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New college president awaits work

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

New Colby Community College President Dr. Lynn Kreider is on the move and he is preparing how to move the college into the future.



L. Kreider

Kreider, who will officially start work July 1, is already working.

"I've already been talking to the staff on a regular basis," Kreider said Wednesday via cell phone interview. Kreider even plans on attending the college board of trustee's June 19 meeting.

Being surrounded by boxes of his personal items and strategy of a new job is not new to Kreider.

Kreider's previous position was chairman of executive operations at Louisiana Delta Community College in Monroe, La. He resigned in November. Before Louisiana Delta, he was dean of professional and technology studies from 1997-2001 at Jackson State Community College in Jackson, Tenn.

He held a variety of administrative positions at Delaware Technical and Community College in Dover, Del., from 1989-1997.

Kreider replaces Dr. Mikel Ary who resigned in October 2005. Glenn "Skip" Sharp has served as interim president at Colby Community College since Ary left.

"Every college president, once they get to that position, is always looking for that new home," Kreider said.

His definition of home is more philosophical than literal. Philosophically, he thinks of home as taking the college to the next level.

"We have to do things to move the

college forward," he said. "It may not be pleasing to everybody, but hopefully it works and what is best for the college."

Kreider has not wavered from his April presentation about what he would do if he were named the new president. He said then he appreciates how the college gets its name out to the public. He wants to use the college's strengths as tools for publicity and student recruitment.

"Even the results of the sports teams have been exciting," he said.

Colby's baseball team was one game away from qualifying for the national tournament and the softball team also went far in the postseason. The women's basketball team played in the national tournament in March for the first time.

Away from the playing fields, Kreider said Colby needs to become a leader in its own backyard.

"We need to create even more of a relationship between the community and the college," he said. "We need to think beyond Colby. I know it's been done before."

Colby Community College already has relationships with other schools in Kansas.

The college recently signed an agreement with Kansas State University's Salina campus. Students can acquire a degree in technical management in Colby then transfer to Kansas State. Colby's prized veterinary technician students are also attracted by Kansas State University.

Kreider knows not every issue on his desk will be positive. He said he is aware of the wellness center facility proposal that would significantly change the size and use of the college's swimming pool. The current pool is popular with the public.

"We need to determine what we need," he said.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Steve Rice, left, an inspector with the Kansas Highway Patrol, talked about grain truck safety to a group of participants at the Kansas State University Northwest Research-Extension Center

Spring Field Day Friday. The event covered different topics on wheat and research at the center.

Ideas harvested at spring field day

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The only trouble during the Spring Field Day Friday at the Kansas State University Northwest Research-Extension Center was the conditions of the wheat said director Rob Aiken.

The focus of the event was wheat as a foundation of crop systems.

"It was great," Aiken said. "We had beautiful weather. We had good turnout, considering the dismal conditions for the wheat."

Forty-nine people participated in the event. He said normally 75

to 100 attend.

Topics ranged from leaf pathogens to wheat management and no-till practices. The purpose of the field days is to let people see the results of research projects at the extension center and show developments in agriculture.

Spring field days are held in even numbered years and a fall field day covering summer crops is held in August in odd numbered years.

One of the popular presentations was by Kansas Highway Patrol Inspector Steve Rice on grain truck safety.

Aiken said it drew interest because farmers are prepping for the

wheat harvest.

Another speaker was Joe Martin, a wheat breeder at the Hays extension center. He received the Builder Award from Kansas State University last fall for his efforts and work on hard white winter wheat.

"The hard red winter wheats are a mainstay of the winter wheats on the High Plains. However, there are emerging opportunities for farmers to grow the hard white winter wheats," Aiken said.

He said that species is preferred in Asian markets because of higher flour yield when milled.

"Asian consumers prefer that for their noodles," Aiken said.

When milling red wheat, the outer casing must be ground off, which reduces the amount of flour.

Australia is the current primary source of hard white wheats. However, he said Kansas growers could start producing more white wheat to be competitive and open new markets.

Aiken also briefly mentioned the status of fall crops.

He said rainfall is the most unpredictable part of the environment. With two recent rainfalls, fall crops have a fair start, and he said it could be a good year for those crops.

Thomas County Commissioner Evans plans to run again

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

With only one week to go to the filing deadline, two of three area incumbent county commissioners have filed for re-election.

Thomas County Commissioner Ron Evans and Logan County Commissioner Carl Uhrich want to stay in office. Evans

and Uhrich filed in May for their seat. It's a different story in Sheridan County.

"As of today, nobody has filed for the seat," Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser said Friday.

Two weeks ago, incumbent commissioner Ron Schamberger said he's not sure if he wants to run again.

Anyone wanting to run for office in one

of the three counties has until 5 p.m. June 12 to file.

In Thomas County, District One covers the townships of Rovhl, Wendall, Lacey, Smith, North Randall, South Randall, Menlo, and East Morgan.

That district also includes the cities of Gem, Rexford, Menlo and Ward Two, which is the city of Colby.

Those who run for office must pay a

mandatory state filing fee of \$35, plus 1 percent of the base salary in their particular county.

In Thomas County, that charge is \$115, based on the salary of \$11,500.

Candidates could opt to file by collecting 3 percent of the registered voters of their party affiliation in their district.

In Sheridan County, District One covers the townships of Adell, Bowcreek,

East Kenneth, Valley, East Saline and West Saline. Besides the state's mandatory fee, there's a filing fee of \$104.70, or 1 percent of the \$10,407 base salary.

Logan County District One covers the first precinct of Oakley city and the first precinct of Oakley township.

The filing fee in Logan County is \$106.08, 1 percent of the \$10,608 base salary, plus the state fee of \$35.

Barnett not happy with state's direction

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

The state of Kansas is out of balance, according to Jim Barnett.

Barnett, a Republican in the Kansas Senate, is running for governor. He brought his campaign to Colby Friday.

"Our economic engine is broken," he said. "We have got to get Kansas' economy growing. We don't even keep up with the neighbors."

Barnett said the state's current operation is headed for trouble.

"Currently, we are outspending revenue which is driving us to unconstitutional debt," he said.

Barnett's platform focuses on economics. His proposed relief plan will reduce the Kansas income taxes by a minimum of 20 percent. He wants to increase the tax deduction for dependents to \$2,750. Barnett also wants to eliminate the death tax, like 34

states have already done, and provide a 10 percent tax credit for businesses for job growth.

Barnett is confident nothing has to be sacrificed to meet those goals.

"We just slow the growth of government," he said.

Barnett said the entire state of Kansas has economic development potential.

"We need economic growth in Kansas, not just Johnson County," he said. Johnson County is where Kansas City is located.

In western Kansas, Barnett said the area is prime to develop renewable energy sources.

"We need to consider the biofuels," he said. "With wind power we need to get the transmission lines to western Kansas."

He also wants to see the development of hydrogen production, a by-product of wind-generated electricity.

In 2000, Jim was first elected to the Kansas Senate where he represents all or part of Chase, Coffey,



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Jim Barnett spoke Friday in Colby about running for governor of Kansas.

Greenwood, Lyon, Marion, Morris and Osage Counties. As one of only two doctors in the Senate and as Chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee, Jim researches

health care issues.

He was elected to Emporia Board of Education in 1991 and served for eight years, four of them as president.

Opening CRP land option with drought

HAYS (AP) — The drought that has plagued many wheat fields in northwest Kansas has also affected cattle grazing, spurring calls for the federal government to open up reserved land.

Marvin Cox, a Weskan farmer, planted dryland corn in a field a few weeks ago.

He hasn't been back, fearful of what he might find. While he is concerned about crops, he's also concerned about cattle.

"Hopefully, they'll open up the CRP," Cox said of grass in the Conservation Reserve Program, even though it is suffering as well. "It's better than nothing."

With wheat crops dead or dying, and pastures that aren't capable of supporting as many cattle as they normally would, if they can support any, farmers are fearing tough times. Some pastures are table-top bare, except for the clumps of yucca or sagebrush that dot some western fields.

Many farmers were also forced to feed cattle longer than normal this spring, depleting feed supplies that

ultimately might be critical this winter if they are unable to grow additional supplies.

On Wednesday, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture to allow grazing on CRP in virtually all of northwest Kansas. Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., also pledged his support.

Without the CRP, Roberts said in a statement, "Producers will be left with two choices: continue to graze and severely damage native pastures, or begin to liquidate cattle herds."

Neither option is good for Kansas livestock producers.

They need access to this acreage before such actions have to be taken."

So far, there's been little talk of disaster programs, other than what was contained in a supplemental spending bill to support the war and rebuilding efforts as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

As yield averages are lowered by continuing drought, payments made under a disaster program likely would be smaller.