



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Art may be in their future



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

More than 70 homeschoolers attended a special art class sponsored by Christian Family Educators support group with Barry Stebbing facilitating the class. The area students learned more about color, art appreciation and drawing during the three-day session held at the

Colby Community Building's Little Theatre from Monday through Wednesday. The classes were for kids ages 5 through adult. Pictured are two Colby children, C. J. Lewallen (left) and Christi Boll, during one of the sessions.

# House members reject changes in sales tax

By JOHN MILBURN

*Associated Press Writer*  
TOPEKA (AP) — House members again have demonstrated their distaste for raising taxes, rejecting repeated efforts to increase the state sales tax and repeal nearly \$3 billion in exemptions.

The debate Wednesday was the latest exercise in the House to gauge members' support for various ways of closing a projected budget gap of more than \$679 million over the next 15 months. Earlier in the week, the House voted down proposed increases in the state's income tax, estate tax and prop-

erty tax for public schools. Taxes on alcohol, beer and tobacco products were on Thursday's agenda.

Rep. Bonnie Sharp on Wednesday offered the biggest revenue-generating measure yet suggested — repealing most of the exemptions from the state's 4.9 percent sales tax to bring in nearly \$3 billion. Sharp, D-Kansas City, said the economy has changed and that the state has grown increasingly reliant on retail sales and services, which is not reflected by a taxing system that depends on income and property taxes.

"We're taxing under a model that's not working," Sharp said.

Her amendment was defeated 100-22. The bill to which it would have been attached — a sales tax exemption for hearing aids — was rejected later in the day, 64-41.

Sharp said repealing all exemptions in a single amendment was ambitious, but that it points to the need for legislators to rethink all exemptions and become serious about tax policy.

"I'm offering you some lettuce, some green stuff," Sharp said. The weeklong tax debate has been dubbed "build-your-own salad week."

Opponents were not amused. House Taxation Chairman John

Edmonds, R-Great Bend, labeled Sharp's amendment a "\$3 billion tax increase" and said there was much to dislike in its 76 provisions.

Rep. Bob Tomlinson, R-Roeland Park, offered three amendments to increase the sales tax to as much as 5.5 percent, with all the revenue dedicated to education. Under one of the amendments, the higher rate would have expired after three years.

Edmonds said he did not believe in the Easter Bunny or Santa Claus — nor in the Legislature's ability to roll back the tax rate after the revenue it produced was built into school budgets.

# KU withdraws invite to author who plagiarized

LAWRENCE (AP) — The University of Kansas has withdrawn a speaking invitation to historian and author Doris Kearns Goodwin because she admitted plagiarizing passages from other authors' works.

But the university will proceed with plans to have historian David McCullough speak as part of its new

Dole Institute of Politics Presidential Lecture Series, despite allegations that he misquoted Thomas Jefferson in one of his recent books.

Goodwin had been scheduled to be the first speaker on Nov. 3 in the presidential Lecture Series.

But Institute Director Richard Norton Smith said Tuesday her appear-

ance was called off because of the controversy involving her book "The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys."

Goodwin, 59, admitted in January she had agreed to a confidential monetary settlement with British author Lynne McTaggart, who had complained that several passages of Goodwin's book were nearly identical

to parts of her 1983 book on Kathleen Kennedy.

Last month, Goodwin said her research assistants found other books that also included copied passages.

She said in her handwritten notes, that passages from other books were intertwined with her personal observations.

# Bush: Bin Laden nearly irrelevant, Saddam Hussein still a 'problem'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush has declared that Osama bin Laden is fading into irrelevance. "Saddam Hussein remains 'a problem,'" however, and "we're going to deal with him," Bush said.

Shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, Bush said he wanted bin Laden "dead or alive." Since then, as bin Laden vanished and the war progressed, Bush shifted his message, saying the war was about more than one man.

Bush took that rhetoric to new territory in a news conference Wednesday,

saying of the al-Qaida leader: "I truly am not that concerned about him."

"I was concerned about him when he had taken over a country. I was concerned about the fact that he was basically running Afghanistan and calling the shots for the Taliban."

But, Bush said, "We shoved him out more and more on the margins."

Vice President Dick Cheney is on a coalition-building mission to the Middle East to make a case for widening the war on terror to include Iraq under Saddam. Bush took pains to say

the United States will consult with allies on Iraq but didn't rule out unilateral action.

The president was continuing his consultations Thursday in a meeting with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada, who sent hundreds of combat soldiers to Afghanistan for Bush's anti-terror coalition.

"I am deeply concerned about Iraq, and so should the American people be concerned about Iraq, and so should people who love freedom be concerned about Iraq," Bush said. "This is a na-

tion run by a man who is willing to kill his own people by using chemical weapons. A man who won't let inspectors into the country. A man who's obviously got something to hide."

"And he is a problem, and we're going to deal with him."

In his fifth news conference, Bush dealt with a range of questions on nuclear strategy, Mideast violence, U.S. casualties in Afghanistan and other topics. He also laced the 45-minute session with humor, mostly at the expense of reporters. He mixed in

# Town hall meeting brings lawmakers, candidates to Colby

By PATTY DECKER

*Free Press Editor*

The Kansas Legislature is back in session, but last week local lawmakers were in Colby to talk about some of the important issues facing all Kansans.

More than 40 people attended the town hall meeting arranged by Sen. Stan Clark (R-Oakley) and Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby). Joining them were Kansas State Treasurer and Kansas governor candidate Tim Shallenburger of Baxter Springs, along with former state representative and chairman of the House tax and appropriations committees Phill Kline of Shawnee, who is seeking the attorney general's position.

Although said in different ways, Clark, Morrison, Shallenburger and Kline echoed similar concerns associated with the state's budget, streamlining government, boosting the economy, strengthening education, agriculture and reversing the decline in moral values.

Shallenburger, who is running against Attorney General Carla Stovall and Wichita Mayor Bob Knight in the August primary, said he will make government more efficient.

"We are spending more than we are taking in," Shallenburger said, "with a \$680 million budget shortfall, the government is growing too fast and bigger than it should be."

Shallenburger believes this is not the time to raise taxes, but it is the time to streamline the government and reduce the tax burden on Kansans.

"It is you, as citizens, that take care of the government," he said. "If you have jobs, own property and money to spend, then you are taking care of the government."

However, Shallenburger said that if people are facing tax increases, they are apt to buy less, own less, and spend less, which in essence defeats the purpose.

"If the government's fiscal house is in order by becoming more efficient, then we are putting more money back into the pockets of Kansas's citizens, and everybody benefits."

He also cited education and children as the state's top priority and said he is dedicated to making Kansas schools and universities the best in the nation.

In the area of children and families, he cited the recent report card on the state of the state's children with only a

grade of "C."

"Average just isn't good enough when it comes to children," he said. "If elected, on the first day in office I will create a new cabinet level agency to be known as the Kansas Department of Children and Families."

The main focus of the new agency would be in addressing specific problems in areas to include wage discrimination, alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse among children, as well as foster care, child abuse and neglect, and child support enforcement.

Kline, who will be facing off against David Atkins in the primary for Kansas Attorney General, said he is running because he believes that justice is standing up for what is right and standing up for truth.

"Justice must not be defined simply by those who write the largest check, make the most noise or exercise the most power," he said at the town hall meeting.

Rather, justice must be rooted in the law and truth with everyone standing together to insure that the ends of justice are met by fighting for victims, respecting and supporting law enforcement, keeping violent criminals behind bars and protecting homes, neighborhoods, schools and the state.

Kline also believes that more fairness is needed to make sure the agricultural markets are free from those who would use their market power to exploit the rights of farmers and ranchers.

Citing ways he would do that, he spoke of production contracts that would ensure pricing variables are revealed; anti-trust laws be strongly enforced, recognizing that monopoly power exercised in production is just as dangerous to the public good as monopoly power exercised in retail; country of origin laws be enforced consistent with their intent and not evaded; and more public investment needs to take place in seed research so that public health will be enhanced and so a few conglomerates will not own the intellectual property rights to seeds.

Both Morrison and Clark spoke about budget issues as well with Clark noting recent legislation he had voted for involving making it more difficult for Kansans to get a divorce.

In addition, Morrison is up for reelection to the House in November. Thus far, know one has come forward to challenge him in the August primary.

The deadline for candidates to file for the primary is June 10 for the August election.

The deadline is June 24 for U.S. House, state legislative and state board of education candidates.

Colby. Those wanting to drop off the books should use the magazine bins, coordinators said.

## Storm spotter class slated

The National Weather Service in Goodland and the Thomas County Emergency Management will present a storm spotter and safety class in Colby on Tuesday, March 26. The training will begin at 7 p.m. in the Student Union of Colby Community College. It is free of charge and is intended for all age groups.

## Donation drop planned Saturday

The Thomas County Alcohol Drug Abuse Council will have a drop-off donation site at Southwind Plaza on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. for those wanting to contribute items for the flea market on Saturday, April 13.

## Park fee reminder issued

Thomas County Clerk Tracey Perkins reminds that park fees will be going up April 1. If there are questions, contact her office at 462-4500.

## Fair board meets tonight

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m., tonight, in the 4-H Building to discuss plans for the coming fair, and to conduct routine business. The meeting is open to the public.

## Recycling center takes phone books

The Thomas County Recycling Center is taking old telephone books at its collection site, 720 E. College Dr. in

## Youth group sponsors dance

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) World Youth Day participants will be hosting a dance for 6th, 7th and 8th graders on Friday, from 7-10 p.m. at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 West 6th in Colby. Admission is \$4 with pizza and pop concession. Proceeds will go towards the trip expenses to attend World Youth Day in Canada July 2002. For information contact Angela Zimmerman, CYO Sponsor, at work (462-7909) or home (462-7233).

## Family historians to meet

The Family History Group will meet 3:30-5 p.m. Sunday at Jean (Mrs. Paul) Wagoner's home, 1795 E. 4th, to view her research. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Bring questions for sharing.

## Briefly

### Weather: Sunny, warmer

The cloud cover will disappear, the stars will shine and the sun will glow. That's the forecast for the Colby area issued today by the National Weather Service. Tonight, partly cloudy, lows in the 20s and north winds 10-15 mph. Friday, sunny, highs in the middle to upper 40s, west winds up to 10 mph. Friday night, clear, lows in the middle 20s. Saturday and Sunday, sunny, lows in the middle 20s and highs in the middle 50s. Colby's high Wednesday was 59 and the overnight low this morning was 26. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 43 degrees. Precipitation remains at 0.01 inches for the month. The records for March 14: 82 in 1935 and -11 in 1895. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

