



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## College approves newer bus

By Patty Decker  
Free Press Editor

Colby Community College board of trustees approved \$127,900 for a passenger bus during a special meeting held last week.

The bus is a 1999 Prevost and the price includes graphics displaying "Colby College Trojans" said Dan Erbert, financial officer.

In addition to the bus, Erbert suggested ways to dispose of the old "bread-box style" bus by sending it to Master's Transportation Consignment in Kearney, Neb.

"There is more traffic and potential buyers than the college could find in northwest Kansas," he said. "The money from the old bus could be used to replenish cash for the issuance of the lease/purchase on the newer bus."

Board members also spoke about charging for use of the new bus on college academic tours. The idea was instead of paying for a charter bus, the college use its own bus.

Erbert agreed and suggested renting the bus to other departments in the college. Those funds could be used to pay for the purchase of the bus.

However, no decision was made. In other board news...

Art instructor Cathy Gordon informed the board her resignation was effective June 30. The board approved her resignation last month but did not know her last day of employment.

Since the date was after the deadline outlined in the master agreement, Gordon will be fined \$500 plus \$617.15 for the June payment of medical insurance.

Gordon asked for a waiver on the fine. The board denied the request.

## Tire causes accident

A one-car accident on Interstate 70 Tuesday sent one woman to Citizens Medical Center in Colby with injuries.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, the accident took place at 2:12 p.m. at milepost 55 eastbound, or 1.5 miles east of Colby.

Angela Nichole Allsup, 22, of Garden City, was driving east on the interstate when a tire tread came off the left rear tire of her 1987 Dodge SUV. Allsup hit the brakes, overcorrected and the vehicle slid into the south ditch.

The vehicle hit a culvert and overturned once, landing upright.



File photo

Swim club members and their families relaxed on the grass in front of the Colby Municipal Pool during a past meet. The league swim meet is this weekend in Colby, along with a Mid America Youth Basketball tournament, bringing many people into town.

## Events bring economic boost

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

Colby will grow in size, and in the cash registers, this weekend.

Hotels are booking up and restaurants are ready for the crowds for the Mid America Youth Basketball tournament and league swim meet this weekend.

The basketball tournament starts Friday and runs through Sunday at the Colby Community Building and school gyms. The league swim tournament is Friday and Saturday at the Colby Municipal Pool.

Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the events will have a huge economic impact on the community.

With people staying overnight, eating out, shopping and

buying gas, many sectors stand to benefit.

"There is really no way to figure out how big it is," she said. "The basketball will probably be a bigger impact."

Thomas said more people will stay at hotels for the basketball tournament because of the distance from home, unlike the swim team members and families.

"With 517 hotel rooms and 25 restaurants there is plenty to choose from," Thomas said. "During the summer months, filling up all the hotel rooms is a regular occurrence."

Ryan Sturdy, recreation director for the city of Colby, said 31 teams from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska are playing in the basketball tournament. About 30 people come with each team.

And with the swim meet, Sturdy said teams are expected from 10 area towns, including Goodland, Oberlin, Oakley and St. Francis in Kansas and from Colorado, Holyoke, Burlington, Wray, Flagler and Limon.

"This is the first weekend of the summer that has many people coming for an event," Thomas said.

"It should have been in June with the Rod Run, but it didn't happen this year."

Rod Run was a car show held every June but because of a lack of organizers, the show was not held this year.

A sampling of local hotels says staffs are gearing up for a busy weekend.

Darla Wright, a front desk clerk at the Holiday Inn Express, 645 W. Willow, said their 72 rooms are getting spoken for.

"We're not completely booked," she said, "but the hotel is ready for an influx, knowing that people will be there."

Becky Fellholter with the Comfort Inn, 2225 S. Range Ave., said there haven't been too many rooms booked for this weekend.

Only 12 of the hotel's 77 rooms are reserved for the weekend, but she said the hotel will probably get many walk-ins.

Lisa Cook, assistant manager with Motel 6, said most of its 46 rooms are already booked.

"Some are for the swim meet and basketball tournament," Cook said. "Some are for racers coming into town for races at Goodland Satur-

day and Colby on Sunday."

Restaurants are also getting ready for the weekend, and not just because of what is happening in Colby.

"Summer is the busy season and July is the busiest month," said Darlene Selley, manager at Arby's.

Jason Munk, shift manager at Pizza Hut, said they're ready for the crowds.

"We'll take it as it comes," he said.

**Crowded**  
Sturdy said he will have extra staff this weekend to deal with both events.

"It isn't the first time there have been two competing events at city facilities the same weekend," Sturdy said. "The swim meet was once the same weekend as a fast-pitch softball tournament."

Also, the swim meet was rescheduled two weeks earlier than normal this year, but the basketball tournament is the same weekend each year.

"Parking might be hard to find but I don't think it will be a big problem," Sturdy said.

## County won't compete

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Thomas County Commissioners say they want to play fair when it comes to providing the same service as that of a private enterprise.

Commissioners Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen met Friday with Thomas County Fair Board President Stan Strange, Secretary Audrey Hines and Ron Kogler, fairgrounds custodian about prices charged for recreational vehicles parking on county grounds.

Also present was Dan Borquin, owner of Borquin's Old Depot Restaurant and RV Park in Colby. Borquin, at the June 19 commission meeting, raised issue of a disparity in prices charged by the county and prices he charge campers.

"I think I can speak for all three of us that the fair board is going a good job," Evans said, "but the issue today is competition with a business owner who pays taxes."

Evans told fair board representatives the Borquins do not have an issue with the bluegrass festival, fair or rodeo campers receiving a discounted price, but they don't believe the county should undercut their price for other patrons.

Current prices at the county's campground are \$15 for one night, \$75 for one week, and \$275 for one month.

Borquin's current rates are \$24 for one night with a 30 amp electrical connection, \$26 with a 50 amp connection, and those staying seven days are only charged for six days. Campers using their facility consistently for 30 days or more are charged \$12 per day.

Hines said on an annual basis, the county brings in about \$10,000 at its campground. She said \$7,000 of that was generated from campers, the other \$3,000 from storage fees.

"That's \$10,000 not on the tax rolls," Evans said.

However, after discussing campground rates, the commissioners decided by consensus to change the county's rates to equal Borquins' effective Sept. 1.

"To me it's just an issue that I don't think government should compete with private business," Evans said.

Borquin asked commissioners how they will make sure their rates don't fall below his.

"I trust them," Evans said about the fair board. "They've heard what we've said and I think they'll do what they need to in good faith."

"I think we've got a meeting of the minds," Steele said.

## Researchers remove pollen from corn

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Researchers at Iowa State University say they are developing biopharmaceutical corn that doesn't produce pollen, preventing the plants from contaminating other crops.

The team of researchers is using traditional breeding techniques to cross a male-fertile corn line with a biopharmaceutical line to produce a hybrid containing a therapeutic protein.

That protein is then crossed with a sterile corn that hampers pollination, preventing nearby traditional corn and other crops from being contaminated by the genetically modified corn.

"Pollen is one of the controllable aspects of the system, and we can do it, and do it very well," said Kendall Lamkey, interim chairman of the Agronomy Department.

Some critics are skeptical that biopharmaceutical crops will not contaminate other crops meant for food and feed.

If contamination by bio corn does happen, it could hurt exports and devastate farmers, said George Naylor, who grows corn and soybeans near Churdan in central Iowa, the nation's top corn-producing state.

"It makes you wonder if they can guarantee that this thing is 100 percent effective ... in terms of the pollen," said Naylor, president of the National Family Farm Coalition.

Iowa State's Plant Science Institute initiated the research, which is also supported by the College of Agriculture. Lamkey and Wang said it will take about five growing seasons to conduct all of the cross-breeding that's necessary for the project.

Lamkey, director of the Raymond F. Baker Center for Plant Breeding, leads the breeding portion of the work and researcher Kan Wang, director of the Center for Plant Transformation, engineered the corn to produce the therapeutic protein.



## Bang!

JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

One of the many fireworks exploded over Colby Wednesday night. Colby's Fourth of July Fireworks show, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, was postponed Tuesday because of rain. Colby Fire Department shot off the fireworks from the Thomas County Fairgrounds.