



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## College roundup Trustees make no changes in officers

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

The current officers of the Colby Community College board of trustees will remain for the 2002-2003 school year following action taken by the board at its Monday meeting.

Kenton Krehbiel will continue as chairman; Cleona Flipse, vice chairman; Curt Stephens, treasurer; and Dr. Mikel Ary, secretary.

The Kansas Association of Community College Trustees representative will be Don Kready. Ex-officio member to the Colby Community College Endowment Association will be Stephens.

In other business:

- The trustees approved the minutes of the June 17 meeting.

- Approval was reached for custodial and security agreement with The Bank in Colby.

- A lease agreement was signed with Norton County Hospital for the nursing program. Last year the amount of the lease was raised to \$630 per month. The lease for the next year will remain at that amount.

Although the hospital is going through a \$3 million renovation, it will not effect the portion of the building used by the college.

- The trustees voted for a retainer of legal services with Starkey and Gatz of Colby.

- The resignation of Eric Eicher was accepted by the trustees. Eicher will be taking a Scholar in Residence position in the English department of Colby High School.

- An agreement was reached to approve a purchase order to Academic Systems for individual user licenses for the math program. The 175 user licenses cost a total of \$10,904.

Students in both intermediate Algebra and college Algebra will be using the individually based program. At registration, the money spent for these licenses will come back to the college. Students are charge an \$80 fee for the service.

- The trustees changed their July 15 meeting to July 22 at 5 p.m. for budget reasons. Members of the board will have a copy of the budget to review by July 15 for the July 22 meeting. If needed, an emergency meeting will be held to make any changes after the July 22 meeting to have it ready for publication to comply with the state of Kansas budget guidelines.

- A contract was approved to employ Wanda Switzer to assist with the Higher Education Commission and other duties.

- A contract to continue administrating GED tests at the college was approved.

- The trustees approved payment of claims for \$561,414.72.

- The college received a check for \$1,000 from Clay Blair, outgoing board chair of the Kansas Board of Regents. The money to be used for scholarships was forwarded to the endowment fund.

- Ary presented a list of some of the membership dues the college pays out.

The next meeting will be July 22 at 5 p.m. in the board room.

## Traveling singers



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

The Celebrant Singers, primarily made up of students from California, appeared at Fike Park last weekend singing in front of large crowd. Along with young people from other states and Canada, the purpose

of the event was to raise funds for mission work in Russia as part of an interdenominational project. Their tour will end in New York City in the next two weeks.

## Interest in ethanol plant draws 50 people

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Western Plains Energy's plans to build and operate an ethanol plant east of Oakley are on track, according to the company's board of managers members Dick Sterrett and Jeff Torluemke.

The company is holding a series of meetings in northwest Kansas to generate investment revenue. A meeting was held in Colby on Monday at the City Limits Convention Center and attracted "around 50 people," according to Sterrett.

"It was a good meeting," he added. "There was a lot of questions and involvement from the audience."

"The meetings are going well, with good attendance," said Torluemke, who is the president and CEO of Western Plains Energy. "Things are tough right now, with the drought and every-

thing, but we feel the timing couldn't be better."

Western Plains Energy was formed in July of 2001 to build and operate a 30 million gallon ethanol production facility in Gove County. The plant will be located on 53 acres of land six miles east of Oakley near Campus.

According to the company's prospectus package, Western Plains hopes to raise between \$15 million and \$19 million. These proceeds will be used to pay for the construction and start-up costs of the ethanol plant. "We hope to break ground on the plant by the end of this year," Torluemke said. "Allowing 12 months for construction, we should be producing ethanol by the end of 2003."

The company held a meeting in Oberlin today, and was in Scott City, in addition to Colby, on Monday. Plans



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Dick Sterrett (right) talks with Don Acheson of Morland prior to an investors meeting held by Western Plains Energy of Quinter.

take them to Hays on Wednesday, and the following other locations: Goodland at 2 p.m. (MDT), Monday, July 8, at the Elks Lodge; in Oakley at 9 a.m.,

Wednesday, July 10, Oakley Country Club; in Hoxie at 2 p.m., Friday, July 12, at the Elks Lodge; and also at sites in Wray and Burlington, Colo.

## Former Colbyite gets \$10,000 for good teaching

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A 1979 Colby High School graduate, who is now a teacher in Nebraska, was honored recently for his exceptional contributions in the field of education, school officials said.

Mark Pursel, a sixth grade teacher at Walnut Hill Elementary School in Omaha was one of 12 teachers in the Omaha Public School System selected this year to receive a \$10,000 check from the Alice Buffett Foundation in

Omaha. "Mark's biggest asset is a desire to bring out the best in every student he comes in contact with, whether it be in the classroom or on his basketball team," said one of his colleagues at the elementary school.

"He expects



Mark Pursel

nothing less than their full potential and he doesn't pamper his students and tell them how bad off they are or try to be their best friend by feeling sorry for them," another elementary teacher said.

Pursel was commended for helping his students gain positive self-esteem and striving for an attitude that they can accomplish any goal they make.

After completing high school in Colby, Pursel received a bachelor of science degree from the University of

Nebraska in Lincoln.

The foundation was established to recognize teachers and was started years ago to honor Alice Buffett, a home economics teacher in the Omaha Public School System for her 35 years in the profession, officials said. The foundation originated when Warren Buffett, also of Omaha and Alice's nephew, wanted to do something to honor the hard work and dedication of teachers. Pursel is the son of Hugh and the late Betty Pursel.

## Museum/historical society update county

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

Thomas County Commissioners listened to the annual report and 2003 budget requests from the Prairie Museum of Art and History and Thomas County Historical Society during Monday's meeting.

Sue Taylor, the society's director, and Dan Baalman, president of the board of directors of the museum, addressed the commissioners about their budget and events of the year. Each year, the commissioners have appropriated \$65,000 for the Prairie Museum of Art and History, along with the Thomas County Historical Society.

This year the amount will stay the same.

Taylor and Baalman also told the commissioners about a new exhibit that will be opening this month entitled, "Batteries Not Included". This exhibit will feature toys. Also, a new doll gallery will be opening soon and there will be a reinstalling of the "Prairie Grasses to Golden Grains" exhibit in the Cooper Barn.

In other business:

- Commissioners approved the Colby Kiwanis Club's use of the fairgrounds for the Fourth of July fireworks celebration, and verified

that they had proper insurance. Members of the Colby Fire Department will be discharging the fireworks.

- The commissioners reviewed the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Thomas County Economic Development team.

- Commissioners also spoke with County Treasurer Donita Applebury about the new sales tax effecting vehicle buyers.

When a person registers their new vehicle purchased out of county, they will be required to pay the difference between the local sales tax rate at the seller's location and the purchaser's residence, if the seller's rate is lower, she said.

However, if a purchaser pays more, there will be no refund.

- Commissioners approved the College View Baptist youth group to provide bottled water at the Fourth of July fireworks display.

- The Thomas County Courthouse will be closed on the Fourth of July and will reopen for business on July 5.

The next meeting of the commissioners will be July 8 at 9 a.m. All meetings are open to the public and the commissioners encourage attendance.

## Briefly

### It's summer, so...

Temperatures in the Colby area will continue to hold at or above 90 well into next week, and nighttime readings will begin to creep into the 70s, the National Weather Service said today. Precipitation will be pretty much a no-show. Here we go: Tonight, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows in the middle 60s and south winds around 20 mph; Wednesday, partly sunny, highs right at 90 and southeast winds 10-20; Wednesday night, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows in the 60s; July 4th, partly sunny, highs around 90; Friday through Monday, hot, highs in the 90s, lows in the lower 70s. Colby's high Monday was 94 and the overnight low this morning was 67. No precipitation. The records for July 2: 104 in 1973 and 43 in 1924. (*Temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.*)

### Water garden tour scheduled

Citizens Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary is sponsor-

ing a *water garden tour* on Sunday, July 21, from 2 to 5 p.m., said Bev Biel, one of the coordinators. Tickets and tour booklets are \$6 and can be purchased at Goodheart Landscaping, Citizens Medical Center Gift Shop or any Colby bank, she said. All proceeds will benefit the auxiliary in its efforts to help purchase items for Citizens Medical Center. For information or questions, call Biel at 462-2311.

### City council meets today

The Colby City Council will meet today beginning at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers for its regular meeting. The council plans to talk about roof repairs at the community building; will discuss a letter from the Kansas Department of Transportation on the viaduct removal project; consider a request to amend Colby Municipal Airport Manager Mark Ostmeyer's contract; and approval of a resolution reconfirming support for regional strategic plan and reapproving Thomas County as a Kansas Enterprise Zone. Also, the council is expected to go into closed session for contract negotiations.

### Fireworks display Thursday

The Kiwanis Club of Thomas County is sponsoring the annual 4th of July community fireworks display. The event will be held at the Thomas County Fairgrounds next Thursday at 10:15 p.m. In addition, anyone who would be interested in assisting the club to raise funds for this year's event are still encouraged to send donations to the organization. All contributions can be mailed to Kiwanis Club of Thomas County, P.O. Box 501, Colby, Kan., 67701.

### No newspaper Thursday

The Colby Free Press will not publish a newspaper on Thursday, July 4, so that employees can spend the day with family in observance of Independence Day. The office will also be closed that day, but will reopen on Friday at 8 a.m. For questions, call 462-3963.

### Trash schedule changes

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be

operating on Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. Thursday's residential grass will be picked up on Friday, July 5, along with the regular residential solid waste route. For questions, call 462-4410.

### Wall of Support offered

The Thomas County Fair is offering the community a place to come together as family and celebrate what is best about living in Northwest Kansas, said Mark Miller, fair board president. "We would like for you to be a part of this event through your participation in the Wall of Support," he said. "The objective of the Thomas County Fair Wall of Support is to generate financial and community support for the Fair in a way that will also benefit donors." The wall will feature a list of businesses and individual names prominently displayed on the back of the grandstands during the week of the Thomas County Fair. For those interested, call either Mark Miller at 462-6347 or Mark Anderson at 687-3731.



