



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Off to state!



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Lady Eagle Bethany Linden got one more farewell hug from her dad, Tuffy Taylor, as the squad left earlier today to face off with Andale in the opening round of the Class 4A State Basketball Tournament at Salina's Bicentennial Center later this afternoon. Both schools take a 21-2 record into the game.

# College board reluctantly approves some contracts

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees considered contracts for non-elected personnel during closed sessions totaling 25 minutes at the Monday night's meeting. The faculty is teaching under contracts issued for the 2000-2001 school year, because negotiations with the Faculty Alliance are at impasse and no agreement has been reached. Faculty Alliance representatives Pat Erickson, Bob Selby and David Kruse were present at the meeting. Returning to open session, the board voted to accept the following actions upon the recommendation of the board attorney, David Starkey, on contracts which were issued without the authorization or approval of the Board of Trustees.

A contract issued to Eric Eicher without the board's approval or authority was approved because he has completed his doctorate degree and is entitled to additional compensation according to provisions of the master agreement.

A contract was approved for Brenda Kinderknecht who took on additional duties and responsibilities and is entitled to compensation according to the master agreement.

Upon Starkey's recommendation, the board passed separate resolutions concerning contracts for Brian S. Ostermann, basketball coach, and Sue Ann Miller, business instructor.

"Two contracts were issued which gave them an increase in compensation which other members of the negotiation unit had not received, and which were given without the authorization or approval of the Board of Trustees," Starkey said.

He said the contracts were issued by the college president, Dr. Mikel Ary. "The board honored the contracts, but passed resolutions to not renew them for next year, but does intend to offer contracts based on whatever agreement is in effect at the time," said Starkey.

The resolutions said, in part, "The board reluctantly approved the contracts issued... for the 2001-2002 school year for the remainder of the school year.... It is the intent of the Board of Trustees to offer a contact to you for the 2002-2003 academic year based on the duly adopted Master Agreement or such agreement which may be in effect according to law."

The board approved routine contracts as is done each year. The following outreach contracts were approved on a part-time basis: Jason Robben,

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Dave Starkey,  
College board attorney

Outreach College Algebra in Oakley; Harvey Kahle, Outreach Biology in Winona; Pauline Poage, Outreach Beginning Crafts in Norton; Travis Betz, Outreach English Comp II in Winona; Carol Johnson, Outreach Medical Terminology in Sharon Springs; Doug Isernhagen, Outreach Money Dynamics in Phillipsburg; Sheila Johnson, Outreach Intro to the Internet in Winona; Deb Koon, Outreach Lifestyle Dance in Colby; Jackie Elliott, Outreach College Algebra in Goodland. The following contracts were approved for additional work above their contract hours as defined in the master agreement: Joyce Washburn, supplemental/division chair; Jean Ann Wilson, supplemental/theory class; Tracey Stark, supplemental/clinical & nursing lab; Tina Schrick, supplemental/clinical nursing shift; Carol Otter, supplemental/clinical nursing shift; Laura Tubbs, supplemental/clinical nursing session; Mary Ann Wilson, supplemental/business class overload; Joyce Washburn, supplemental/higher learning committee; Bob Selby, supplemental/higher learning committee; Deanna Vogler EduKan/psychology instructor (contract generated by EduKan).

In other business:

- Prior to the 5 p.m. meeting, several trustees and college employees had attended a presentation by Michael Kelley, representative of the state health insurance plan which has been opened up to community colleges and public schools. Dean of Fiscal Affairs Kenneth Johnson said the presentation had been well received. For further information those interested may search the website at da.state.ks.us/ps

Johnson said the present insurance expires July 1, and if the college is to enroll in the state insurance plan, the decision must be made by May 1. However, it must be accepted by the employees.

Erickson said the Faculty Alliance will meet Wednesday, and she can give their decision at the next board meeting. However, Starkey, board attorney, said insurance is part of the package

being offered, and not a separate decision.

- The board voted to accept a proposal of \$7,480 from Claire Cornell to write a Title III grant. Ary said she had written a grant for the college in the 1980s which netted \$80,000-\$200,000 per year over a five-year period.

He said if the grant were received, it would be used to set up a counseling center on campus, help faculty with workshops, and advanced degrees, help set up 'electronic smart' classrooms to assist in learning, purchase a new mainframe computer and software, and pay a campus research officer.

However, "there are no guarantees in grant writing," he said.

- The board postponed discussion of a mission statement.

- Ary said the college had purchased as used tractor from the Garden City Highway Department for the college farm, as authorized by the board at a previous meeting. However, instead of the \$4,900 estimated for a 6-foot loader bucket, it was found the tractor needed a 7-foot loader to accommodate the width of the wheels, and it will cost \$5,329. It will be used for loading ensilage.

The board approved the purchase. Ary said soon after the new (used) tractor was received, the power steering went out on the John Deere tractor at the college farm, and the new tractor is being used to feed cattle until the John Deere tractor is repaired.

- The board voted to accept the invitation of the Colby Community College Endowment Association to buy a table at the endowment auction on April 16 for \$150. They then voted to rescind the motion to buy the table, because of a question whether they could use public funds.

- Ary announced that David and Julie (Nixon) Eisenhower had been scheduled to speak at the college on April 3, however, they have been invited to fly to China, so the lecture has been rescheduled for April 24. The presentation is sponsored by the Dr. Max Pickerill Speakers Bureau.

# Graves vetoes redistricting plan

TOPEKA (AP) — A coalition that pushed a redistricting plan through the Senate expects to offer another proposal in the wake of a veto from Gov. Bill Graves.

Democrats and conservative Republicans in the coalition said some small changes could be made to improve the bill, which redrew the 40 Senate districts. Graves' veto was Tuesday.

However, Democrats backed off a promise that the coalition would send Graves the same map he rejected.

"I don't think you can assume anything at this point," said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka. "Obviously, the veto puts us in a position where we've got to continue

talking about this issue, so we'll go back in and see what the thinking is."

Drafted by the Senate's 10 Democrats and 11 of its conservative Republicans, the redistricting map was presented as debate was under way in the chamber on a version endorsed by the Senate Reapportionment Committee.

The coalition pushed its plan to passage on a 21-19 vote over the objections of top Senate Republicans, including President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson. The House approved it last week, sending it to Graves.

In a lengthy veto message, Graves suggested the plan's legality was questionable because of some of the changes it made in existing districts.

He also raised the issues of fairness and the way the measure came to a Senate vote — without the usual procedures.

"This bill did not go through that process, and received no review by any committee or by the general public," Graves said in a statement accompanying his veto message to legislators.

Graves also singled out proposed changes in Shawnee County for criticism in vetoing the bill. The governor urged Democrats and Republicans to reopen negotiations and promised that he would not make a deal involving other issues. Some had speculated that Graves might sign the map to secure support from coalition members for proposed tax increases.

# State statistics show area's strongest, largest library located in Colby

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council learned Tuesday night that Pioneer Memorial Library is considered the strongest and largest library in the Northwest Kansas Library System, according to statistics from the Kansas State Library in Topeka.

"Our service area includes more than Colby, encompassing all of Thomas County and some of the surrounding areas," said JoAnne Sunderman, librarian. With a population base of about 9,000 in that service area, Sunderman said that the library has

6,721 registered card holders.

In her annual report, Sunderman said circulation was up to 102,730 and some 63,286 people visited the library during the year 2001.

There were 37,312 books available for lending, she said, as well as 144 magazine titles, 2,942 audio cassettes, 66 compact discs, 1,685 videos, 49 DVDs, 89 cake pans, 5 newspapers, and 252 puzzles.

In addition, the library also checked out a DVD player, slide projectors, movie projectors, an automatic bread-making machine, a 30-cup coffee percolator, an 18-quart electric roaster, an

overhead projector, numerous area and national telephone books and a selection of area school yearbooks.

"It is important to note that from the user point of view," she told the council, "it is no longer meaningful to merely look at the number of journals to which a library subscribes or the number of book titles a library owns."

What Sunderman said is significant; however, is the access to the world of journals and titles that a library can provide. "Our library offers free public access to the Internet, in addition to a number of databases such as First Search, Info Trac, SIRS and more," she

said. While certain types of services are expected in virtually every library, Sunderman said she believes that the wide range of resources available through the Internet and shared licensing agreements for databases means that even small libraries have the opportunity to tailor services to their particular clientele. The library's annual budget from city tax dollars is \$170,505 with total income from other sources such as grants, gifts, memorials, etc. totaling \$203,505.

Expenses last year came in lower than the budgeted funds, leaving a cash balance carryover at the end of last year

of \$7,489.

"We are very proud of our small library and it's small budget," she said, "but it remains the biggest library in this area."

Accompanying Sunderman to Tuesday night's meeting was Phil DeYoung, president of the Pioneer Memorial Library board of trustees.

DeYoung, along with another board member, Marcy Wasson, will be leaving the board in April, after serving the maximum two terms, Sunderman said. "Phil has been such an asset and will be hard to replace," she said.

Other board members in 2001 in-

cluded Cindy Schafer, secretary; Lisa Wilson, treasurer; Maradith Molstad, Kirk Nielsen, Floyd L. Smith, replaced by Patrick Toth in May of 2001 as vice-president and Warren Hixson, ex-officio member. Along with Sunderman, other library personnel, both full and part-time in 2001 were Debbie Tittel, Sheryl Goossen, Becky Wahlmeier, Rosa Lee Waterman, Nancy Saddler, Emma Rogers, Linda Hale, Mara Dee Fulwider, Chelsea Gordon and Melissa Tittel.

*Editor's note: Other highlights from the council meeting will appear in the Thursday edition.*

## Briefly

### Weather: Snow?

Everything will be fine....until late Friday. That's what the National Weather Service sees for the Colby area. Tonight, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 20s, southeast winds 10-15 mph. Thursday, partly sunny, highs in the lower 60s, southeast winds 10-15 mph. Thursday night, clear, lows in the upper 20s.

Friday, sunny, clouding up later in the day, highs in the middle 50s, temperatures falling in the evening and becoming very windy. A 30 percent chance for snow around midnight with overnight lows dipping into the teens. Saturday will rebound with clear skies and highs in the upper 30s to around 40.

Colby's high Tuesday was 66 and the overnight low this morning was 21. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 32 degrees. Precipitation for March remains at 0.01 inches and snowfall 1 inch. The records for March are: 66 in 1934 and -19 in 1948. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

### Kindergarten enrollment reset

Colby Grade School will hold kindergarten pre-enrollment from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, in the conference room of the school. The date was rescheduled due to inclement weather last week, said Terrel Harrison, principal. For questions, call 465-5100.

### Aviation safety program Saturday

The annual Aviation Safety-Education Seminar at the Colby Municipal Airport will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the terminal building. The program will include presentations by managers with the Wichita Flight Standards Office, Wichita Air Traffic Control Tower Sabris Corporation and others. Various topics include ways to save the life of a fellow pilot in the event of an emergency, accidents and incidents when there are mechanical failures and how to remedy those situations, along with safety suggestions. The event is open to area pilots or those interested in the event. Lunch will be provided at no cost. For questions, call Mark Ostmeier, airport manager, 462-4438.

### Softball signup now underway

From now until mid-March, the Colby Girls Fast Pitch Association is looking for softball players, ages 8 through 18, interested in joining a Sweet Thunder team, said Barbara Wieland, president of the association. For questions or information, call Wieland at 462-6501; Tanya Staats, business manager at 462-6537; or check out the website at www.colbysweetthunder.org

### 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.

### Sorority plans youth tournament

A 3-on-3 youth basketball tournament, sponsored by Kappa Upsilon, will be held on Saturday, April 13 in the Colby Elementary and Colby Middle School gymnasiums.

The grade divisions for boys and girls are 3rd-4th; 5th-6th; and 7th-8th, with entry fee at \$24 per team. The deadline for entry forms is Tuesday, April 9. For questions, call Pam Augustine, 462-2924, or Bonnie Dinkel, 462-7247, co-coordinators of the tournament.

### Endowment auction nearing

The Colby Community College Endowment Association will hold its annual party auction on Saturday, March 16 at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby. The auction will be open for viewing of items at 4:45 p.m., the buffet dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the live auction beginning at 7 p.m. To make a reservation or questions, call (785)-462-4684.

### Recycling center takes phone books

The Thomas County Recycling Center is taking old telephone books at its collection site, 720 E. College Dr. in Colby. Those wanting to drop off the books should use the magazine bins, coordinators said.

