



COLBY FREE PRESS

Two Sections
26 pages

Planning continues for wellness center

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Plans continue to move forward on the feasibility of constructing a new multi-million dollar health and wellness center on the campus of Colby Community College, according to information provided at a recent meeting of the college board of trustees.

Nick Wells, executive director for the Colby College Endowment Association and who is coordinating the project, spoke to the trustees for the purpose of updating them on where the process is at the current time.

"By the end of October, we should have the information we need (as to whether or not the project is feasible)," Wells said.

At previous college board meetings, Hartsook, which is a Kansas-based company specializing in fund raising, was asked to consider working with Colby College on this project, Wells said.

In recent weeks, Wells said, the endowment board of directors and the college board of trustees submitted names with the majority of those from the area to either be interviewed or surveyed by a representative from Hartsook on whether or not the project was feasible.

About 300 people will be involved in this interview-survey process, Wells said. Helping to conduct

the interviews is Robert Swanson of Emporia, who is the Hartsook representative.

Wells said he will be in Colby from Monday, Sept. 13 through Monday, Sept. 20 to talk personally to 100 of the people. The remaining 200 names will be sent surveys.

Kenton Krehbiel, one of the college trustees, said he was pleased with the progress thus far with regard to the funding campaign.

Another trustee asked how many personal interviews did Swanson believe he could realistically see within that week.

Wells said the goal was to visit with 70 percent.

"As we continue to get further into this (the campaign)," Wells said, "our office could require additional staffing and this will take everyone (the trustees and others) helping to make it successful."

The initial idea to build a health and wellness center originated more than a year ago with the board of trustees and the idea for funding the project followed.

Wells explained that the campaign with Hartsook would require three to five years and involve rais-

ing a total of \$6 million with about \$4.5 million going toward building a new health and wellness center, about \$1 million for endowment scholarships and \$500,000 for a campus enhancement and improvement fund.

Wells said he is confident that the Hartsook company, based in Wichita, will help them to accomplish this goal.

The cost for hiring the company, once all the feasibility information is received, could be plus or minus \$250,000, Wells said.

"This expense would be built in," he said.

For those unfamiliar, Wells said that Bob Hartsook was the dean of students at Colby College back in the early 1970s.

Hartsook then decided to begin a fund raising company which has since helped raise millions of dollars for K-State, Wichita State and Emporia State, to name a few, Wells said.

"This is the second largest fund raising corporation for non-profit organizations in the nation," he said, "and I have known Bob (Hartsook) for a long time and look forward to working with him."

The board of trustees told Wells that they too will be interested in hearing back from him after the survey/interview process is completed.



N. Wells



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Pastor James Mardock, of the Colby United Methodist Church, showed Colby Grade School kindergartners this morning the torch he used to carry the Olympic flame into Wichita during the torch relay before the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Ga.

Olympic torch carrier

Colbyite talks with students

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Students at Colby Grade School got a taste of Olympic spirit this morning. Pastor James Mardock, Colby United Methodist Church, spoke to students about the time he carried the Olympic torch into Wichita before the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Ga.

Mardock's presentation was in honor of the Olympic games currently going on in Athens, Greece.

His run in 1996 was a mile long, he said.

Mardock said a truck carrying the mother flame which came from Athens traveled behind him while another loaded with

photographers was in front of him. A guide runner ran with him and the entire convoy was also guided by the police.

He said it was momentous occasion.

"It was a very exciting moment for this country and a very exciting moment for me," Mardock said, adding it was a "great experience."

He said people of all ages carried the torch across the country on the relay to get the flame to Atlanta — by running, walking and even on horseback.

"Ten thousand people did that," Mardock said.

He got to keep the torch he carried and described the meaning of its design. Mardock said the 22 reeds around the mouth of the torch

represent each Olympiad of the modern games and also on the torch is the name of each of the cities where the games were held.

Mardock said he was chosen to carry the torch by people in the community of Halstead who wrote a letter to event organizers saying he was active in the community.

He said torch bearers were chosen on the basis of their community involvement, but he said many people also had overcome the odds or done "incredible things" to earn the honor.

Mardock said someday any of the students could carry the torch the next time an Olympics is held in the United States.

Rodeo queen, princess crowned

The 2004 Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princesses were crowned Aug. 3 at the Thomas County PRCA Rodeo, said pageant coordinator Marie Skolout.

Shanda Draper of Colby was named the 2004 Thomas County Rodeo Queen. She is the daughter of Sue and the late Bill Draper and will be a junior at Kansas State University this fall.

Draper was awarded a Circle G barrel saddle, belt buckle, traveling crown and a rhinestone tiara. She also won the horsemanship, speech and modeling categories. The first runner up was Brenda Wilson, also of Colby.

Robin Wilson was crowned the 2004 Thomas County Rodeo Princess. She is the daughter of Leland and Roxy Wilson and will be a junior at Colby High School. Wilson also won the horsemanship, speech and modeling categories. The first runner up was Lindsey Jarnagin of



S. Draper



R. Wilson

See today's
Fair Results Section

Colby, second runner up was Samantha Nickel of Atwood and the third runner up was Shawna Goossen of Colby.

Jade Kruse of Oakley won the first ever Thomas County Rodeo Junior Princess competition. She is the 10-year-old daughter of Julie and Marshall Rhea and will be in the sixth grade at Oakley.

Kruse also won the horsemanship, speech and modeling categories. The first runner up went to Chelsey Horney of Brewster, second runner up was Jaci Pearce of Atwood and the third runner up was Michelle Schroeder of Colby.

Shawna Goossen, Robin Wilson and Brenda Wilson were also awarded prizes for the most rodeo tickets sold.

Skolout said the queen and princess's duties included riding and carrying flags both nights of the fair rodeo. "They also handed out ribbons during the 4-H livestock shows all week and handed out trophies at the Demo Derby and races," she said. "Shanda, Robin and Jade also rode in the fair parade on Saturday. They will attend various events during the year representing Colby and the Thomas County Fair."

Contestants were judged in three different categories.

Auditions scheduled for fall college production

From staff reports

If you've ever wanted to try your hand at acting, here's your chance.

On a local stage.

For a fall production.

The drama department at Colby Community College said today it

will hold auditions for its fall production on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 7 and Sept. 8, starting at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on campus. Callbacks, if necessary, will be scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9.

Auditions are open to students and also the community, said Deb Bicker, organizing the event. No previous acting experience is necessary.

"There is nothing to prepare in advance," she said. "Actors will be

asked to read a few selections from a script. The play will be selected during the audition process. It will be a drama dealing with serious themes." For questions or more information call Bickner at 462-3984, ext. 300.

Briefly

Boot block drive Saturday

The Colby Fire Department is once again taking part in the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association's Boot Block to raise money for research and camps for children. Firefighters will be located in the Wal-Mart and Dillons parking lots and on the corner of Fourth and Franklin in downtown Colby between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., said Rick Dickman, assistant fire chief. For those unable to donate at that time, but would like to can turn contributions into the fire department the first of next week. All money stays within the area through the Arc Valley Chapter.

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will hold their end of month meeting Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the county courthouse. The meeting is open to the public. No agenda had been prepared as of this notification.

County Democrats to meet

Thomas County Democrats will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2, at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. in Colby. Purpose of the meeting, said Rosalie Seemann, chairperson, will be to elect officers and discuss other organizational issues. All Democrats are invited to attend, she said.

Scouts seek vendors for October event

Two Girl Scout Troops in Colby (Troops 162 and 167) are looking for

vendors for the Craft-a-ganza Craft fair scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23. The craft fair will be held in the community building and all proceeds will go toward trip expenses throughout the year. For information, call Jan Barnum, one of the coordinators, 462-6503.

SHARE delivery scheduled

SHARE delivery is Saturday at Sacred Heart School gym at 10:30 a.m. The menu for August is salad, turkey, salmon filets, ground beef, bacon, meatloaf, potatoes, baby carrots, red pears, cantaloupe, lettuce, onions, red grapes and Danish rolls. If interested in a share for \$17.50 plus two volunteer hours of community service, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

County fair premium checks ready

Premium checks for this year's Thomas County Free Fair are now ready to be picked up at the County Extension office, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions, call (785) 462-4582.

'School Night of Scouting' planned Tuesday

Boys interested in scouting are encouraged to attend the "School Night of Scouting," said Tonya Sager, cubmaster. The information will be presented at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday in the Colby Grade School cafeteria, she said, and open to all boys in first through fifth grade who would like to become a Cub Scout. The information will focus on what scouting is all about and the benefits derived from being a scout.

For questions, call Sager at 462-7361.

Colby
Oakley
Atwood



Expect a chilly night

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 40s. North winds 10 to 20 mph decreasing to 5 to 10 mph after midnight. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the upper 70s. North winds around 5 mph. **Saturday night...**Clear. Lows around 50. Southwest winds around 5 mph shifting to the south 5 to 10 mph after midnight. **Sunday...**Sunny. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds around 10 mph. **Sunday night...**Clear. Lows in the mid 50s. **Monday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s.

The numbers

Thursday's high, 87
Low this morning, 58
Records for Aug. 27, 105 in 1890 and 44 in 1967
Year ago today, 92 and 60
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
August total, 1.23
Soil temperature, 79

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Water use

• Aug. 26 = 2,889 million gallons..

Water advisories

• Water **Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.
• Water **Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.
• Water **Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

