



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Budget survives attack

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

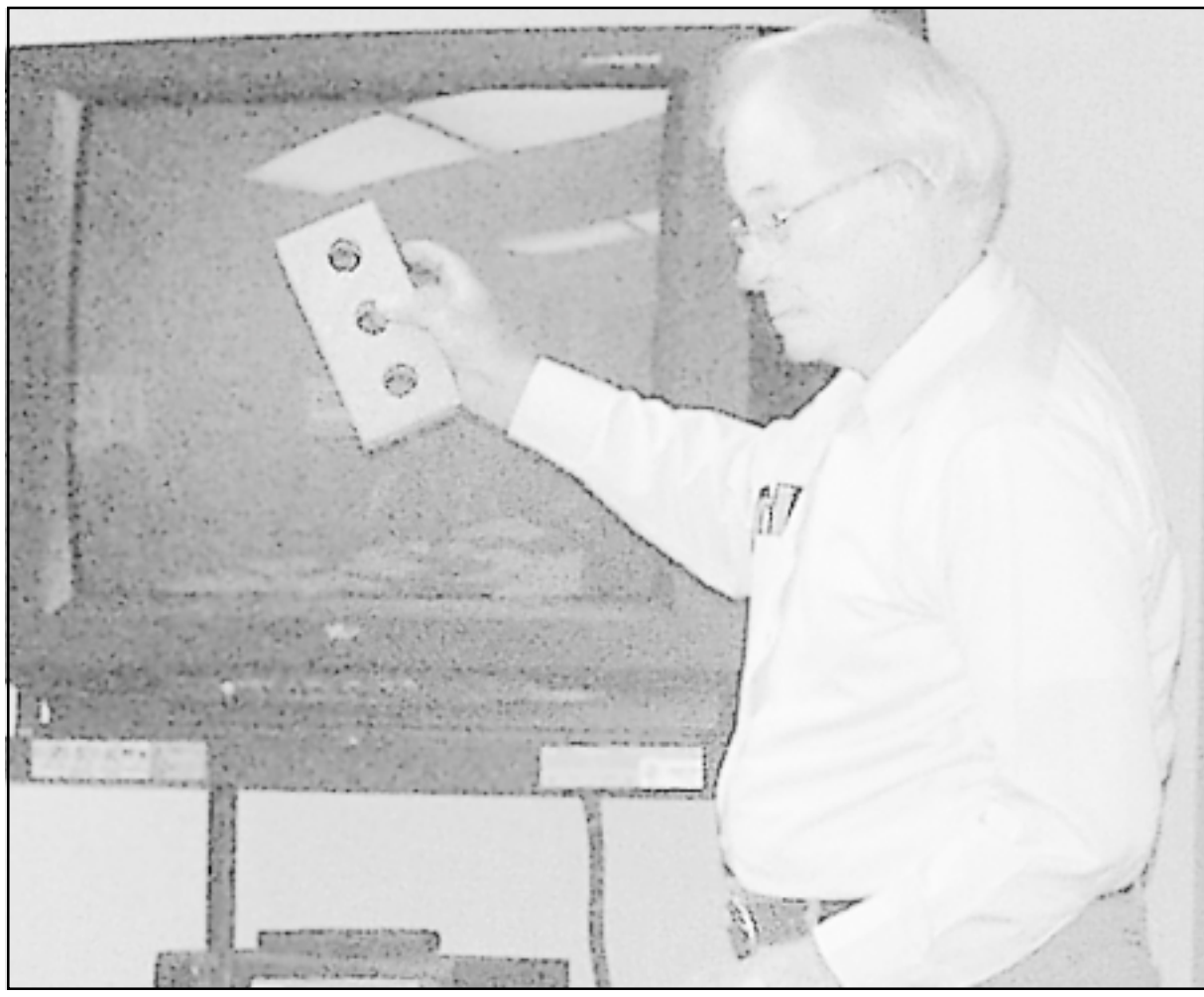
The Colby School Board held a public hearing Monday night prior to approving its budget for the 2002-2003 school year. The hearing lasted approximately 30 minutes and was well attended.

District patron Lloyd Theimer of Colby gave a presentation in which he read from a prepared statement, part of which is excerpted here.

"Last year at the USD 315 budget hearing," Theimer read while standing next to a table on which there was a six-pack of bottled water, two bricks, and a box of caramel corn (their presence explained later in the story), "you received copies of actual county tax statements of Southwest quarter of 27-9-34 of the Theimer farm showing that taxes were decreased as those dark days worsened. Not today — 'the tail wags the dog.' Government is no longer of the people or for the people. By this same token, some even question if the public schools are for the best interest of the children."

He continued, "It's been more than a decade since USD 315 began its building, remodeling and destruction program. The mistakes, deceits, and excesses are history. The two bond issues remain. Air conditioning, heating, extra acres of blue grass plus old grade school site, etc., all add to cost. Still in spite of decreasing enrollment, the management is pushing for an added building on the new high school acreage.

"After selling this Administration Complex for \$1, the price of this box of caramel corn, or the price of these



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Lloyd Theimer of Colby spoke to the school board Monday night during the public hearing on the district's 2002-2003 budget. Theimer used a six-pack of bottled water, a box of caramel corn, and two bricks to demonstrate what it cost to purchase the current administration building.

two bricks priced at 50 cents each. This 6-pack of drinking water priced at \$2.50 would have bought two and one half of these units."

Lester Haremza of Colby also spoke to the board against raising the mill levy.

"I want to encourage you not to do this," he told the board. "There's no way I can pay more taxes. You people ought to consider this. It seems to me that with all of these activities going on, and busses running up and down the Interstate, we should be able to cut some stuff."

After a motion was made to approve the budget, board member Wilburn Holloway said, "I'm a farmer. I can't support an increase in taxes. Back in

the thirties, teachers took half-pay, not an increase. One of these days, the people are going to have enough of this and rise up. Then there'll be a lot of people out of jobs."

The board approved the budget by a vote of 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Holloway) and 1 absent (Bill Miller).

In other business, the board:

- Approved out-of-district attendance for Valorie Ackerman, who lives in Winona, and Dalton and De'andra Garcia, of Brewster.

- Approved emergency substitute certificates for Jeanette Fortkamp, Roger Herren, Donna Lamm and Krysti Terrell.

- Accepted the resignations of Laura Cook, high school athletics/activities

secretary, and Marilyn Denning, food service.

- Accepted employment recommendations for Stacy Hall, part-time paraprofessional; Roger Herren, paraprofessional; Danielle Meitler, paraprofessional; Janet Pinkelman, paraprofessional; Arlene Scartozzi, library assistant; Rose Schacher, paraprofessional; and Carol Schwarz, food service; and Sheri Lock, food service.

- The board also approved supplemental contracts, with the provision that an eye be kept on participation numbers, so that in the event of low participation in an activity, a reduction in the number of coaches could be made.

## 'Docs Who Care' bringing practice to clinic in Colby

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

As the search continues to recruit new physicians, following the resignations of Drs. Eric Jacobsen and Jeffrey Kasselmann, the Family Center for Health Care in Colby recently announced it has secured a contract with a job-share physician's group.

Known as, *Docs Who Care*, the concept of the group is to provide rotating coverage using between two and four physicians equivalent to a full-time position, said Scott Focke, clinic manager at Family Center for Health Care.

The doctors will rotate, working a week at a time, giving patients continuity of care, with privileges at Citizens Medical Center as well.

The physicians on this rotating team can provide 24-hour per day admitting and inpatient coverage to include obstetrics.

Regarding emergency room staffing, Focke said, the doctors will take their turn, along with Drs. Victor Hildyard, LaDonna Regier and Raymond Ketting in providing coverage.

Focke said these contracted physicians will also work with Luetta Flanagan and Jenny Niblock, nurse practitioners, at the Family Center for Health Care.

"*Docs Who Care* is a team of dedicated, motivated people to include physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners who are committed to providing high quality care to rural

communities and small hospitals throughout the Midwest," he said.

The team of rotating doctors are scheduled three months in advance so that patients may set their follow-up appointments with the physician of their choice, Focke said.

"When there is an emergency and a patient needs to be seen," he said, "it's reassuring to know that other high quality physicians are available."

The first two physicians in the rotation through the clinic include Dr. Gary Morsch, Olathe, who is also the founder of *Docs Who Care*, and Dr. Ned Nixon, Jr., of Littleton, Colo., he said.

Morsch said the group of doctors will be in Colby as long as they are needed, while the community continues its search to recruit full-time physicians.

"By securing the contract with *Docs Who Care*," Focke said, "and with the hospital voting to purchase the Family Center for Health Care, the future looks brighter."

All the physicians within the group are board certified family doctors, he said.

Dr. Morsch was in Colby last week and Dr. Nixon started his rotation this week.

Focke said that with the physician's group in place, the medical community can now turn its attention to recruiting permanent doctors.

For questions or information, Focke encourages people to call the center at (785) 462-6184.



Dr. G. Morsch



Dr. N. Nixon

## Weather Watch

Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers

Monday's high, 76

Low this morning, 59

Year ago today, 97 and 55

Temperature at 11:00 a.m. today, 80

Colby's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00

Oakley's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00

Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 75

Records for Aug. 20, 104 in 1900 and 43 in 1908

The forecast

Today, partly sunny, upper 80s.

Tonight, partly cloudy, 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows in the lower 60s, southwest winds 10-20 mph. Wednesday, sunny and hot, highs in the upper 90s, west winds 5-15 mph. Wednesday night, clear, lows 60-65. Thursday, cloudy early, then becoming partly sunny, highs in the lower 90s. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Colby Water Usage

• Aug. 19 = 2.326 million gallons

Levels of Concern

Watch Level 3.5 million gallons

Warning Level 4.0 million gallons

Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons

(Three consecutive days)

## County commissioners fill two vacancies on fair board

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

Two open slots on the Thomas County Fair Board have been filled when the Thomas County Commissioners appointed Brad Skolout and Justin Alexander to those posts at their Monday meeting.

The official resignation letters from Vera Sloan (Ward II) and David Pabst

(Roval Township) were received this past week by the commissioners. Sloan's term, which expires at the end of December 2004, will be filled by Alexander upon his acceptance.

Pabst's term, ending in December 2003, will be taken by Skolout, upon his acceptance.

This year, the fair board will have six terms which will expire at the end of

December. They are currently held by Darlene Hatfield, Bill Shields, Gary Garrett, Sue Draper, Sheryl Baird and Darrel Dible.

In other business:

- The Thomas County Conversation District recently received a grant for \$125,000. These monies will be used in part to purchase a baler and recycling bins for communities in the surrounding areas.

Commissioner Ron Evans said of the director of the program, Lynette Koon, "She is doing a wonderful job with all of the recycling efforts."

- All three commissioners will be attending the Kansas Association of Counties Conference in November.

- The commissioners will be going to WaKeeney on Monday, Aug. 26 to a meeting at the Greater Western Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Center.

• Permission was granted to Resource, Conservation, and Development Council to park vehicles in the parking lot of the Thomas County Office Complex while they are attending a conference in South Dakota.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m., Friday, Aug. 30.

## Experts are baffled as black bear kills 5-month-old child

FALLSBURG, N.Y. (AP) — Five-month-old Ester Schimmer was nestled in her carriage for an afternoon nap outside her family's Catskills bungalow when screams rang out.

"Bear! bear! bear!" witnesses yelled Monday shortly before a black bear snatched Ester from her stroller and dragged her into the woods as her mother brought her two other children to safety. Residents desperately hurled rocks at the 155-pound bear as it ran away. The young bear eventually

dropped the infant, but she had severe head and neck injuries and was pronounced dead at Ellenville Hospital, said Fallsburg Police Chief Brent Lawrence.

A police officer shot and killed the bear after hunting it down through the woods.

"It may be the first season that it may have been on its own, and it may very well have perceived this infant as a food source," Lawrence said.

The death stunned visitors at the

Catskills resort community and baffled wildlife experts who say black bears rarely attack humans. The American Bear Association says only 40 deaths in all of North America were caused by black bears in the last century.

"In all my many years, 34 summers, we've had them eat birdseed, get into trouble eating dog food in people's yards, but black bears are just not noted for attacking humans," said Ward Stone, state wildlife pathologist.

Ester was sleeping in her carriage by

the porch of the bungalow, near her mother and two siblings at around 2 p.m. when the attack occurred. After hearing the screams, the mother shuttled her 4- and 2-year-old children inside, Lawrence said.

Moments later, when she came outside again, the infant was gone. Witnesses reported seeing the bear with the baby in its mouth as it ambled into dense woods 20 feet from the bungalow.

Isaac Abraham, an Orthodox Jewish

community leader from Brooklyn, said people desperately tried to save the girl. "People started chasing the bear, throwing rocks at it," he said.

Department of Environmental Conservation and police officers pursued the bear into the woods, Lawrence said. Fallsburg officer David Decker shot it once.

"It was just standing there. It wasn't scared," Decker said. "As I walked toward the bear, the bear climbed up a tree. And that's when I shot the bear."

## Two men are charged in the theft of 12 paintings at Hays

HAYS (AP) — A Hays man was charged Monday in the theft of 12 paintings by local artist John Cody. A second Hays man was charged with possession of the stolen paintings.

Mitchell M. Nestir, 29, is charged with theft of items worth more than \$25,000, vehicle burglary and car theft.

Nestir is suspected of stealing a car that had the paintings in the trunk. When the car was recovered, the paintings and other items were not inside it.

Nestir is being held on \$100,000 bond in Ellis County Jail. His bond on a Trego County charge of felony theft has been revoked.

Enid C. Tagimacruz, 46, is charged with knowingly possessing stolen property after he allegedly hid the paintings when Nestir brought them to him. Tagimacruz is being held on \$100,000 bond for the art theft, and also is being held on a warrant for failure to appear in Ellis County District

Court on an aggravated assault charge.

The paintings, watercolor renderings of Saturniid moths had an estimated value of \$250,000. They had been loaned to Commerce Bank for a July exhibition. Hays Arts Council Director Brenda Meder had the paintings in the trunk of her car when it was

stolen Aug. 6. The paintings were recovered after Nestir and another man were arrested Aug. 12 in the beating of another Hays man at a bar. While police were questioning witnesses about the incident, Tagimacruz told them where the stolen goods were, Hays police investigator Bill Lovewell said.

## Briefly

### City council meets tonight

The Colby City Council will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers to continue discussion on the Community Building roof; consider formation of intensive groundwater use control area within the corporate limits of the city and discussion and approval of 2002 street sealing project. All meetings are open to the public. For questions or copy of agendas, call Jo Strange, executive secretary to the city manager, at 462-4410.

### Floats wanted for parade

The Rexford-Golden Plains Alumni are planning a special celebration on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 30-

31 and Sept. 1, said Kathi Hapke, chairman of the association. In an effort to make this millennium alumni weekend even more successful, Hapke is encouraging businesses, individuals and organizations to enter floats or anything related to the theme of the event, "Blast From the Past," for the parade on Saturday. For questions, call Hapke at (785) 687-3340.

### Hunter education course slated

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Colby volunteer instructors and the Colby Recreation Department are sponsoring a hunter education course. The course will be held at the Colby Community Building on Tuesday, Aug.

27, and Thursday, Aug. 29, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Students must attend all sessions," said Benny Young, with the Wildlife and Parks Department.

In addition, anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must take and pass a hunter education course before they can hunt in Kansas. Students must also pre-enroll at the Pirate's Den at Southwind Plaza, Colby. For information, call 462-6631, 462-7602 or 462-3367.

### Youth activity in September

The Community Awareness Team is sponsoring a "Coffee House Night" in the City Limits conference room, Sat-

urday, Sept. 14, from 8 to 11 p.m.

The activity will feature an open microphone for youth to share poetry, music or other talents, and refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to all students. For questions or information, call Janet Worthy, coordinator, 462-8152.

### Crafters needed for fall event

Plans for the annual Colby Girl Scout Craft Sale are now underway, said Jan Barnum, coordinator. As in year's past, Barnum said crafters are needed for the event, which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Colby Community Colby. For questions on how to arrange for a booth at the 'Craft-a-Ganza,' call her at 462-6503.

