesday were as follows (however they may be



Ron Evans

changed in the final budget): They tentatively allotted \$40,145 for the county commissioners; \$80,159 for the county clerk; \$89,228 for the county treasurer; \$76,865 for the county attorney; \$53,318 for the register of deeds; \$362,585 for the sheriff; \$125,852 for the court; \$284,800 for the general fund; \$23,202 for the custodian; \$134,887 for the jail; \$81,825 for the appraiser; \$23,229 for Civil Defense (John Lygeros, director); \$3,500 for the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (Bob McLemore, director); \$35,900 for the Thomas County Office Complex; \$20,000 miscellaneous; and \$50,000 for Economic Development. The amounts generally cover salaries and expenses.

Some of the department budgets will remain the same, but the commissioners hope to be able to give raises, and to put money in for certain

services, such as emergency management and recycling.

The commissioners said the court budget went up because of computers and mileage, the jail budget went up due to salaries, Civil Defense includes \$12,450 capital outlay for upgrading emergency preparedness by moving the command center into the Thomas County Office Complex, and the Thomas County Office Complex budget went up because of the increased cost of cleaning supplies.

This the first year the county has operated the landfill, having taken over from the city on Jan. 1. The commissioners are still learning about how much money it will take. More money will be needed this year because they will be opening a new cell at the landfill, and closing the old cell because a monitoring well has found slight contamination, the commissioners said.

The commissioners would also like to budget more money for recycling which keeps waste out of the landfill, and will help keep the Thomas County landfill open longer.

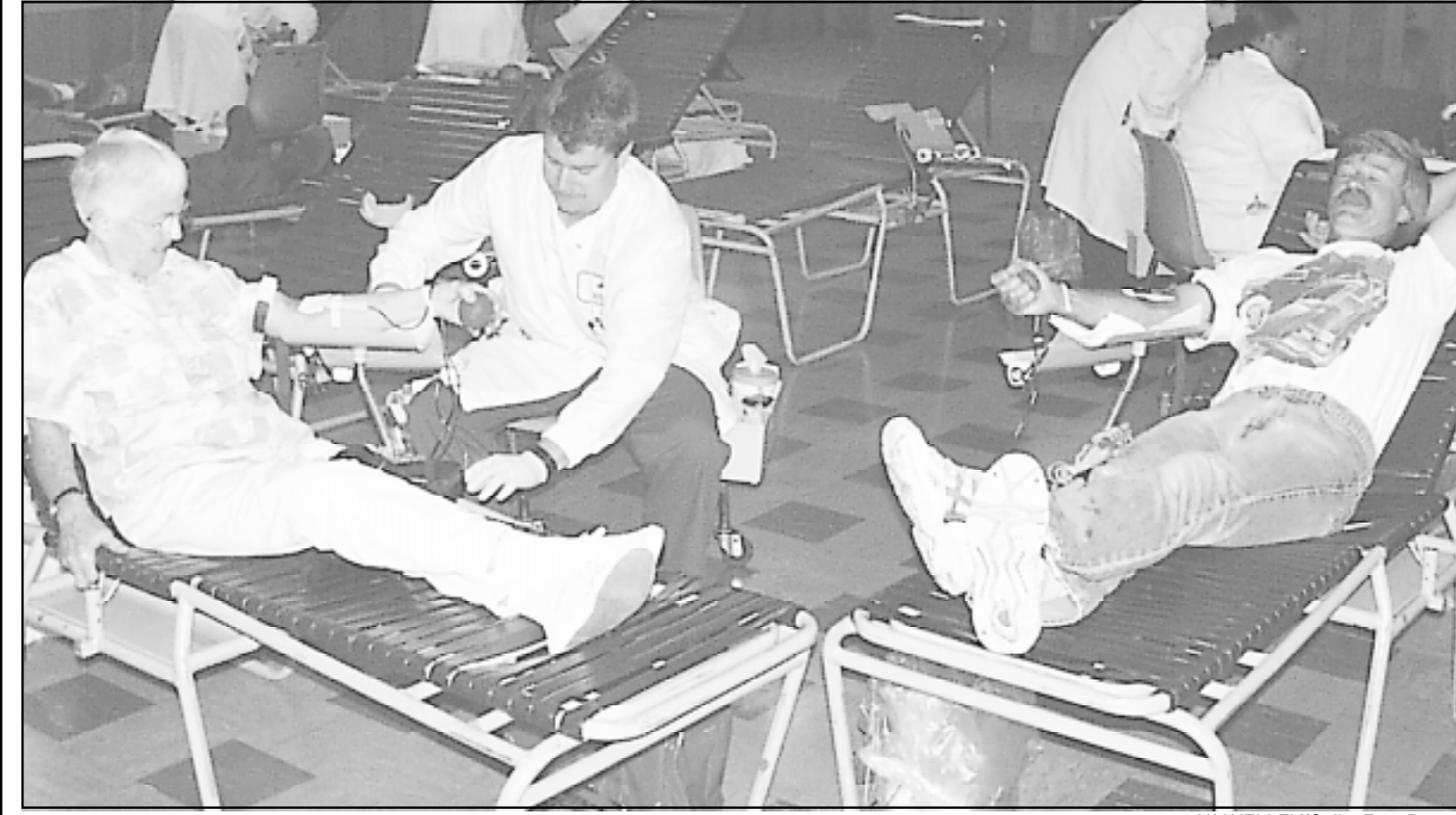
Evans said the county has three sources of revenue which are variable and not set in stone when making a budget.

The first is what the county collects in taxes, the second is sales tax and the third is interest on idle funds.

The commissioners said they have been very conservative in the past in estimating the interest on idle funds, but decided to raise the estimate this year which could save the taxpayers approximately 2/3 of a mill. They are projecting \$175,000 interest on idle funds, up \$45,000 from last year.

The budget's tentative publication date in the Colby Free Press is Aug. 3.

### Giving the gift of life



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Edith Taylor, left, and Dick Dempewolf were among the first to stop at the American Legion for the Red Cross Blood Drive today in Colby.

According to officials, the drive had 33 people donate in the first hour with the goal of 120 pints today.

## Free college tuition program already showing effects

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Enrollment is currently underway for fall classes at Colby Community College, and graduates from any of the high schools in Thomas County (Colby, Brewster or Golden Plains) or residents of the county for the past three years, are eligible to receive free tuition, according to information from the college.

Classes begin on Tuesday, Aug. 21, said Melinda Fikan in the admissions office, and anyone needing a schedule or assistance with the enrollment process is encouraged to call.

"There has been a dramatic increase so far in the number of Thomas County graduates who are enrolled this fall," said Debbie Schwanke, public information officer, "and I think we will be seeing more before classes begin next month."

In reviewing the requirements for the free tuition, Fikan said, students must enroll in a minimum of six credit

hours per semester, successfully maintain a 2.0 grade point average each semester to continue receiving the grant and be responsible for paying books and fees.

"Typically," Fikan said today, "people think that the majority of our students are traditional 18- or 19-year-olds, but in reality the average age for students at Colby College is between 25 and 30."

For non-traditional students, meaning those who haven't been in school for awhile, Fikan suggested they schedule an appointment with the admissions office on campus and consider a field of study that could be of interest to them.

"Once someone makes the commitment to continue their education," she said, "the remaining process is simple."

For information or to speak with an admissions counselor, call toll free 1-888-634-9350, ext. 690 or (785) 462-4690.

## Private polygraph asked Condit four questions about Levy, source says

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lie detector test given to Rep. Gary Condit asked just four questions about missing intern Chandra Levy and none about a flight attendant's allegations that the congressman tried to persuade her to sign a false affidavit, according to people who have seen the polygraph results.

Three individuals who saw the results since they were turned over to police said the former FBI lie-detector test expert who administered it did not directly ask the congressman if he had an affair with the missing former federal intern.

The test did ask another question

designed to get at the issue, according to the sources, who spoke to The Associated Press only on condition of anonymity.

"Has Chandra Levy ever been to your residence in Washington?" the polygrapher asked, according to the sources. Condit answered "yes," and the polygrapher concluded he was truthful, the sources said.

Condit, D-Calif., acknowledged an affair with Levy in his third interview with police, according to a police source. He took the lie-detector arranged by his lawyers a few days later. Since Condit took the test, police have openly questioned its validity.

The expert who conducted it, former FBI agent Barry D. Colvert, concluded Condit was not deceptive on any of the 10 questions, the sources said. And a separate computer calculation conducted after the test concluded the chances of his lying were less a hundredth of one percent.

Police say Condit is not a suspect in Levy's disappearance. Federal authorities are separately looking into whether the congressman engaged in obstruction of justice or encouraged perjury since Levy disappeared May 1.

Federal authorities are investigating whether Condit or his representatives pressed various people in Washington

or California not to cooperate with authorities.

Levy, 24, of Modesto, Calif., was in Washington for an internship with the federal bureau of prisons.

Washington police have publicly suggested the private polygraph was inadequate because it was administered on behalf of Condit's lawyers. Police are pressing for a fourth interview with Condit and a second lie-detector test, this one conducted by authorities.

"Our point all along is that it can't be validated because none of our professionals were there," Executive Assistant Police Chief Terrance Gainer said

Wednesday. He declined to discuss the actual results, saying he had never seen the polygraph.

The sources said the FBI and police detectives interviewed Colvert for more than an hour late last week about the questions he chose and his assessment of Condit's credibility.

Since that interview, local police have pressed for another interview and polygraph, while FBI agents have enlisted Condit's help in creating a profile of Levy that could help identify others who might have harmed her or places she might have gone when she disappeared. Abbe Lowell, Condit's attorney, said earlier this month that

Condit took the polygraph and answered "no" to three questions:

—Did the congressman have anything at all to do with Levy's disappearance?

—Did he harm her or cause anyone else to harm her in any way?

—Does he know where she can be located?

The question about visits to his apartment was the only other question on the test about Levy, the sources said. The other six questions, the sources said, involved more generic issues designed to provide the polygrapher with a baseline to determine Condit's credibility.

## Pre-registration deadline Friday for kids workshop

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Conservation District will again be hosting free environmental workshops for children at the Thomas County Fair from Tuesday through Friday, July 31-Aug. 3.

According to Lynette Koon, district director, the workshops, to be held at the district's fair booth in the commercial building on the fairgrounds, have been a popular attraction the last eight years.

In fact, Koon said the program was so popular that the district was encouraging pre-registering to ensure a place and limiting each child to one workshop.

"Children wishing to attend more than one workshop may do so if room is available after the pre-registration deadline," said Koon. The deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. To pre-register, call 462-7482, ext. 39. The workshops will be geared to specific ages groups. "We are offering eight workshops for kids

4-6, 7-9 and 10-12," said Koon. Each two hour session will focus on a different environmental topic. Soil, water, plants, animals and recycling will all be covered.

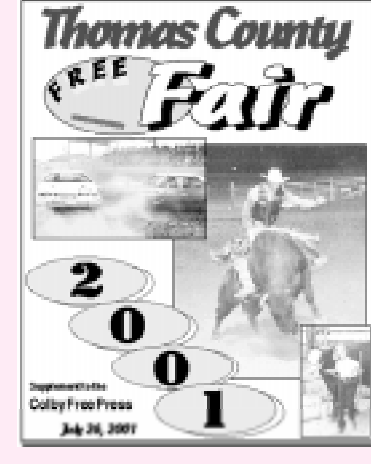
There will also be activities, including videos, games, crafts and snacks. District staff and volunteers will supervise the activities.

Here is the schedule of classes:  
• Tuesday — "Who's Downstream," for ages 4-6 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and "Living Links," for ages 7-9 from

1:30-3:30 p.m.  
• Wednesday — "Trash to Treasure," for ages 10-12 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and "Living Links," for ages 4-6 from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.  
• Thursday — "The Wildside," for ages 7-9 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. and "Going, Going, Gone," for ages 10-12 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
• Friday — "Wildlife Buddies," for ages 4-6 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and "Pollution Solutions," for ages 7-9 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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Thomas County Fair Section



### Briefly

#### Weather: Typical July

Cloudy to partly cloudy skies, thunderstorms, easterly winds 10-15 mph, lows in the 60s and highs 85-90 can be expected for Colby through the weekend, said the National Weather Service forecast center this morning. Colby's high temperature Wednesday was 85 and the overnight low this morning was 66. Only 0.01 inches of precipitation was recorded during the past 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. today, bringing the month's total to 2.78 inches. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 81 degrees. The records for July 26: 107 in 1894 and 53 in 1900. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

#### Two new events at the rodeo

The Thomas County Fair Board is introducing two new events this year at the rodeo, known as "bull poker" and "ring of fear." The idea behind the competition, fair board officials said, is to pit a man against a bull in order to see who has the most "staying" power. A monetary prize will be handed to the individual who has the fortitude to be the last one out of the ring, or the last one to leave the poker table as the huge bull snorts, paws, bluffs (or is he) as he charges his course around the arena looking for his next victim. Bull poker can be seen Monday, July 30, and ring of fear will be Tuesday, July 31. All contestants interested in competing must sign a waiver of liability and must be 21

years of age or older. Contact any fair board Member for information.

#### Childhood testing offered

Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, Oakley is offering early childhood intervention testing, including eyesight, hearing and learning disability testing. All test are free. For more information or an appointment, call 785-672-3125.

#### Rodeo tickets now on sale

Contestants for the Miss Thomas County Rodeo and Princess Pageant will be selling rodeo ticket this week.

Those wishing tickets can contact any of the girls. The pageant will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 28, with the horse-manship competition at the fairgrounds. The luncheon will be at noon at the Ramada Inn with a talent competition by the contestants and is open to the public. Those attending can vote for a People's Choice award, according to Trudy Wildeman, pageant coordinator. A free-will donation will be accepted.

#### Booths, activities still wanted

There is still room for booths and activities at this year's Thomas County Fair and Rodeo, said Laura Cook, fair board secretary. For information, call 462-6961.

