



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Board okays bus repairs at meeting

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Colby School Board members approved the \$10,000 replacement of an engine in a 10-year-old school bus after a heated discussion on where the money was to come from at their Monday night meeting.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen told board members the bus had been taken to Central Detroit Diesel, who wanted to overhaul the engine for \$10,000.

Board member Bill Miller objected to the request, saying a rebuilt engine would be the best way to go and wondering why the money needed to be taken from the district's emergency fund. "I guess your definition of an emergency and mine are different," he said.

Business manager Jo DeYoung explained that an emergency was defined as an unplanned, unbudgeted expense and this fit the description.

Miller then asked why they couldn't just take it out of the transportation budget.

"(Transportation director Alan) Wade told us he had enough money to buy a new bus," Miller said. DeYoung then explained the difference between budget authority and actual money.

Although Wade has enough authority to buy a bus, he needs approval from the board by moving money into the transportation fund from the general fund.

"If we don't spend that money there, we can use it elsewhere," she said, adding that unbudgeted expenses could leave the district short in June.

Miller then wanted to know why the district couldn't take money out of the emergency fund in June if there was a shortage.

"Because that wouldn't be unexpected and not an emergency," board secretary Marilyn Reed told him.

Miller also wanted a rebuilt engine installed if possible, citing better warranty and reliability.

The board approved a rebuilt engine.

## Curriculum offers look into the past

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Colby School Board members took a break from money troubles at their meeting earlier this week to view curriculum presentations by history students in Derek Bissitt and Shelly Myers' classes.

Members and visitors went to the high school to see students' work in the 1920s and 1930s. Presentations included videos of students' grandparents and other relatives who lived through the dust bowl days.

Some students also did artwork depicting scenes and events from that era and one group put out a "newspaper" with headlines from the time.

Bissitt said all the students involved said they learned a great deal about the important time in our history.

"A lot of them are impressed by how tough their grandparents are," he said.

Also at the meeting, the board accepted the resignations of vocal music teacher Chris Latta, language arts teacher Margaret Houtz and lunch room worker Carla Sullivan.

## Good luck at state!



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High School wrestlers enjoyed a skit during a pep rally to send them off to the state tournament in Wichita today at the high school gym. The wrestling team left at about 10 a.m. Tournament action starts

Friday at 4 p.m. and will continue through Saturday. Pictured are, from left to right, Schuyler Sharpe, Eric Luedke, Tanner McClure, Tucker Olsen and Brent Deibert.

## Good attendance at game, but no record breaker

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Colby Community College basketball's challenge to set a new record for attendance at the Community Building fell short, but school officials said they were pleased with the attendance and the 77-68 Trojan win over Butler County.

The Trojans did break one record. The men's team recorded their 16th

win, the most since joining the Jayhawk Conference six years ago. The old record was 15, set last season.

A vocal crowd of about 1,000 filled the Community Building to about 2/3 capacity to watch Colby take on the defending Jayhawk Conference Champions. The record, set Feb. 19, 2000, is 1,711.

The crowd also watched the Lady Trojans fall to the Butler County

women 71-53 and during half-time of the men percentam, who took sixth in the nation at the junior college finals in Rochester, Minn. Saturday, were introduced.

"We had a lot of people, but there were also a lot of other things going on around town last night," said Debbie Schwanke, public information officer at the college. Even with all the other activities, Schwanke said the numbers

were still very good and demonstrated the kind of support college officials like to see at home games.

Athletic Director Carl Adams agreed with Schwanke, adding that one challenge was the distance Butler County fans had to travel.

"We get bigger crowds from closer teams," he said. Adams also said the mid-week games don't draw as many people as Saturday games.

## House committee endorses plan for new research center

### Bill would authorize \$110 million in bonds for three universities

TOPEKA (AP)—A bill authorizing \$110 million in bonds for three new university research centers has cleared a House committee over the misgivings of some minority Democrats.

Federal grants and private donations would supplement the bond revenue for the centers for biomedical research at the University of Kansas, food safety at Kansas State University and aviation research at Wichita State University.

The House Appropriations Committee endorsed the bill Wednesday on a voice vote, sending it to the House for debate.

Board of Regents members and legislative supporters contend the centers would stimulate economic development—and attract federal and private grants to help pay for them.

"I think that it is an excellent opportunity for the state," said Rep. Jeff Peterson, R-Manhattan, a member of the Appropriations Committee.

While not objecting to the plan, some Democrats on the committee said they worried that legislators will pass the bonding bill, then cut universities' operating budgets and fail to give pay raises to faculty.

Gov. Bill Graves has expressed similar concerns, noting legislators promised universities extra money when they reorganized higher education in 1999.

"The Legislature traditionally has a terrible case of Attention Deficit Disorder, where we abandon last year's initiative for something because it's shiny and new," said Rep. Rocky Nichols, D-Topeka.

He and other Democrats said they don't know exactly where the state will get the money to cover bond payments.

Under the bill, the state would be obligated to pay off the first \$50 million of the bonds, with a limit of \$10 million a year in payments, starting in fiscal year 2004.

The universities would have to pay off the remaining \$60 million. The Kansas Development Finance Authority said it would issue 20-year bonds at 4.97 percent interest.

## The cookies are here



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

The scout hut, behind City Hall, was full of goodies for a short time Wednesday when 813 cases of Girl Scout cookies, each containing 12 boxes, were delivered. Bonnie Lewis, one of the organizers, said 59 girls sold the cookies and they are already out delivering them to waiting customers.

## Briefly

### Weather: Balm

The National Weather Service in Goodland said tonight's low temperature will be in the 20s with winds from the west at 10 mph. On Friday, partly sunny with highs in the upper 60s and west winds at 10 to 20 mph. Friday night lows are expected in the 30s. The extended forecast for Saturday is calling for partly sunny skies and highs in the lower 70s. Colby's high Wednesday was 58. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

### Orchestra to perform Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will be performing at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday in the Colby High School auditorium. The event, "A Classic Winter's Tale," promises to delight young and old with the sounds of Haydn's Toy Symphony and a Muppet Medley for children and Jazz Legato, Duke

Ellington, and John Henry for the adults. Other favorites included will be Holiday for Orchestra, Procession of the Sardar, and Lohengrin. The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra is supported by its many Friends of the Orchestra. Admission to the concert will be by Friends of the Orchestra membership or tickets available at the door.

### Red Cross classes set

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring a CPR and first aid class with two sessions on Monday, Feb. 25, and Monday, March 4, at 6 p.m. at the Colby Community College student union. This course, said Donna Finley, director of the Thomas County Red Cross chapter, trains individuals to act in an emergency and to recognize and care for respiratory or cardiac emergencies, sudden illness and injuries. To register or for those with questions, call Finley at 462-7161 or 462-2366.

### Brewster board meeting tonight

The Brewster School board will hold its regular meeting tonight, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the school cafeteria, 127 Kansas St. Items on the agenda include reports from insurance committee, Washington D.C. trip, Northwest Kansas Technical School, and calendar review. New business items listed were weightlifting purchase recommendations, volleyball uniforms, cheerleader, drill team, and flag team tryout regulations and approval of tractor bid.

### College to host job fair in April

Colby Community College will host a job fair for health care workers from noon to 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union on campus. "We are encouraging all health care workers and students to attend this job fair," said Tina Schrick, nursing instructor at the college. "We will have a large number of poten-

tial employers from across the state of Kansas." For information or questions, call Julie Horney at 462-4788.

### Pre-enrollment scheduled

Colby Grade School is offering kindergarten pre-enrollment for the 2002-03 school year on Friday, March 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The enrollment will be held in the conference room behind the grade school office. For questions, call 465-5100.

### Flea market slated for April

The Thomas County Alcohol Drug Abuse Council is seeking donations for its flea market scheduled for Saturday, April 13, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All donations to the council are tax-deductible and for those needing to make arrangements to have items picked up, call 462-6111.

