



# COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages

## A first for this community

# Colby opens doors to two state associations

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

More than 50 people from two state community college associations are convening in Colby today and Saturday to talk about relationships with the Kansas Board of Regents, budget recommendations, along with future plans.

The two groups — the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees and the Kansas Association of Community College Presidents — are meeting in Colby for the first time ever, said Debbie Schwanke, public relations officer at the college.

"These groups have been meeting for many years, but it's the first time that Colby Community College has played host," she said.

A welcome reception for the trustee members and presidents of the 19 community colleges across the state is planned tonight at the Prairie Museum of Art and History from 6 to 8 p.m. The group will then begin their meeting on Saturday at 8 a.m. in Bedker Memorial Complex to review concerns and directions for further relationships with the Regents and to talk about the response on a study regarding higher education in Kansas.

"We feel honored these people would come

this far and from all over the state," said Don Kready, Colby College board of trustee member and former chairperson of the state's trustee association. He also said that he was pleased with the "better than normal attendance" that's expected for the meeting here.

"These are quarterly meetings and normally one trustee from each of the community colleges attends," he said. "However, this time, there are some with more than one trustee coming, along with administrative team members."

Kready served as chairperson for the association some 22 years ago and prior to his appointment, Bobbie Peters, who was formerly

a resident of Colby and lived in Great Bend, had served in that position.

Many of these people have not been to Colby and don't know what to expect, which is why organizers for the meeting have planned activities that will showcase the community, he said. "Even though we are quite a ways out here, we have some very nice things to show these visitors and experiencing our museum is one of them." Another plus for Colby's college, Kready said, was that in his travels across the state, he believes the college here is one of the nicer ones to visit. Regarding issues to be discussed, he said that community colleges are in

a "new ball game."

"Two or three years ago, we went under the Board of Regents and before that were under the Kansas State Board of Education," he said. "Now we are in the same league as universities and there's new challenges ahead."

One of those challenges is in how to handle the shortfalls in finances with recent cuts from the legislature. "The same financial issues affecting the Board of Regents are also hitting us hard as well, he said.

"Again we are excited about showing others just what we have to offer in Colby and are looking forward to their visit," he said.

## All aboard for the holidays



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club is holding its third annual Christmas Open House beginning on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 2 to 6 p.m. The display is located at the administration building for Colby Public Schools, 210 S. Range. Club members ask those planning to visit to use the door at the west end of the building. Pictured is Reed Hartford, club member, checking the tracks of Cal Mahin's display.

"We will be featuring more than 250 feet of track on three mainlines and showcasing one Mountain Branch line, steam and diesel engines, freight and passenger trains, vintage cars, rural, city and mountain scenery and more. Other dates for the open house are Sunday, Dec. 16, 2 to 6 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 20, 7 to 9 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 21, 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 22, 2 to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 23, 2 to 6 p.m.

## Musicians chosen for district honor

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Fourteen band members and five choir members from Colby High School were chosen to participate this weekend in the Kansas Music Educators Association district honor band and choir.

The event will be held at the Beach-Schmidt Performing Arts Center on the campus of Fort Hays State University on Saturday, said Julie Groom, Colby High School band director.

The school submitted 22 taped auditions to northwest district judges in mid-November, she said, and the choir students chosen were Brandon McLemore, Blake McLemore, James Coplin, Sommer Sharp and Jessica Moseley.

In addition, band members selected from the taped auditions were Katie Molstad, Treasure Glad, Michelle Murphy and Helena Yoon, all on flute; Becky Shuman, oboe; William Higerd, Bb clarinet; Josh Cox, bass clarinet; Jessica Jacobsen, alto sax; Jason Erickson, horn; Chelsea Gordon and

Taylor Miller, trombone; Darla Nichols, euphonium; Theo Kleinsorge, tuba; and Stephen Mardock, percussion. Of the 14 chosen, Gordon and Shuman won first-chair honors and Gordon will also be honored at the concert for being a four-year member of the concert band.

The northwest district of the association, Groom said, covers Kansas north of I-70, including Sharon Springs and Weskan, east to Beloit and south to Ellsworth.

"The competition for membership into the group is extremely competitive because it includes students from Hays High, Norton, TMP/Marian and Beloit, who have traditionally fine band programs," she said.

"Cathy Cash, Chris Latta and I are extremely proud of our students," Groom said. "They have worked hard to learn the audition material and get the music on tape. With the busy high school schedule, these students have earned their way into the district honor groups with a lot of self-sacrifice and discipline."

## FBI rounding up samples of drugs from pharmacy

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The FBI is expanding its drug-dilution investigation at a Kansas pharmacy because the latest drug alleged to be weakened is so different from those found earlier, spokesman Jeff Lanza said. Pharmacist Robert R. Courtney is charged with diluting the cancer drugs Gemzar and Taxol at his Research Medical Tower Pharmacy in Kansas City. Tests released Tuesday showed two samples of the fertility drug progesterone from his Merriam, Kan. pharmacy had been watered down, the FBI said. "Anything available for testing

that could have been altered, we're interested in having tests taken on," Lanza said.

Lanza would not say how many new samples agents have taken from Courtney's Kansas pharmacy. He said agents were still working through a list of 250 new callers to the FBI's hotline.

He has said the federal Food and Drug Administration, which tested the progesterone, is already testing other drugs taken from the Kansas store, called Courtney's Pharmacy. Test results are pending on some drugs taken from the Missouri store as well.

## Search for two college freshmen in recovery phase

MANHATTAN (AP) — Hopes dimmed for two college freshmen missing at 12,000-acre Tuttle Creek Lake after searchers found their capsized sailboat and the body of a classmate.

All three Kansas State University students were experienced sailors and Eagle Scouts, close friends from the Kansas City area who lived in the same dorm. University officials identified them as Timothy Michael Bennett, 19, of Kansas City, Mo., and Kyle David Chapman, 17, and Christopher Nathan

ShIPLEY, 18, both of Olathe, Kan.

Searchers were to resume their work about 8 a.m. Friday in boats and on horseback along the shore. Brian McNulty, operations manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the reservoir, said Friday's work would be a "recovery effort" to find two bodies.

"Based upon the fact that we haven't found them on the shoreline, we presume they are under water," he said. "We've talked to the families and told them that in all likelihood they didn't

make it."

The three were last seen Tuesday afternoon setting sail from a dock at Tuttle Creek Cove, on the southwest side of the reservoir, in Chapman's 15 1/2-foot yellow racing dinghy.

A search began about 24 hours later and continued until midnight Wednesday, then resumed about 8 a.m. Thursday. The capsized boat was spotted from the air within an hour at the mouth of Carnahan Cove, about 3 miles northeast on the lake's opposite shore.

Bennett's body, in a life jacket, was

found 15 minutes later less than a mile away. The three freshmen were reported missing at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday when their abandoned boat trailer and vehicle were discovered near a boat launch. Three pairs of tennis shoes said to belong to the students also were found on a dock.

At its height Thursday, the search included 50 rescue workers, six boats and two helicopters. The searchers scoured some of the 104 miles of shoreline as well as the lake, which is about 40 feet deep at its center.

## Thumbs up!

✓Wrestling Fans — enjoy the tournament!  
✓Cindy Cersovsky, Terry Rasmussen, Dan Fetzer, Jack Johnson, Lyman Goetsch, Vida Toburen — \$50 instant winners in the *Christmas on Us!* promotion, sponsored by 28 Colby merchants and your Free Press.  
✓Chelsea Gordon — stay the course!  
✓Keith & Charlene Baalman, Jo Strange, Mike & Jennifer Woofert, Bryan & Kim Bullington, Larry & Sarah Jane Barrett — for opening your homes for the Holiday Home Tour.  
✓Brett Bandy — dandy hobby.  
✓The Eagle "19" — fourteen band and five choir members selected to take part in District Honor Band and Choir at Hays on Saturday.  
(Call TD at the Free Press 462-3963, or e-mail td@nwkanas.com to have a person or group included in this weekly salute.)

## Briefly

### Weather: Cool down seen

Temperatures will become more like what is generally expected in December early next week, but until then enjoy the pleasantness Mother Nature is currently providing. Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 20s and northwest winds 10-15 mph. Saturday, mostly sunny, high in the lower 50s and northwest winds 10-20 mph, switching to the southwest. Saturday night, clear, lows in the middle 20s. Sunday, sunny, highs near 60. Monday, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 20s and highs dropping off to the lower 40s. Tuesday, increasing clouds, lows in the upper teens and highs in the low 40s, with rain or snow showers, depending on the temperature. Colby's high Thursday was 63 and the overnight low this morning was 22. Still bone dry for the month of December. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 38 degrees. The records for Dec. 7:

76 in 1923 and -14 in 1909. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the commissioners room of the courthouse. They will have a hearing on amended road and bridge department budget at 9 a.m.; the budget is being amended to transfer funds to appropriate line items at the end of the year. Thomas County Community Foundation has an appointment at 9:30. Undersheriff Mike Baughn will discuss sewer repairs at the Law Enforcement Center at 10:30.

### Colby choir/band to perform

The Colby High School concert band, under the direc-

tion of Julie Groom, will present its winter concert, Thursday, Dec. 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Also performing will be the Colby Elementary 5th grade band and the Colby High School concert choir. "Sounds of the Season" will include many well-known Christmas favorites from both bands. The concert choir, under the direction of Chris Latta, will join the band in "Together at Christmas," a medley including "Winter Wonderland," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "A Marshmellow World." The highlight of the concert will be the band's rendition of the bombing of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, followed by Irving Berlin's "God Bless America." The concert is free and open to the public.

### Nutcracker performance Sunday

"The Nutcracker" will be presented at 3 p.m., Sunday, at

the Colby High School auditorium. Tickets are by association season pass or available at the door.

### Singles dance tonight

There will be a singles dance from 8 p.m. to midnight today with Off Limits of Colby performing. The dance is open to all single people and alumni, said Don Birzer, coordinator. For information or questions, call 462-2127.

**Final reminder:**  
**Colby Christmas Parade**  
**(downtown) Sunday, 6 p.m.**

