



COLBY FREE PRESS

6 pages

Building the mountain



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

City of Colby worker Kyle Brogan dumped a load of snow onto Mt. Franklin this morning, as city and county crews worked to clean up Monday's snowfall. Mt. Franklin is in the large field near S. Franklin and E. Plum.

New league likely, school board is told

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press

Declining enrollment will be forcing changes in leagues throughout western Kansas, Colby activities director Jeff Quenzer told the school board Monday night at its regular meeting.

Quenzer has been in talks with several leagues around the region, trying to make plans for Colby High School if it should become necessary for Colby to drop out of the Northwest Kansas League. With the number of students declining at schools such as Atwood, St. Francis and Quinter, those schools may become too small for Colby and Goodland to schedule events against.

"I would like some guidance from the board," Quenzer said. "It's vital that we make plans now, because of the way schedules are made up in advance. We need to be

ready. I think we can hang on another two years in the NWKL. After that, the smaller schools in the league probably won't have the same sports to offer."

Quenzer told the board that he feels there are two options available to Colby. "We can stay in the league for another couple of years and see what happens, or we can join another league right now." Quenzer also told the board that he thought Colby and Goodland should stick together in whatever happens. "I feel that Goodland and Colby should stay close on this," he said.

A meeting to discuss the league situation is scheduled for Feb. 12, which Quenzer, superintendent Kirk Nielsen and board vice-president Tracy Rogers will be attending. Quenzer was asked to keep the board informed on progress of discussions.

In other business,

- The board approved a course addition recommended by the coordinating council. Diana Wieland told the board that a course called "Law and Public Safety" was being added to the curriculum, with social studies teacher Rick Williams as the facilitator.

- Graduation requirements affecting the class of 2008 were discussed by the board. Students will have less electives to choose from in the future, due to the changes. More science and math credits are going to be required to graduate.

- The board approved the disposal of some old school property, including bookshelves, tables, and chairs, which will be auctioned off by Hazlett Auction.

The next regular school board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. in the board room of the administration building, 210 S. Range Avenue. The public is invited.

College is going forward on wellness center plans

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press

Plans are moving ahead for the new wellness center at Colby Community College, President Mikel Ary told the board of trustees at their Monday night meeting.

"We've contacted the seven firms that will be making presentations," Ary said, "and they've all agreed to the times we've set up for them to come out."

The seven firms are SCH2 from Ft. Collins, Colo., Gould Evans from Lawrence, Mort Plunkett Architect from Hill City, Places Architects from Wichita, Gossen Livingston from Wichita, Stecklein and Brungardt from Hays, and Colby architect Glen Strait from Strait Associates. The first four firms will each have one hour on

Feb. 24, and the remaining three will each have one hour on Feb. 25 to give their presentations.

"Some of these firms have already visited the campus several times," Ary told the board. "And they've all agreed to come back at their own cost."

Ary told the board that he and Curt Stephens had been working with Sheila Frahm on fund raising. "We got together with Sheila last Saturday to hone our presentation. I think we're putting together a pretty workmanlike presentation."

The two special meetings for the board to hear the presentations will be in the board room of the administration offices in Thomas Hall, with both meetings starting at 5 p.m.

In other business, after the board approved contracts and agree-

ments, it went into executive session for 35 minutes to consider negotiations and Ary's contract for 2003-2004.

After the board came back to regular session, no action was taken.

Ary informed the board that the college dance team had taken second place at the state dance contest. "Danielle Freeman deserves a lot of praise for what she's done with the dance program," Ary said. "As does Leisa Hansen, the cheerleader sponsor. They've really done a great job with those programs and enabled us to give scholarships to those kids."

The next regular meeting of the trustees will be on Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. in the board room of the Thomas Hall administration area.

Goodland gets 'new' newspaper

Daily News is now twice weekly

GOODLAND—A new newspaper appeared in Goodland today, in the name of *The Goodland Star-News*, an all-local paper for Sherman County.

Friday was the last issue of *The Goodland Daily News* after 72 years on the Goodland scene. The newspaper will now be a twice-weekly publication, with a Midweek edition on Tuesdays and a Weekend edition on Fridays. There will not be any paper on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Steve Haynes, president of the parent Nor'West Newspapers, said that the decision is a matter of economics and focus.

"With a declining population base and business base, the support no longer exists for a daily newspaper," Haynes said. "The business base, dozens of downtown merchants, that supported the *Goodland Daily* in 1932, no longer exists. There are no grocery stores left, and far fewer small merchants than there once were."

"Even after the merger with the

Sherman County Star, we have lost money as a daily and this seemed to be the best way to continue to provide a quality newspaper in Goodland."

While the paper has been successful in delivering a quality product, winning 50 state and national awards in the last five years, it has lost money every year since the Gibsons Discount Store and Jubilee Foods closed, he said.

The new *Star-News* will include improvements which Haynes said he believes will be positive for the newspaper and the town, including more local news. Gone will be the Associated Press report, most of the comics and features and all national commentary.

There will be a renewed emphasis on Goodland and Sherman County, Haynes said, and there will be more of it in every paper. Main local news space will increase from one full page per issue to two.

The editorial page also will have an all local focus, said Editor Tom Betz.

Another change is that the newspapers will no longer be delivered by carriers, but will be delivered in the mail on the day the paper is published. The Midweek edition will be delivered in Tuesday's mail to every subscriber's mail box, city or rural, and the Weekend edition will be delivered to everyone in the county on Friday.

"We know this is not an easy change, but after months of adding up the figures, we believe it is the best answer for our business," Betz said. "We believe, given a chance, we can prove that being a semi-weekly paper is as good, if not better, than the award-winning daily we have been for the past five years."

Other newspapers in the Nor'West Newspapers chain are the *Colby Free Press*, *The Oberlin Herald*, *The St. Francis Herald*, the *Bird City Times* and *The Norton Telegram*, in addition to the total market coverage *Country Advocate*. Colby is the only daily in the chain.

Secretary Powell ready to present the goods

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell, bidding for U.N. support, is set to present evidence that Iraq has hidden large caches of weapons of mass destruction from international inspectors and defied calls on it to disarm.

Powell's public presentation Wednesday to the U.N. Security Council in New York will be the centerpiece of a strenuous campaign to enlist support from Russia,

France and other skeptical governments as well as from the American public.

Secretary Powell also scheduled a series of other meetings with foreign ministers and ambassadors from all 14 Security Council nations today and Wednesday, aides said.

And all 14, plus Iraqi Ambassador Mohammed Al-Douri, are due to make statements sometime

Wednesday to the council in what could be a critical test of sentiment for using force to disarm Saddam Hussein.

As the administration sought to expand its network of potential coalition partners, Powell met with the king of Bahrain, Sheik Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, who then called on Vice President Dick Cheney and saw President Bush at the White House.

President's big budget under fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, wasting no time in trying to capitalize on last year's Republican takeover of both houses of Congress, is asking Congress to endorse a new \$2.23 trillion budget with a heavy emphasis on tax cuts.

Judging from the initial reaction, though, Bush will be under intense pressure to trim the tax cuts and boost spending in areas favored by Democrats in the still closely divided House and Senate.

Bush's spending plan for the 2004 budget year that begins Oct. 1 proposes \$1.3 trillion in tax cuts

over 10 years, increased spending for defense and homeland security and record budget deficits.

Democrats charged that President Bush was shortchanging critical government needs in order to provide more tax cuts to the wealthy.

"Priority after priority is being sacrificed at the expense of President Bush's unfair, unaffordable and ineffective tax cuts," said Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., one of five potential Democratic presidential rivals who attacked the plan.

Authorities continue probe of Colby man's death

Law enforcement officials are still investigating the Monday death of a 33-year-old Colby man from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, said C.D. Hopper, of the Thomas County Sheriff's office.

The body of Kerry M. Reilley

was discovered on County Road 20 near Wagoners salvage yard about one and one-half miles north of Highway 24 by two people who called at 11:15 a.m. on a cellular telephone to report the unattended death, he said.

Assisting the Thomas County Sheriff's office were the KBI and Colby Police Department, Hopper said.

No other details were released, pending further investigation, Hopper said.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Monday's high, 30
Low this morning, 15
Soil temperature, 38
Snowfall: 2 inches
Precipitation: 0.12 inches
Records for this date: 75 in 1962, -23 in 1899

The forecast
Tonight, cloudy, lows 10-15, east winds becoming north late at 15 mph. Wednesday, cloudy, highs near 30, north winds around 10 mph. Wednesday night, cloudy, lows near 10. Thursday, cloudy, 20 percent chance for light snow, highs upper 20s.

Briefly

'Booked for Lunch' is Wednesday

Anatomy of Greed will be reviewed by Larry Barrett at Pioneer Memorial Library on Wednesday starting at noon with a light lunch provided and at 12:15 until 1 p.m. will be Barrett's review. The book is technically not a biography, said Joanne Sunderman, librarian, but for those interested in the truth about Enron from an insider, it's worth attending. "Booked For Lunch" is held from September through May every Wednesday and open to everyone interested. For questions about the program, call 462-4470.

Various refunds help available

Rosalie Seemann will be at Meadowlark Manor on Friday, Feb. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. to assist with Homestead Refunds, Food Sales Refunds and LEAP applications.

Soup supper scheduled Friday

Kappa Upsilon, a local sorority, is sponsoring a soup sup-

per on Friday from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Colby Community Building when Colby takes on Oberlin in basketball action. The menu will include chili, chicken noodle, and vegetable soups, along with cinnamon rolls, cookies and drinks. The cost is free-will donation with proceeds going to benefit Puddle Duck Pre-School.

Massage clinic plans announced

The Physical Therapist Department at Colby Community College is once again having their annual massage clinic to raise money. The event this year will be Feb. 11 and Feb. 18 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the PTA department. Costs are available by calling Pat Erickson, department head, at 462-3984, ext. 260. Students will get a discount. The event is open to everyone and reservations can be made by calling Erickson. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Red Cross schedules classes

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross

is offering a shelter operations class to help with local shelters in the event of bad weather or other disasters, said Molly Oliver, spokesperson for the organization. The class is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. In addition to the shelter operations class, the Red Cross is always looking for people interested in learning how to drive the ERV (emergency response vehicle).

For questions or to register for either of these needed services, call 462-7161 or 462-6133.

Rotary Club to hold soup supper

The Colby Rotary Club is sponsoring its annual soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, during the Colby-Goodland basketball game at the Colby Community Building. The cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets will be available at the door or from any Rotary Club member.

All proceeds go toward Rotary projects that benefit the community.

