



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

New stadium, administration building are in Colby's future

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby Eagle Booster Club asked for permission to raise funds for the renovation of Dennen Field on Monday night at the regular Colby school board meeting. Joel Powell and Dewey Augustine told the board that a new stadium could be built for around \$200,000 dollars, and that the booster club was prepared to raise money and apply for grants towards that end.

"The booster club is interested in updating to a more modern and safer facility," Powell told the board, reading from a prepared statement. "One that we can be proud of for the next 50-plus years."

Colby Schools activities director Jeff Quenzer told the board that the time was ripe for refinishing the track at Dennen Field as well. "The track is three to four years past due for refinishing," Quenzer said. "If we don't do something now, we're going to be looking at spending a lot of money to

completely rebuild the track. We can either spend \$60,000 now or twice that much later." Quenzer recommended that the track be considered for major repair work over the summer when it is warmer, and the stadium project scheduled for 2004.

Diana Wieland will work with the booster club obtaining grants for the projects, and board member John Cranston will be the contact person for the school board.

In other business:

- Architect Glen Strait presented a preliminary plan for a new building for the administration. The 60' X 96' square foot building would be located near the high school. The board's building committee will examine the plan closer and report back to the board in January.

- The board approved the petition for the charter school. Diana Wieland and Terrel Harrison, Colby Grade School principal, will proceed with the application to the state. If approved, a fed-

eral grant for planning will be awarded to the school district to beginning setting up the charter school.

- Over the protests of board members Bill Miller and Gerry Fulwider, the board accepted the recommendation of transportation supervisor Alan Wade for a four-wheel drive Chevy Suburban. "We are spending money foolishly," Miller told the board. "A four-wheel drive vehicle isn't necessary and it's a waste of money." The board voted 4-2 to buy the Suburban.

- The board went into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss the evaluation of Superintendent Kirk Nielsen.

No action was taken when the board came back to open session.

The board adjourned at 8 p.m. so that board members could attend the winter concert at the high school.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 20 at the administration building, 210 S. Range Avenue in Colby. The public is invited.

Plans for charter school advance

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Plans for a charter school in Colby moved forward Monday afternoon after a public hearing was held at the school district's administration building.

Eight citizens attended the hearing. Colby Public Schools curriculum director Diana Wieland and Colby Grade School principal Terrel Harrison presented a petition for the charter school, which outlined the goals of the school, as well as specifics on a facility for the school and curriculum and instructional practices.

tional practices.

"The purpose of this hearing is to get comments and suggestions from the public," Wieland said.

Asked why such a school was needed, Wieland said, "A charter school allows some of the rules regarding time to be more flexible. Some children thrive in a time-based system where they move ahead year after year. But some students would be better served in an achievement-based setting. That's what the charter school would provide."

Students would be drawn from the

current enrollment, with recommendations coming from staff and parents. Initially, the charter school would be for grades 3 through 5, serving approximately 30 students beginning with the 2003-2004 school year and expanding into the middle school and high school student bodies in the coming years.

The hearing lasted just over an hour, and the petition to establish the charter school was approved Monday evening by the school board at its regular meeting. The petition will be submitted to the state for consideration.

Gov. Bill Graves taps Mayor Hixson as one of 11 to serve on special advisory group

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby Mayor Warren Hixson was one of 11 appointees from across the state asked to serve on special advisory group by Gov. Bill Graves to study the structure and function of local government.

"I am pleased to be recognized by the governor and for his confidence in me that I could help and represent small cities and the Kansas League of Municipalities," Hixson said today.

Although the members have not yet met, Hixson said he sees the role of the council as a way to bring the Legislature, cities and counties to-

gether through understanding why each does the things they do and what needs are specific to each entity.

The scope and on-going study, Graves said about the council, which will be known as the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations, includes services provided, divisions of responsibility, potential for improving organization structure and operational efficiency, tax structure, revenue requirements and fiscal policies.

"The council will also give special attention to modernization of the structure of Kansas local government," Graves said late last week.

Hixson was specifically appointed by the governor for his work in a variety of governmental areas. Among those accomplishments, Hixson has served as Colby's mayor for almost eight years, was the chairman and a trustee at Colby Community College for 12 years and currently is serving as

a member of the governing body of the Kansas League of Municipalities, having been president of that organization in 2000-01. He was also the past president and a member of the Kansas Humanities Council from 1996-2002.

The new council, Graves said, was created by action of the 2002 Kansas Legislature. In addition to the 11 members appointed, Rep. Tom Sloan (Lawrence), Rep. Doug Gatewood (Columbus), Sen. Barbara Allen (Overland Park) and Sen. Chris Steineger (Kansas City) will fill out the 15-member group.

Along with Hixson, other appointees include Wade Dixon, Tribune; Lee Courtney, Liberal; Michael Boehm, Lenexa; Sandi Kinzer, Concordia; Shirley Sicilian, Lawrence; Tim Norton, Haysville; Merlin Ney, Russell; Judy Lair, Piqua; Jocelyn Johnston, Lawrence; and Col. Don Brownlee, Topeka.



Hixson

Time for the trombonist



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Bandsman Jared Dinkel, a Colby High School sophomore, who is also a member of the 20-member jazz ensemble, played his trombone during the one and one-half hour winter concert Monday night at the high school auditorium. Following the concert, guests were treated to cookies, sponsored by the Colby Music Booster Club. The high school band, along with fifth grade band students from the Colby Elementary School, teamed up to present the program. Julie Groom was director.

Harper to conclude 31-year career at college

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees faced a light agenda at their last meeting of the year held Monday evening.

One item that was added to the agenda was the early retirement of business teacher Sandy Harper, who worked for the college 31 years.

After allowing the trustees to read Harper's request, Dr. Mikel Ary, college president, said, "Sandy is a valued and productive member of the business department, and I recommend we accept her request."

The board voted to accept the early

retirement request with regret. It will be effective at the end of the spring semester.

In other business:

- The board appointed college librarian Shelly Huelsmann as a representative to the Northwest Kansas Library System Board. Huelsmann has served in this capacity for the past four years and is eligible for another four-year term.

- Contracts were approved for outreach and adjunct faculty, as well as for a replacement for a staff member who will be taking a maternity leave.

- Three affiliation agreements were approved for the physical therapy pro-

gram with hospitals in Nebraska City, Neb., Eugene, Ore. and Wichita.

- An agreement was presented to the board to allow Luetta Flanagan to serve as a supervisor for the nursing students who will be interning this summer. There would be no pay involved in the position. College legal council, Dave Starkey, requested to look over the agreement before the board makes a decision for approval.

- A payment of claims was approved in the amount of \$832,976.96.

- Don Kready gave a report on the meeting of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees held in Parsons.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Monday's high, 57
Low this morning, 17
Year ago today, 63 & 20
Temperature at 11 today, 42
Soil temperature, 38
Records for Dec. 17: 76 in 1939, -14 in 1897

The forecast

Tonight, clear, lows near 30.
Wednesday, partly sunny, highs near 48, northwest winds 15-25 mph. Wednesday night, clear, lows near 25.

Thursday, partly sunny, highs near 43. Thursday night, clear, lows near 18.

Briefly

Colby Schools dismiss early Friday

Colby Public Schools will dismiss classes at 1:30 p.m., Friday, for the holiday break, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. Buses will run accordingly, he said, and school will resume on Monday, Jan. 6, 2003.

For questions, call either the building-level principals or the administration building at 465-5000.

Heartland invites public to program

Heartland Christian School will present its Christmas program on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Berean Church (1000 South Franklin). The public is invited to share in this evening of song and drama, reflecting the celebration of Christ's birth.

Soup supper planned tonight

The Family Career and Community Leaders of America, formerly Future Homemakers of America, is sponsoring a soup sup-

per tonight, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. The fund raiser will continue until the Colby High School boys basketball game against Norton. The menu will include chili and chicken noodle soup, along with a drink and dessert. The cost is a free-will donation. "This is a new high school group just getting started and we are encouraging everyone to attend," said Diann Gerstner, sponsor.

City announces holiday schedule

The City of Colby sanitation department will not be operating on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24 and 25 due to the Christmas holiday. For residents whose normal trash day is Tuesday or Wednesday, it will be picked up on Thursday along with the Thursday route, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. For questions call the Public Works Department at 462-4420.

Delivery scheduled for Saturday

SHARE delivery is set for Saturday at 9 a.m. in the Sacred Heart School gym. Items in the share include: bacon, breaded chicken

tenders, fish, little smokies, ground beef, potatoes, baby carrots, lettuce, broccoli, apples, oranges, tangerines and red pears. For questions call Anna Fyfe at 462-3733.

Legion plans Christmas party

The American Legion in Colby is sponsoring a children's Christmas party tonight at 7:30 p.m. for all young people whose parents or extended family are veterans, said Don Birzer, one of the coordinators.

Santa Claus will be present with refreshments, treats and games available for the participants. For information, call Birzer at 462-2127.

Request for early lighting

Prairie Senior Living Complex is planning two evening tours so that residents at the facility can see the various Christmas lighting displays throughout Colby. In order to make the excursion enjoyable, officials are asking that anyone with displays turn their lights on early tonight and Wednesday.

