



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Storytellers



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Korean War veterans Dennis Ryan, Thurston VanHorn and Ross Rodenbeck, along with Phil Finley recalled old times at the Veterans' Day dinner given by the Veterans of Foreign Wars on Saturday night. Korean veterans were specially honored by the Colby post.

## Bethel College picks Lawrence businessman as 12th president

NORTH NEWTON (AP) — Bethel College's board of directors has picked its vice chairman, a Lawrence businessman, to be the college's 12th president.

The board voted unanimously Saturday to appoint LaVerne Epp to lead the central Kansas college after a year-

long search. Epp, a 1972 Bethel graduate, will succeed Douglas Penner, who stepped down after five years at the college's helm.

Epp, who will take office on Aug. 1, received a law degree from the University of Nebraska in 1976 after working as an admissions counselor at Bethel

College in 1972-1973.

He was president of Retirement Management Co. in Lawrence from 1993 until last month. The company manages 10 senior living facilities in six states.

Since 1996, Epp has served on the college's board of directors.

## Principal's comments drive home point for honor society group

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Ten Colby High School students were inducted into the Colby Chapter of the National Honor Society last week.

New members included Zach Baird, Karen Higerd, Leanne Juenemann, Katie Molstad, Sally Schlick, Jason Schwandt, Deni Wieland, Jennifer Wilson and Lori Ziegelmeier, all juniors, along with Sung Eun Yoon, a senior. During the ceremony, Shirley Favor, sponsor, said the organization was reactivated in 1988 by Geri Anschutz with the idea of recognizing students who possess outstanding qualities in areas of leadership, character, scholarship and service.

With more than 100 people in attendance, Bryan Bullington, principal and

guest speaker, spoke about what it means to be an honor society member.

"These are the best and brightest individuals that Colby High School and the community of Colby have to offer," he said. "Some are gifted or more talented than others; some work harder than others; some have higher goals than others; some are better musicians than others and some are even better artists than others."

However, Bullington added that even though the 10 aforementioned students were named into the same society, it doesn't mean that they all possess the same skills and talents.

"What it does mean, is that they are all outstanding citizens and have exemplary behavior in the areas of character, service, and leadership," he said.

Bullington said that many things

come to mind when describing honor society students.

"These inductees have a vision and a goal that they have been following and striving for that has enabled them to be successful, but I want to remind them that there are a whole bunch of students from Colby High School that are not here on this stage with them," he said.

"Because they are not here doesn't mean that they are not capable of being successful — some already are — but not to the standard that you (honor students) have reached."

For some, Bullington said, they just haven't put the whole package together to help them be successful.

Quoting from poetry that he said he saw many years ago, Bullington said, "Go as far as you can see and when you

## Speaker tells Colby meeting

# Drastic change expected in role of senior centers

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The role of senior centers is going to change drastically in the near future as the 'baby boomers' become old enough to frequent the centers, said Bill Cutler, of the Kansas Department on Aging, speaking in Colby Thursday.

Cutler was one of the speakers for the Senior Summit presented by the Kansas Department on Aging, in partnership with the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, in the Colby Community Building. More than 50 people, mostly representatives of the senior centers in northwest Kansas, attended the meeting.

Cutler said when Secretary on Aging Connie Hubbell took office in 1999, she asked what the senior centers did, and the staff of the department realized they did not really know. The Department on Aging had helped set up the senior centers, then left them to carry on their programs locally. Programs varied in different localities.

Representatives of the department visited 12 senior centers in each of the 11 Area Agencies on Aging in the state, and are conducting a series of summit meetings to report on what they found, and share suggestions on improving services for seniors.

Cutler said the term 'baby boomer' is generally applied to persons born from 1946 to 1965. As these people approach retirement age, their interests may be very different from those elders who presently attend senior centers. Some of them may still have grandchildren participating in school events they will want to attend, and they may be more able bodied and active.

As part of the summit, participants divided into smaller groups for discussion, and then reported back with ideas on what is being done in some of the centers, and what could be done. Several groups reported intergenerational activities, with 4-H Club, Boy and Girl Scouts participating, as well as church groups, giving programs and community service.

Suggestions included evening activities, teaching quilting, 'Senior of the Month,' bingo, and sing-a-longs. Some felt electing new board members was essential, while other felt keeping some of the same board members provided continuity.

Other suggestions included exercise programs, grief management, and fund-raising. Participants were told to be creative with projects.

Richard Wagner of the Department

## A look at the area agency on aging

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Thomas County is served by the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging of Hays, which serves 18 counties: Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton, Phillips, Smith, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Graham, Rooks, Osborne, Wallace, Logan, Gove, Trego, Ellis and Russell.

Out of a total population of 8,180 enumerated by the 2000 government census, Thomas County had 1,519 people age 60 plus, or 18.6 percent. The Northwest Kansas Area had 24.3 percent age 60 plus, the highest in the state.

The highest percentage of elderly in the state was in Smith County which had 33.2 percent. Riley County had the lowest percentage with 9.6 percent.

The mission of the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging is to serve as an advocate for older persons, to develop and promote programs which help older persons remain independent in their homes and communities, to coordinate and evaluate existing programs designed for older persons; and to provide needed services.

The agency provides the following services in northwest Kansas.

- Homestead Nutrition meal sites provide hot meals, services and activities in 30 locations.

- Older Kansans' Information Service provides confidential informa-

tion regarding available services.

- Client Assessment Referral and Evaluation provides pre-admission screening for individuals prior to admission to Medicaid certified nursing facilities in Kansas.

- A bi-annual newsletter is sent to those 60 and older upon request.

- The Senior Citizens Law Project provides free legal representation in specific areas of concern.

- Senior Health Insurance counseling for Kansas (SHICK) recruits and trains local volunteers to assist older adults with Medicare and supplemental insurance questions and concerns.

- In-home care programs are designed to assist the elderly in maintaining and improving independence in their own homes and to minimize the need for institutionalization.

- Case management targets persons 60 and older who are at risk for institutionalization. The purpose is to ensure that older Kansans are made aware of all the options available.

- The Custom Care program provides funds to address special care needs for frail elderly adults. The Environmental Modification program funds adaptations to dwellings such as bathroom alterations, smoke detectors, fans and microwaves to enhance safety in the home.

Information 1-800-432-7422 or [www.k4s.org/aaa/nw/default.htm](http://www.k4s.org/aaa/nw/default.htm)

on Aging said northwest Kansas has the highest elderly population in the state, including the highest amount of those 85 and older.

He said senior centers are important in promoting successful aging, because they provide social ties and a social support system, both of which are important to a person's health.

Cutler said the Kansas Department on Aging is entering into a partnership loan program, to provide housing and service options for Kansas seniors. The program could loan funds to renovate or build congregate housing in Kansas cities with populations of 2,500 or less; loan funds to rural hospitals to contracts for physician, physician assistant or licensed professional nurse services; to convert space in a rural hospital to a hospital-based long-term care

facility; to remodel or build an addition to a facility to add an adult care center; or to build an adult day care center in a community or as part of a nursing home conversion in a community. It can also loan funds to renovate a home to a Licensed Home Plus, but the owner must agree to live in the home to be eligible to apply for the loan funds. To learn more about the Partnership Loan Program, contact Vicky Martin at 785-296-6029.

Cutler said a new printing of the book, *Explore Your Options, a Kansas Guide to Information and In-Home Services* is available. It is available at senior centers.

He said *Area Agency Information Day* will be Dec. 12, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Grainfield. All seniors are encouraged to attend.

## Briefly

### Weather: Moisture mentioned

The week, weather-wise for the Colby region, smacks of fall, but not anything drastic, although moisture is mentioned! Here's how it looks: Tonight, clear, lows near 40 and northwest winds 5-10 mph; Tuesday, partly sunny, breezy, highs in the upper 60s, west winds 5 mph, turning to the south 15-25 mph; Tuesday night, partly cloudy to cloudy, a 30 percent chance for showers and lows in the lower 40s; Wednesday and Thursday, a 30 percent chance for showers, lows in the upper 30 to lower 40s and highs in the lower 60s; and Friday, partly cloudy, lows in the mid-30s and highs in the upper 50s. The reporting station in Colby is closed today for the Veterans Day holiday, so no

weekend temperatures are available. The records for Nov. 12: 76 in 1971 and 0 in 1911. (*The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.*)

### Stovall to visit Colby

Kansas Attorney General Carla Stovall will be in Colby on Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. to hold a news conference announcing her to campaign for governor. The conference will take place at Colby Municipal Airport.

### Household collection Saturday

The final Household Hazardous waste collection for this

year will be held Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 190 W. 4th St. Inclement weather will cancel the event until next spring, said Sandy Swob, director. Acceptable items are latex and oil-based paints, stains, thinners, varnish, automotive products, pool chemicals, household cleaning products, lawn and garden chemicals, and batteries. This is a free service to Thomas County households only, no business wastes can be accepted, she said. Used motor oil should be taken to the county landfill for recycling. For questions or information, call Swob at 462-4525.

### Music boosters to meet

The Colby Music Boosters will meet at Colby High

School on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. All parents of high school vocal and band students are encouraged to attend.

### School board meeting changed

The regular meeting of the Colby Board of Education scheduled for Monday, Nov. 19, has been changed to Tuesday, Nov. 20, said Superintendent Kirk Nielsen. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m., at 210 S. Range Ave.

### High school musical rescheduled

Officials at Colby High School are reminding everyone that the musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, has been rescheduled to Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15, 16 and 17. The performance time has remained the same at 7 p.m.

