



COLBY FREE PRESS

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College names Kreider as president

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Colby Community College has named Dr. Lynn Kreider of Monroe, La., as its new president. The board of trustees approved the selection Thursday. Kreider, who was one of two finalists, will become the fourth president of Colby College July 1. He previously was chief executive officer of Louisiana Delta Community College in Monroe until his resignation in November 2005. The other three Colby Community College presidents were Dick Mosier, Jim Tangeman and Dr. Mikel Ary. Glenn "Skip" Sharp was interim president. The college opened in 1964. Clayton Tatro of Garden City was the other finalist, but based on Kreider's experience in fundraising and starting the community college in Louisiana, trustee Chairman Don Kready said the entire board believed Kreider was the best choice. Kready said the search committee narrowed the field to four candidates and Tatro and Kreider were

the top two. "One of the four had already taken another job and the other could not attend the forum scheduled," he said. "We decided if that candidate could not find time to attend the forum, then he probably didn't have a great deal of interest in the position." Kready said the board was unanimous that its selection of Kreider. "We thought he had quite a lot of experience, which entered into our decision, but we did have two very good candidates." The presidential search started in November 2005 after Dr. Mikel Ary announced his resignation in October. Initially, 32 applications were received for the presidential position. The first step was to advertise the position and select a screening committee. The search committee included Colby Community College faculty and staff members Joe Mildrexler, Nick Wells, Matt Ellicott, Joyce Washburn, Dr. David Mruzek and Doug Johnson.



Dr. Lynn Kreider of Monroe, La., is the new Colby Community College president and will begin in that position July 1.

"These people were responsible for reviewing the application materials for each candidate," said trustee Cindy Black. "All screening committee members were also asked to sign a confidentiality agreement." The timeline for the screening

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Bev Anderson, Chairperson Kris Bishop, Eugene Robert, Nikol Nolan, Diane Williams, Jeanne Thyfault, Allen Russell, Jon Olson, Mike McVay, David Jennings, Joyce Hansen, Phil Finley, Roger Hale and Sherri Edmundson. "The screening committee members also signed confidentiality agreements," Black said. "They were responsible for narrowing down the applicants from 32 to between eight and 12 people." Telephone interviews and video conferencing were conducted until the committee had selected four people. The procedure that followed involved administration interviews, faculty interviews, staff interviews, the public forum, pub-

lic reception with the two candidates and background checks. "I really think we tried really, really hard to involve community in every aspect of the college that we could and let them be a part of the selection process," she said. "We tried to include across campus and across the communities." Kready said he commended the screening and search committees and Chief Financial Officer Dan Erbert for his help too. "Dan had experience at other facilities in the replacement process," Kready said. "We are also grateful for the others who were diligent in spending hours and hours going through resumes, letters, and more," he said.

... and the band played on



LEFT: The perussion section of the Colby High School concert band kept the beat during the band's performance Thursday at the State Large Group Festival held at the high school.



RIGHT: The wind section gave their harmonious best during the band's performance for a rating. Choirs and bands from around northwest Kansas performed at the event.

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Fair board saves gas

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Potentially high gas prices this summer prompted the Thomas County Fair Board to purchase an ATV during its meeting Thursday. The board approved the a bid from Colby Ag Center for a Yamaha 450 Rhino for \$6,990. Board president Stan Strange said the vehicle gets good gas mileage, and will see a lot of use over the coming months. Groundskeeper Ron Kogler will use the vehicle for his regular duties, as well as during scheduled events at the fairgrounds, like the upcoming bluegrass festival and county fair. Strange said because of projected \$3 gas, the Rhino will allow them to save on gas, instead of having to use the fairground's pickup. "It will still be needed to haul things. However, the Rhino is more maneuverable, and can fit into tighter spots I still feel like we need something like that out here," Strange said. The board also heard updates on the 4-H dog program. Leader Carrie Bredemeier told the group the Kansas National Guard Armory is booked for this year's fair dog show. Last year, they had to move the show to the gym at Sacred Heart School because the armory was expected to undergo renovations. The renovations started later than scheduled, but will be complete in time for this year's event. Bredemeier also said the group is trying to raise money to buy an enclosed trailer to store their show and agility equipment. Once it's purchased, they'll need a place to store it, and she asked if they could store it inside one of the fairground buildings. The board approved that request. The board will review the request to build a storage shed on-site if needed. "As I see a need, I will reapproach the board," Bredemeier said. Bredemier asked about moving the date of the 4-H dog agility event to Sunday, July 30. "Last year, it was hot, and many kids stayed up late after the dog event to get their entries ready for the fair. 4-H is supposed to be fun," she said. "I don't like to see kids stressed out." The board approved the request. In other business, the board approved:

- A standard contract for event sponsors
- Bills and financial report.
- Minutes from the March 9 meeting.

JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Teen's abduction turns into a hoax

INDEPENDENCE (AP) — First Kelsey Stelting made a 911 call, sounding scared, saying she'd been kidnapped at gunpoint from her family's driveway. Hours later, when she reappeared, she said she'd brained her assailant with a glass and escaped. The 16-year-old high school junior is an honor student, a softball player, a dance team member and an aspiring musical actress. Her story seemed authentic to many people in this town of 9,400 about 20 miles from the Oklahoma border because, they said, she wasn't the type of girl who would perpetrate a hoax. Yet she did, the police and FBI said Thursday. Her hoax had local and state law enforcement officers, along with 40 FBI agents and support personnel, looking for signs of the white male who supposedly abducted her and the white van he supposedly used. Police and the FBI suspected early that she was lying, and she acknowledged Thursday morning that she'd fabricated her story, two days after she reported being kid-

napped. Authorities wouldn't say Thursday why she did it. The family, speaking through a spokesman, Tim Valentine, suggested only that she felt under pressure and asked for privacy. "Kelsey wants everyone to know that she didn't do this for attention," Valentine told reporters who gathered on the street near the girl's home. "She's a bright and talented overachiever. Parents need to remember that it's difficult for our kids to maintain that expectation of perfection." While federal criminal charges aren't foreseen, the girl could be prosecuted in juvenile court for filing a false police report. An adult facing that misdemeanor charge could be sentenced to a year and jail and fined up to \$2,500. For at least a few Independence residents, the joy turned to anger Thursday. "It's kind of aggravating," said Heidi Sorah, a 19-year-old Independence Community College student who lives near the family. "Our town worked really hard and was worried."

Holy week

Thursday's sunset creates a silhouette of the cross outside of the Colby Wesleyan Church. Several churches are having various services leading up to Easter on Sunday.



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