



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby College's enrollment dips, credit hours up

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The total number of students enrolled for the Spring 2002 semester at Colby Community College is down slightly from last year's numbers, but total credit hours are up.

Full-time student numbers remained consistent at 686 when compared to 685 last year and part-time students dropped from 341 to 313, said Debbie Schwanke, public information officer.

While headcount was down, she said, credit hours increased by 59 to a total of 12,111 compared to last spring's 12,052.

"Most significantly, credit hour enrollment numbers increased for the spring semester of 2002," said Dr. Mikel Ary, Colby Community College president. "The college receives reimbursements from the state based upon this aspect of our enrollment report."

It is for that reason and others, that Ary said the credit hour aid means increased service to the area and appreciate the successes of the admissions department.

The official enrollment date was Feb. 20, which is the 20th day of classes for Colby College and the Kansas Board of Regents.

"Although funding is based on these '20th day' official numbers," he said, "enrollment at the college will increase as the semester progresses."

Outreach enrollment, which provides outreach education in 14 counties and more than 30 communities, is still continuing for another few weeks. Those numbers will be released after Thursday, March 14, Schwanke said.

In addition to Colby College's enrollment numbers, the state's Board of Regents also released its spring figures.

State university enrollment numbers saw an increase of 2,161 students for a 2.8 percent increase over last year's spring semester count, said Dick Carter, director of external relations with the Board of Regents.

The state's public universities reported a combined enrollment of 79,562 students as of the official day on Feb. 20, he said.

"The total number of Kansas residents enrolled at the Regents universities

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ties increased 1,542 students, bring the number of resident students to 63,117," Carter said.

The number of non-resident students increased by 619, with 16,445 non-resident students enrolled at the Regents universities.

"Students enrolled in on-campus courses increased by 1,426 to a total of 73,594 for the spring semester," he said. Off-campus enrollments of 5,968 represent an increase of 735 students over the 2001 spring semester.

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents, Carter said, governs the state's public universities to include Emporia State, Fort Hays State, Kansas State, Pittsburg State, University of Kansas and Wichita State University.

The total headcount for each university saw an increase from the 2001 spring enrollment, except at the University of Kansas-Medical School, which saw a decline of 180 students from the previous year making their headcount total at 2,175.

Other universities and headcount totals were: University of Kansas with a total of 24,719 students, up 217; Kansas State University with 19,079 students, up 664; Wichita State University's total was 15,049 and up 680 students; Emporia State University, 5,573, which was up 359 students; Pittsburg State University at 6,165, up 159 students; Fort Hays State University at 5,472, up 184 students; Kansas State University-Veterinary Medical Center at 400, up 3 students; Kansas State University in Salina-College of Technology with 930 and up 75 students.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Students at Heartland Christian School in Mingo sang patriotic songs during the annual "Partners for the Future" banquet held Saturday at Colby Community College. **Above:** (front row, left to right) Shailla Giebler, Tessa Roberts, Luke Cox and Caleb Mazanec; (second row, left to right), Shania Dirks, Natalie Morris, Leigh Ann Maurath, and

Bailey Rather; (third row, left to right) Ariel Regier, Daniel Dawson, Clint Goossen, Katie Kasselmann, Kasey Donley, and Danyelle Mazanec. **Below right:** Steve and Tamara Ziegelmeier were among more than 170 people attending the fourth annual banquet held in the student union at Colby Community College.

School's fund-raiser sets attendance mark

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

"For Such A Time As This" was the theme for this year's Heartland Christian School endowment banquet held Saturday at Colby Community College.

For the past four years, supporters of the school attend the banquet to raise needed funds for the overall operation of the school in Mingo and for the building, located in the former Colby Plaza, that is currently under renovation, said Rick Roberts, administrator.

About 170 people attended the fund-raising event, which was the largest attendance thus far, he said.

"Although no dollar amount was available yet, because expenses were still being tabulated and donations were still coming in," he said, "the evening was filled with good food, fellowship and inspiration."

In addition to the special guest speaker, Dr. Jim Eckman, president of Grace University in Omaha, Neb., the entire student body at Heartland Christian School entertained guests with patriotic songs.

Eckman challenged the group to continue to strive for the goals and benefits of a Christian education.

Another speaker, Kandace Rather, who teaches third and fourth grade at the school, shared her experience of



being able to pray with her students on Sept. 11.

The entire Heartland Christian School board, which includes Randy Regier, Lynn Goossen, Mark Myers,

Kurt Maurath, Craig Myers and Stephen Kistler, were there, along with the school's teachers and many parents, friends and supporters of the Christian school concept.

Legislators brace for revenue forecast; Graves to propose \$228 million tax hike

By **JOHN HANNA**

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — The most important event of the 2002 legislative session takes place at the end of this week.

A dozen state officials and three university economists are to meet at 1:30 p.m. Friday and spend several hours discussing the economy and crunching numbers. They will emerge from the closed session with a new forecast of state revenue collections.

Then, Gov. Bill Graves and legislators will know how little money the

state has to spend.

The most recent projection put the gap between likely revenue and required spending for the next fiscal year at \$426 million. Legislative leaders fear Friday's forecast will show it reaching \$600 million — or 12.5 percent of the \$4.8 billion needed for programs required by state law.

"It's possible they could put the state in a true budget crisis, in my estimation, where essential government programs are in immediate and serious jeopardy," said House Speaker Kent

Glasscock, R-Manhattan.

Legislative leaders want to avoid cutting education spending and social services but believe it will be difficult if the gap grows in size.

The gap would widen if the estimators think — as expected — that previous revenue forecast, made in November, was too optimistic.

"I think we all know there's going to be less money available," said House Minority Leader Jim Garner, D-Coffeyville.

Senate President Dave Kerr said he

is guessing the estimators — the economists, Department of Revenue officials, Budget Division staffers and Legislative Research Department employees — will cut their figure for expected revenues by \$170 million. Others say \$200 million is possible.

"I think a lot of our constituents and even some legislators have not appreciated the extent of the shortfall we face," said Kerr, R-Hutchinson. "This isn't something that can be settled with some limited set of adjustments."

So far, in making spending recom-

mendations, the House and Senate budget committees have been sticking close to a budget Gov. Bill Graves submitted to legislators in January. His plan assumed no tax increases, expanded gambling or other revenue raisers.

Graves' budget reduces aid to education, cuts social service programs, closes minimum-security prisons, cancels highway projects and denies state workers a pay raise.

Overall spending would drop 5 percent, or \$233 million, to less than \$4.3

billion for the fiscal year starting July 1.

Graves has also proposed \$228 million in tax increases to help prevent cuts in education, social services and highway projects.

But Kerr said the governor's tax proposals won't be large enough if the estimators come back with awful numbers.

"We're going to have to cut into the meat," Kerr said. "Some of the things that make state government function will be on the chopping block."

School taking 'pep bus' reservations

Colby High School is planning to send a "Pep Bus" for staff, students and basketball fans to Salina Wednesday for the 4A State Tournament game between the Lady Eagles and Andale at 4:45 p.m. in the Bicentennial Center.

"We will send the bus if there is

enough interest and will need at least a commitment by 25 people," said Jeff Quenzer, activities director and assistant principal.

The bus will leave at 1 p.m., Wednesday, from the Colby High School parking lot and return to Colby immediately following the Colby Lady Eagle's bas-

ketball game.

The deadline to sign-up will be at 3:45 p.m., Tuesday, and students wanting to go will need to get permission slips turned in by that time as well.

To reserve a seat, call the high school at 465-5300.

Briefly

Weather: Much warmer

Are you ready for a warm-up? The National Weather Service sees much warmer temperatures for the Colby area for the next few days, maybe longer. Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 20s and southwest winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday, all sun, warmer, highs in the lower 60s, west winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 20s. Wednesday, sunny, highs in the middle 60s. Colby's high Sunday was 26 and the overnight low this morning was +3. Snowfall from last Friday's storm was around 2 inches with only 0.01 inches of moisture. The records for March 4: 84 in 1921 and -18 in 1960. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas

Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

College board meets tonight

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting, today, beginning at 3 p.m. to discuss the state health insurance plan. The board will again meet at 5 p.m. for its regular meeting to discuss Title III contract, mission statement, capital outlay, approval of contracts, non-elected personnel, professional employee contracts and negotiations.

New sanitation truck considered

The Colby City Council will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

in the council chambers of city hall, 585 N. Franklin. Items on the agenda include approval of a resolution to designate time-limited parking on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 385 W. 3rd St.; review and action on proposals for sanitation truck; and approval of revised purchasing policy. In addition, the council will hear the annual report on Pioneer Memorial Library; consider authorization to execute endowed fund agreements with the Thomas County Community Foundation; and discussion of motor vehicle nuisances.

Insurance discussion planned

The Colby Board of Education will meet tonight at 7 p.m.,

in the board room of the administration building to discuss the district's insurance, student request for vo-tech, employment recommendations and resignations.

Lawmakers in Colby tonight

Sen. Stan Clark and Rep. Jim Morrison are inviting everyone to a town hall meeting tonight at the City Limits Restaurant, 2227 S. Range, with a dutch treat meal starting at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Both Clark and Morrison said they will share their perspective about some of the important issues before the Kansas legislature this session and want to hear from others on these and other issues.

