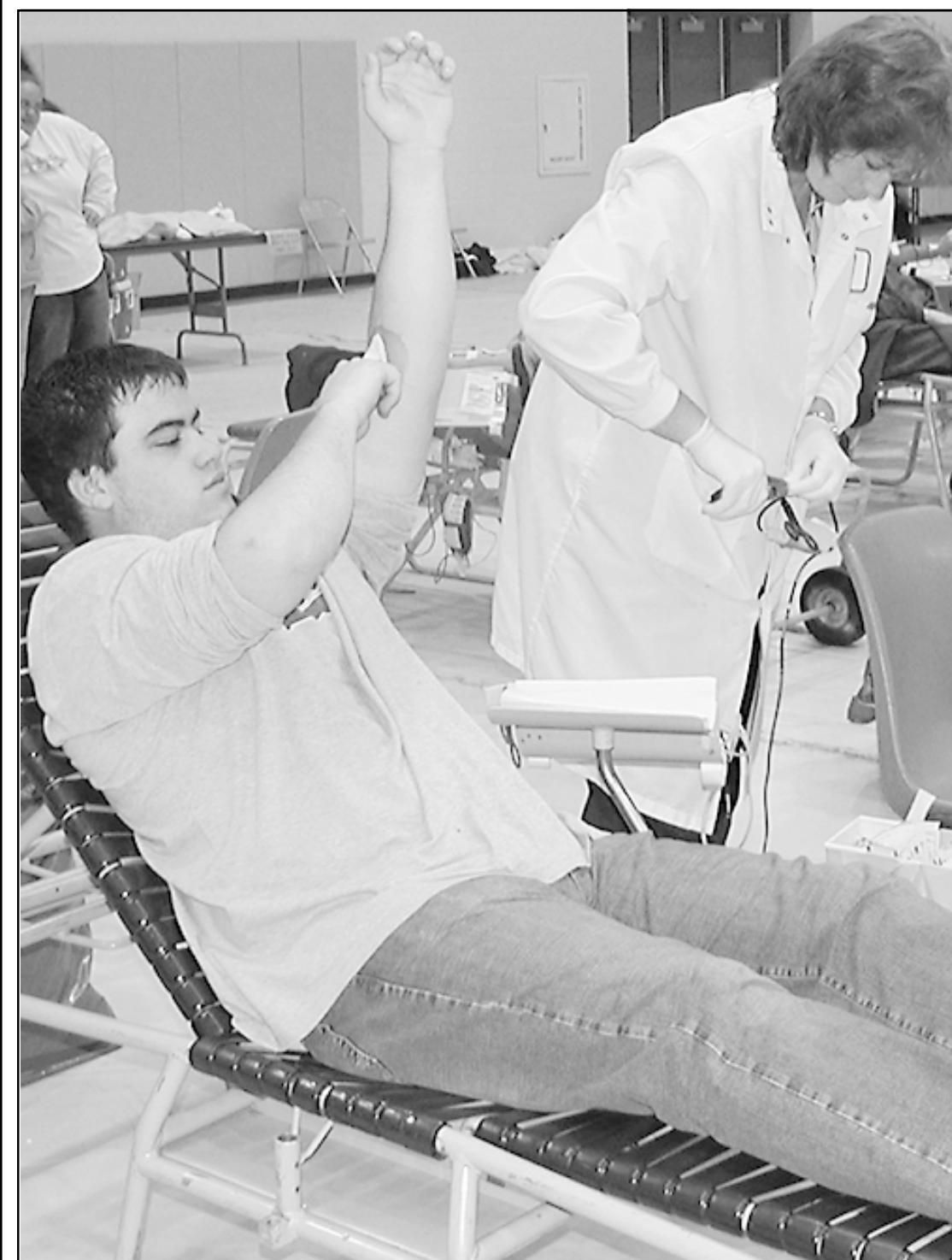


COLBY  
**FREE PRESS**



Two sections  
16 pages

Ouch!



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Junior Mark Bartlett held gauze to his arm after donating blood Wednesday while nurse B.J. Tooil prepared his blood for transport at the annual American Red Cross blood drive in the high school gym. The school's Service Club helped with the event.

Colby School district  
finds pot of gold  
to enhance budget

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

The Colby School Board received some good news at its meeting this week.

The district will be getting more money for this year's budget.

They found out during a discussion on the process to republish the 2004-2005 budget.

District financial officer Jo DeYoung said the audit is complete.

"This is the earliest audit we've ever had," she said.

It showed enrollment for the year is up 20 actual students, or 20.3 for the full-time equivalency. That means \$117,000 more for the budget this year.

DeYoung said that's more than they counted on in August, and none of it is tax money.

She said the enrollment increase is the first in about 10 years.

"That's great," DeYoung said. "I was thrilled that our numbers were up."

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said the board had to approve the republishing process. A public hearing will then be held, and approval of the republished budget will follow.

They also got a closer look at some equipment that's saving the district time and money.

Curriculum director Diana Wieland introduced a presentation on the Smoke Signal project using Marratech Web conference software. The board had the chance to see how it's being used because they talked with Steve Wyckoff of Pleasant View Academy in Wichita and Kevin Honeycutt in Inman.

Wyckoff was in his living room

at his home in Wichita. Wieland said he helped write the grant that allowed Colby and several other school districts to get the \$5,000 worth of equipment they use to communicate.

Wieland said the equipment has been used for meetings and presentations, helping to cut down on travel costs and time.

"It's been very valuable," she said, adding staff development is another use. The schools are also doing a collaborative project on the F117 Nighthawk fighter.

Honeycutt, who designed the system, said the project will allow students at the schools to communicate with each other and work together on the project.

Wieland said the equipment itself folds down to the size of the screen. The total package includes a laptop, camera, microphone and screen. That, she said, makes it convenient and portable also.

She said there are also many professional and personal things that can be done with the software.

The board also heard reports from Wieland, the building principals and the superintendent.

High school principal Brian Kraus said they're in the middle of "massive testing," getting ready to finish state assessments.

Work on the master schedule and enrollment continues and he said May 9 is the target enrollment deadline. He said they're also trying to fill open staff positions.

The part-time senior schedule also came up. Kraus said any decisions on it belong to the board, although he would like to see it con-

tinue. Nielsen said it would be put on the next meeting agenda if the board wanted it. Colby Middle School students are also finishing testing, said principal Robb Ross. The fall schedule is also on their slate and spring sports have started.

Ross said 81 students are out for track, down from 89 last spring. Grade school principal Terrel Harrison said her students are also finishing testing and are getting immediate feedback because they are taking the state assessments online.

Harrison added students are also getting ready for job shadowing on April 22. Activities director Jeff Quenzer also gave his report. He said winter sports are finally over and spring practice has begun.

Quenzer said 54 students are out for high school track; 27 for baseball; 26 for softball and 19 for men's tennis and 12 for golf.

"We have good participation this spring," he said.

Nielsen said the sign at Dennen Field was repaired and Commercial Sign of Colby knocked off part of the price as a donation to the district.

He also said the search for a new high school principal is already underway.

Five candidates have been selected for interviews at a special meeting to be held Saturday, April 2, which was approved.

He said 27 people showed interest. That was later narrowed to 18 and then five.

In other business, the board: Approved soliciting bids for either a new Ford Excursion or Chevy Suburban.

Original National Guard members to head Friday's parade

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

The Kansas Army National Guard is celebrating its 150th birthday this year and here in Colby the armory has been around since 1949.

Several of its original members are still alive, with some of them living in Colby and the surrounding area. Four of them — Harold Linville, Paul Chase, Jack Fromholtz and Don Shull — all of Colby, were selected as the grand marshals for the parade, which will be at 2 p.m. Friday. It will start at Fike Park and end at the armory.

Chase said they first heard about it (the Guard) during their senior

year in high school.

"They came up and called an assembly at the high school," he said.

Paid vacation and camp were attractive options so they all signed up.

"We didn't get much," Fromholtz said of the pay, but it was the biggest draw. And for him, the chance to serve in the military part-time was appealing.

"He said he had spent time in



J. Fromholtz



P. Chase



H. Linville

at Camp Haven in Michigan. They took a train to get there.

Linville said some of the World War II veterans that signed up with them gave them their basic training. Shull added at the time there wasn't really any vocational training so whatever the veterans knew how to do, they were taught.

He said they were told if there was a war they would be used to hold the front lines until more men could be trained.

Fromholtz added the camp was not much of a vacation and was more like work.

They lived in tents for 15 days and it rained. Shull said there was

water running through the tents.

But it wasn't the only shock. While there, they were told to pack up because the Korean War had started. They were told they weren't going home but they did come home. Others weren't so lucky.

That was the closest Chase, Fromholtz and Shull came to active duty, but they served 12, 10 and 17 years, respectively.

Linville had them both beat with a service record of 41 years, 9 months and 19 days. He stayed in long enough to serve on active duty in Desert Storm.

"Desert Storm was the first time this unit was ever called to active

duty," he said.

They all did serve together locally, covering disasters like floods, blizzards and tornadoes. They were called up to provide security after a tornado in WaKeeney and also did the same in Selden after a massive hail storm. They said there was about 18 inches of hail and six inches of rain that caused problems.

At one time, Linville, Chase and Fromholtz were ranked as master sergeants but Linville's rank went higher because he stayed in longer. Shull finished his service as a sergeant. They said they all enjoyed their time in the Guard, and the opportunity to serve.

Voter registration deadline is noon Monday

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

Voter registration for the April 5 election is still open, but time is running out.

Deputy Thomas County Clerk Kristy Rubio said the deadline to register to vote is noon on Monday, March 21. If anyone is not sure of their registration status, they can call the clerk's office at 460-4500.

Rubio said registration can be done by coming to the courthouse, by mail or online by going to the Kansas Secretary of State's Web site.

"We've had a lot of people do that lately," she said.

And voters will have plenty of candidates to choose from in races around the county for school board and college board, as well as city councils.

Four seats are up on the Colby City Council. In Wards I and IV, respectively, incumbents Phil DeYoung and Mark Beringer have no opposition. Harold Sulzman, who had originally said he would be seeking the Ward IV seat has since withdrawn as a candidate.

John Bremenkamp's Ward II seat is up for grabs and Joshua Faber and Mitch Beims are running for his position. Bremenkamp is not seeking another term.

In Ward III councilman Eugene Wieland isn't running for re-election and Tim Hutfles has filed for the seat.

Three members of the Colby Community College board of trustees are up for re-election. Kenton Krehbiel, Curt Stephens and Cleona Flipse have all filed to run again. They face competition from Richard Epp and Cindy Black.

On the Colby School Board, incumbents Gerry Fulwider and Tracy Rogers have filed to retain their seats. Janice Frahm is running against them.

Brewster school board also has a contested race. Incumbents Leisha

Carpenter, Tony Horinek and Carrie Starns are facing competition from Rod Gilley, Michael Schultz and Leon Schroeder.

The Brewster city council members Ed Hutton, Dwayne Randolph and Rex Jamison are all running for re-election and face no competition.

In Rexford, Golden Plains school board members Teri Brantley and Lane Purcell have filed to retain their seats and Dennis Allison is running for the open board position.

Rexford city council members Dennis Allison, Vernon Vance, Michael Johnson, Nancy Dahl and David Williams are all running for re-election unopposed.

Briefly

Childbirth education series begins in April

Colby Childbirth Education will host a Childbirth Education Series beginning Thursday, April 7, from 7-10 p.m. at the Colby Community College Health Science Building. The series will include the four Thursdays in April finishing on Thursday April 28. For information or to register, call Amy Hutfles, RN, at (785) 460-4344 or 460-4850.

Amusement Association to meet

There will be a Thomas County Amusement Association meeting on Monday at 8 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex.

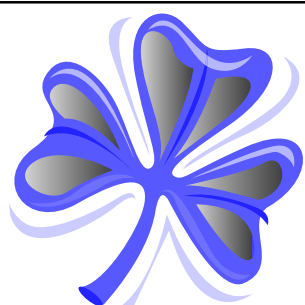
Easter egg hunt Saturday

The annual Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt will be held in Colby's Fike Park on Saturday at 10 a.m. Youngsters will be divided into three groups: ages 3 and under, ages 4-6 and ages 7-9. Organizers are hoping for another good turnout for this popular annual community event.

Speaker to give presentation tonight

Dr. Mark Hansen, Colby native, will be speaking at Colby Community College tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

Colby  
Hoxie  
Oakley



Nothing new, just windy

**Tonight...** Decreasing clouds. Lows in the lower 30s. West winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the north 15 to 20 mph after midnight. Gusts up to 35 mph overnight. **Friday...** Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to 35 mph. **Friday night...** Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the east after midnight. **Saturday...** Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. **Saturday night...** Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. **Sunday...** Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 50s.

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 60  
Low this morning, 28  
Year ago today, 70 and 30  
Records for this date, 83 in 1916 and -6 in 1906  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
Precipitation for month to date: 0.07  
Snowfall for month to date: 1.0 inch  
Soil temperature, 42

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.

