



COLBY FREE PRESS

Meat shop opens

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

It's more than just a meat market. It's also a place to grab noon hour lunch.

J and B Meat Market, located on Franklin Avenue in downtown Colby, is officially in business and is owned by Jeff and Becky Klippert.

Jeff was an assistant manager at Dillons and where she worked part-time in customer service. The couple left Dillons in November and decided to give their own store a try.

Becky said Jeff has always worked in groceries and thought that downtown Colby could use something new. The store features a full-service meat market and basic groceries.

"It's a small little micro-shop," she said.

They will be doing specials on meat in the near future and also offer homemade sausage.

"All our meats are choice meats," Becky said.

The shop also offers sandwiches and salads for lunch. She said lunch time is when they get busiest. They have tables and chairs so people can enjoy their meal without having to take it elsewhere.

Becky said because there's no-



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Becky and Jeff Klippert processed meat at their shop, J and B Meat Market. The store is a full-function meat market and also carries basic groceries.

where else downtown to grab lunch, they're pulling in customers.

"Convenience for the customer is

what we want," she said. "Customer service is important.

The business is open from 8 a.m.-

6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

College raises dormitory and meal rates

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Dorm rates for the 2004-2005 school year were one of the items on the agenda at Monday's Cooily Community College board of trustees meeting.

The board approved a dorm increase of only three percent for the next school year.

The board also approved Chartwells agreement, which Dr. Mikel Ary, college president, said was the food service contract. It's renewable every four years.

Bev Anderson, secretary to the president, explained the meal plans had an increase for next year. The price for a 14-meal plan went up \$44 a semester and the price of a 19-meal plan increased \$48 per semester.

In other business, the group discussed fund-raising for the Wellness Center. At its March 1 meeting, the board approved hiring Bob

Hartsook's fund-raising organization to help raise money for the center.

Ary said Hartsook will be at the April 5 meeting to discuss the project. He also talked about how much it could potentially cost the college for his services.

Ary said it would cost \$2,300-\$2,400 a month for someone from outside the community to work on the project. The other option was paying someone to live in the community but the cost was much steeper.

He said the fund raising services would be in an advisory capacity and the school will probably have to work the corporate angle.

The college already has \$250,000 in federal seed money for the center. The board also went into executive session to discuss personnel issues and negotiations. No action was taken when they returned to open meeting.

County approves computer system

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Bids for a new computer system and the landfill excavation project were just some of the items the Thomas County Commissioners dealt with at their Monday meeting.

They approved a bid for a new AS400 computer system. County Clerk Tracey Perkins said two bids were received from companies in Hays. Nex-Tech submitted the high bid of \$42,272 and Infinetec had the low bid of \$34,623. The commissioners accepted the bid from Infinetec.

County Appraiser Mary Cech explained the function of the AS400 at a meeting last month. It will function as the server for all of the computers at the courthouse, she said.

All of the data for the departments will be stored on it and software will run off the server.

In other business, the commissioners turned down the only bid they received on the landfill excavation project. Commissioner Ron Evans said the bid from Sporer Land Development in Oakley was rejected because it didn't meet specifications for mobilization, or the cost of getting equipment together.

He said the cost was higher than bid specifications called for.

"It didn't conform to the specifications," he said.

The commissioners also heard an update on the progress of a 911 grant and went into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

FAA rejects preliminary airport plans

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Revamping the plans for taxiways and hangars at the Colby Municipal Airport was discussed at Tuesday's council meeting.

After reviewing the plan submitted for airport improvements, the Federal Aviation Administration decided the city needs to look at all

new concrete rather than just old and new segments regarding the taxiways and hangars.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said the FAA did not like the preliminary plans for the taxi lanes to the hangars and requested the city not do a "patch" job.

Armstrong said she agreed it would be a "logical way" to address

the issue. The bids are still expected to be sent out in May, but with changes in the plans to reflect the FAA recommendation.

Vacancies were also filled within the recreation commission and board of zoning appeals. Mayor Warren Hixson recommended and the council approved Tracy Rogers being appointed to the recreation

commission to fill the unexpired term of Les Brown. In addition, Bill Biel was recommended and approved to fill B.J. Melvin's unexpired term with the board of zoning appeals. The council also agreed to approve street closings for the "Cruise to the Past" Rod Run/Prairie Heritage Day on Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13.

GOP plan draws criticism over property tax portion

By JOHN MILBURN

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP)—A \$92 million education plan from House Republicans is drawing fire because school districts would have to increase their property taxes to get much of the money promised.

Among the critics Tuesday was Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who already has seen legislators reject her own three-year, \$304 million package relying on increases in sales,

property and income taxes.

Though she said during a news conference that she appreciated Republicans proposing an alternative, Sebelius added that the GOP plan's reliance on up to \$63 million in additional property taxes in a single year was difficult to overlook.

"That's a pretty significant property tax increase for Kansans," said Sebelius, whose education plan would have phased in a \$50 million

property tax increase over three years.

The House GOP plan would allow districts to increase funding for programs for disadvantaged students and bilingual education, and create a cost-of-living adjustment to help districts pay competitive salaries in areas with extraordinary costs.

The House Education Committee has a hearing scheduled Thursday, and the entire House could de-

bate the plan next week.

The plan would allow school districts to increase spending on special education programs by \$40.5 million, but districts would have to reduce or eliminate a property tax break for home owners to get some of the funds.

Kansas currently exempts the first \$2,300 of a residential property's assessed value from the state's school levy, saving owners \$46 a year. The levy is \$20 for ev-

ery \$1,000 of a residential property's assessed value.

Republicans said the provision will help districts pay for special education, which has been a problem because the federal government has never fully provided the money it promised three decades ago when it mandated the programs. The burden would fall on residential property owners because businesses do not have a similar exemption.

Briefly

Bowhunters group meets Thursday

The Northwest Kansas Bowhunters Club will meet Thursday at Colby Middle School. For those interested in becoming a member or would like to learn more about bowhunting are encouraged to attend. For questions, call 462-6524.

Baked potato bar Sunday

In observance of Red Cross month, the Thomas County Red Cross is serving a baked potato bar from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., Sunday. The event is planned at Fairview Estates, 1630 Sewell Avenue, Colby with free will donations being accepted. Board members and other local Red Cross volunteers will be serving. For questions, call Mary Smith, chapter manager, (785) 462-7161.

Free sports physicals offered in May

Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range, will offer free physical examinations for students in Colby, Rexford and Brewster for the 2004-05 school years. All physicals will be given on Tuesday, May 11 with students from Colby Middle School arriving by 5:30 p.m.; Colby High School by 6:15 p.m., and for Golden Plains and Brewster students, 7 p.m. This is a free service for area students who plan to participate in athletic events next year. Any student planning to participate in the physical examination is asked to bring the forms with them, which are available at the schools. For questions, call (785) 462-3332.

Endowment banquet scheduled

Heartland Christian School will hold its "Partners for the Future" endowment banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 2 at the Colby Community College Student Union. Tickets are \$10 each and the deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, April 1. Tickets may be purchased from any Heartland Christian School family or by calling the school office at 460-6419.

Program planned at grade school

First grade students at Colby Elementary School are planning a program entitled, *From the Inside Out*, at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Thursday, April 1, in the grade school auditorium. The event is free and open to everyone.

Boy Scout soup supper

Boy Scout Troop 141 will hold a soup supper starting at 4:30 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Community Building. The supper is being held in conjunction with the All-Star game at the community building.

Endowment auction planned

The Colby Community College Endowment Association is sponsoring its annual dinner and auction, beginning at 4:45 p.m., Saturday, April 3. This year's event entitled, "Hollywood," will be held at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby. Tickets for the benefit dinner and auction can be

made by calling (785) 462-4684. Deadline for ticket reservations is Monday, March 22. The buffet dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the live auction at 7 p.m.

Early childhood screenings planned

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center staff will be assisting Brewster Public Schools with free early childhood screenings on Thursday, March 25. The screenings will be offered to children with special needs. For an appointment, call (785) 694-2236.

Hydrant maintenance continues

The Colby Fire Department is reminding residents that beginning today maintenance and flowing work on fire hydrants will take place around the city. The hydrant work is expected to take about one week, weather permitting, said Rick Dickman, assistant fire chief.

Musicians wanted for praise rally

A pre-national Day of Prayer rally is being organized on Wednesday, May 5 with "A Night of Praise and Prayer" as the theme. Coinciding with this event, musicians and vocalists are wanted to participate on a praise team or to perform special music during that evening. Pastors and lay people are also needed to offer specific prayers for the specific needs of the country, said Karen Merryman. For questions or to volunteer, call her at 460-9077.



Lower 80s?

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area

Tonight...Partly cloudy.

Lows in the lower 30s. East winds around 5 mph shifting to the west 5 to 10 mph after midnight.

Thursday...Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy.

Highs around 70. South winds 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy.

Lows in the upper 30s.

South winds around 10 mph shifting to the southwest after midnight.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the lower 80s.

West winds 5 to 10 mph with higher gusts.

Friday night...Partly cloudy.

Lows in the mid 30s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the mid- to upper-60s.

The numbers

Tuesday's high, 63

Low this morning, 30

Records for March 17, 83 in 1916 and -6 in 1906

Year ago today, 73 and 19

Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00

March total, 0.74

March snowfall, 1 inch

Soil temperature, 45

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

