



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## In a word... Wow!

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

They came by car. Bus. Van. Foot. In large numbers.

They were an impressive crowd. They saw an impressive concert.

In excess of 1,000 people — some placed the number at 1,200 — filed into the Colby Community Building on Tuesday night to hear the United States Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants of Washington, D.C. The group is on their fall tour of 23 cities and expected to wind up their trip around Oct. 25.

From *The National Anthem* to *God Bless America* to a patriotic salute to those in uniform today and those who served in the past, it was an evening most will not forget.

The first hour of the program was devoted primarily to music of a heavier bent — classics, semiclassicals and numbers showcasing the talents of individuals in the concert band. Applause was heavy and approving.

The second hour was a different story, featuring the hits of the '70s, punctuated by a light-hearted appearance of a character out of that era, and a number of vocalists that brought the crowd to its feet.

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker, conductor, was himself an artist in motion. It is rare to witness the man with the baton as expressively involved as was the colonel.

The same credit goes to Captain



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker, conductor of the United States Air Force Band, was an artist in motion as he presided over most of the evening's two-hour concert in the Colby Community Building on Tuesday night. A

crowd in excess of 1,100 gave standing approval to the performance of the band and the Singing Sergeants. The Western Plains Arts Association and the Colby Free Press co-sponsored the evening.

Chad A. Steffey, director of the Singing Sergeants. He brought instrument and voice together in a rare blend and exchange not all that commonplace in the world of music.

The group, as a whole, enjoyed be-

ing in Colby. MSgt. Jennifer Lyons, announcer, was excited at the turnout and the response from the crowd. She called it a "great" evening.

Many members of the concert band and the singers expressed surprise at

the turnout and were high in praise of the community as they leisurely walked and talked in the hallways prior to the start of the evening's program, while surveying the crowds coming through the doors.

The evening was a gift to the community from the Western Plains Arts Association, Pat Ziegelmeier, executive director, and the Colby Free Press.

They have teamed up in the past.

## Tuition program continues

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees gave the go-ahead to continue offering the Thomas County Tuition Grant at their Monday meeting.

As the recruitment is already beginning for next year, Skip Sharp, Dean of Students, requested the decision be made at this meeting as to whether or not the grant would be offered again for the 2003-2004 school year.

"I need to be able to tell students for next year if the grant will be available," said Sharp.

Currently, a student who graduates from a Thomas County high school or has been a continuous three-year resident of Thomas County, and who enrolls for at least six credit hours, is eligible to receive the tuition grant. Previous to the 2000-2001 school year, only those in the top 25 percent of their graduating class from a Thomas County high school were eligible.

Trustee Curt Stephens said of the program, "I haven't heard anything but good comments about it (the tuition grant program)."

Currently 20 percent of the students on campus come from Thomas County. The trustees voted unanimously to keep the grant for another year.

In other business:

- The board approved a motion to allow the sale of obsolete items from the college. Dr. Mikel Ary, college president, told the trustees that he felt several items on the list could be possibly used elsewhere on campus. He said if they could, he would be removing them from the list before it was published.

- The trustees approved the purchase of periodicals for the campus. The college is able to purchase a "package" which includes publications in a variety of areas that are used in each department and in the library.

- Contracts were approved for several college employees, and four contracts were ratified.

- Agreements for affiliation were approved for students in the Physical Therapy Department who will be doing apprenticeships.

- Approval was given to purchase two steam jacketed kettles for the cafeteria, in the amount of \$5,951.

- Ary presented the trustees with a request from Peg Stupka for early retirement, due to medical issues. Regulations require the request to be made 60 days prior to the planned retirement, but can be waived due to health concerns. The trustees requested a medical request from a doctor and will table the decision until the next meeting.

- The new Emergency Response Plan for the college was shown to the trustees.

The project has been in the works for some time and the plan will be given in a hard copy format to all offices, classrooms, dorms, and other facilities on campus.

The Emergency Response Plan gives details on how to handle fire, tornadoes, bomb threats, floods, shootings, and other emergency situations.

- Don Kready and Ary gave reports on the National Association of Community College Trustee's meeting they attended in Philadelphia.

## Town meeting to deal with community's medical needs

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Controversy within the medical community in Colby has prompted a group of area citizens to call for a town meeting, scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Colby Community Building.

Area Citizens for Health Care is organizing the meeting, and John Kern, the president of the group, said the purpose of the meeting is to "try and get the facts of what has been happening in Colby concerning the hospital out to the people, so that the people can unite and get the kind of healthcare that we

were used to." He added that there would be speakers at the meeting, but declined to identify them.

Area Citizens for Health Care vice-president Henry Vette said "We're going to tell what our mission statement is, and ask for positive suggestions from the citizens of Colby.

"We want to pick the minds of the citizens of Colby. Find out what they think. This doesn't concern any one doctor in particular. It could be about any doctor. We support the hospital, not the administration."

The flyer that the group is distributing announcing the meeting is the

statement that 'the public is encouraged to attend and address healthcare concerns and discuss positive solutions to the current environment in Colby.'

"The ditch is getting deeper...if we don't do something we're going to have serious problems," Kern said.

## 'Ad Astra' statue remains grounded

TOPEKA (AP) — The bronze Kansa Indian whose arrow was supposed to aim at the north star wasn't even standing, much less at his assigned spot atop the state Capitol.

A bedeviling bolt problem kept the "Ad Astra" statue earthbound Tuesday. Both state officials and construction workers expected it to remain so until Thursday afternoon.

By Tuesday night, the statue, weighing 4,100 pounds and more than 20 feet tall, sat on its side in a flatbed truck on the north side of the Capitol, so that work on the difficulties could go more

easily. "We're not going to do something just to do it quick," said Gregg Lynch, project manager for the contractor, J.E. Dunn Construction Co.

The statue, by Salina sculptor Dick Bergen, gets its name from the state motto, "Ad Astra Per Aspera," Latin for, "To the Stars Through Difficulties."

Seventeen bolts are supposed to connect a 2-inch thick plate at the base of the statue to another 2-inch plate at the top of a tower on the dome. A giant crane lifted the statue into place Mon-

day as hundreds of people watched. But the holes in the statue's plate and those in the dome tower's plate were slightly off. Five bolts, five-eighths of an inch in diameter, wouldn't tighten enough.

The two plates were close to touching when workers discovered the problem.

"We had about an eighth of an inch to go," Lynch said.

Both plates and bolts are stainless steel, and nuts are welded on the upper side of the statue's plate, inside "Ad Astra," where they can't be reached.

## Uninvited candidate shows up at debate

LAKE QUIVIRA (AP) — In some ways, the most exciting thing about Tuesday's gubernatorial debate between Democrat Kathleen Sebelius and Republican Tim Shallenburger was Libertarian Dennis Hawver crashing the event.

Hawver, an Ozawie attorney, showed up at the Lake Quivira Country Club and complained he wasn't invited. Sponsors said they wanted only

the two major party candidates. When the debate started, Shallenburger and Sebelius stood behind podiums and Hawver walked up and stood a few feet from Sebelius.

"I would like everybody to know that I am on the ballot," he said. "I just wasn't invited."

Shallenburger and Sebelius again pledged to make education their top priority. Both said they had no problem

with school districts raising property taxes to have more money than the state allocates.

Sebelius noted a legislative study in May said the state needs to increase aid per pupil by \$1,000 to provide a suitable education. That aid now is \$3,763 per year.

"We need to phase in suitable education funding over four years," she said.

## Briefly

### Amusement Association to meet

The next meeting of the Thomas County Amusement Association will be Monday at 7 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex. One of the items on the agenda will be the rides local representatives saw during a visit to Sterling, Colo. All interested persons are urged to attend the meeting.

### Ribbon cutting set Thursday

There will be a ribbon cutting, grand opening and Business After Hours social on Thursday at 5 p.m. for Franz and Tubbs Chiropractic Offices, 135 W. 6th St., Colby. Chamber members and their guests are invited to attend.

### School to hold festival, fun night

The public is invited to the Fall Festival and Family Fun Night hosted by Heartland Christian School in Colby on Oct. 31 from 6:30-9 p.m.. "Join us for an evening of games, prizes, and fun for

the entire family at 1995 West Forth Street," said a school spokesman. For more information call the school at 462-6419.

### Fair Board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Thomas County 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Agenda items include straw removal from east of the race track, the carnival, next year's fair parade, a contract with E&G promotions, grounds keeper replacement, and Cheryl Baird's resignation. The public is invited.

### Legion feed on tap Saturday

A pancake and sausage feed is scheduled Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Colby American Legion. Cost is \$3. Proceeds will be used for community service projects.

The public is encouraged to come out and support community needs.

### Sign up currently underway

SHARE sign up is currently underway through Friday. You can sign up for this month's share by talking with Bonnie King at State Farm Insurance. Delivery date is set for Saturday, Oct. 26, at 9 a.m. at the Sacred Heart School gym.

### Seniors to hold 'Potato Bar'

The Senior Progress Center is holding a "fund-raising" Potato Bar, at the center on Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be a selection of toppings for the potatoes, plus cake, coffee and tea.

The free-will donation will be used to help with daily expenses. Senior art will be on display in conjunction with the Potato Bar event. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Booster cards now available

The Music Booster Cards are now available. Call 465-5300 or 465-5200 for additional information.

## WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

### The numbers

Tuesday's high, 73  
Low this morning, 40  
Year ago today, 81 and 42  
Temperature at 10:45 a.m., 61  
Colby's 24-hr. rainfall, 0.00  
Oakley's 24-hr. rainfall, 0.00  
Records for Oct. 9, 91 in 1928, 24 in 1970

### The forecast

Tonight, partly cloudy, lows in the mid 40s. Thursday, partly sunny, highs in the upper 70s. Thursday night, clear, lows in the mid 40s. Friday, sunny, highs in the upper 70s.

### Colby Water Usage

• Oct. 8 = (not available)

