



COLBY FREE PRESS

Just bring the milk



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

LEFT: Mint Culver, Brownie Troop 185 leader, made sure the 816 cases of Girl Scout cookies were accounted for today. The cookies arrived at the American Legion Building with Jim Griffin, right, assisting in the process. Scouts will begin delivery today and through March 30. Culver said the number of cookies this year was higher than last year's 693 cases.

City rebids station

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Construction of a new fire station for the city of Colby Fire Department took a step backward when it was decided bids for the new fire station would be scrapped, bringing the bid process back to square one.



Armstrong

Colby City Council members had the bids narrowed down to two contracting companies; Munlake Contractors, Inc., of Independence Mo., and Simon Contractors of North Platte, Neb. But according to Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong, there were problems with the bid submissions of both companies.

"Neither bid was submitted correctly," Armstrong said. "Simon Contractors did not provide a total base bid and Munlake Contractors did not list their subcontractors."

Armstrong said some of the confusion had to do with the way the bid proposal guidelines were drawn causing the potential bidders to submit bids in differing fashions.

"The council decided that neither was correct," Armstrong said, "so we decided to reject both and rebid the project."

Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore added the advice to scrap both bids and start from scratch was given by the city attorney in order to "clean up any misconceptions."

"There were some discrepancies between the bid sheets and the specifications for the bids," McLemore said. "It is all a process on how they fill those sheets out."

McLemore added Munlake Contractors and Simon Contractors will get a chance to rebid, rebid is, "open to anyone else who wishes to bid".

Rebidding on the Colby Fire Department fire station will open 2 p.m. Feb. 20. Sealed proposals will be received at the Colby City Council Chambers at 585 N. Franklin Ave. until 2 p.m. Feb. 20, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Proposed forms of contract documents, including plans and specifications are on file and available for review at the Colby City Offices at 585 N. Franklin and the office of Strait Associates Architects at 485 N. Court.

Eagle fans watch best of both worlds

By Joey Falkoff

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Editor's Note: This is the third part of a three-part series focusing on the success of Colby High in winter sports. In this edition, we look at how the loyalties are divided among basketball and wrestling, as well as how the success has effected each program.

It's a common practice among sports fans and pundits to classify schools by their most tradition-rich sport.

The University of Kansas and Duke are two examples of 'basketball schools.' Nebraska and Notre Dame are assumed to be 'football schools.'

Locally, when it comes to winter sports, most observers would point to towns like Hoxie, Oakley and St. Francis and refer to them as 'wrestling schools.'

Distinctions such as these are usually given to schools based on their rich tradition in a particular sport or lack thereof in other sports.

That puts Colby in a unique situation.

With the wrestling team ranked #1 in the state, girl's basketball ranked second at 16-0 and the boy's team off to an 11-4 start and ranked in the top 10, the question arises as to where the allegiances

“

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Mike Fell.

KXXX station manager

of Colby Eagle fans lie in this unprecedented time of winter sports athletic achievement.

"I think it's a wrestling and basketball town in the winter time," said Mike Fell, station manager/sports broadcaster at KXXX radio. "If I had to put a number on it in winter sports, I'd say it's probably 60 percent basketball, 40 percent wrestling."

Colby High athletic director Larry Gabel also agrees that basketball still generates a little bit more excitement.

"Just in my observation, more people support basketball than wrestling," said Gabel.

Others, like Colby booster club member Gary Adrian, don't notice any discrepancy in the fan support.

"Colby has always followed its teams well no matter what," said Adrian. "When we beat Valley Center in the Eagle Invitational a

couple of years ago, you've never heard anything louder at the community building."

The emergence of the basketball programs at Colby High hasn't slowed the interest in wrestling. In fact, it's only strengthened it.

"I have noticed more wrestling fans wanting us to pass along more results during the season," said Fell.

"I think it has a lot to do with the increased buzz about basketball in the winter."

Since the basketball teams have had success, there's a desire among wrestling fans for more information."

The competition among the programs isn't just limited to exposure.

Gabel said last year the school came up with a uniform replacement rotation schedule to appease coaches in both sports. This year, the basketball team's got new uni-

forms and the wrestlers got new warmups.

"I try and treat every program as fairly as I can. That doesn't always mean equally," said Gabel. "With the amount of equipment in football, we are always going to spend more money there. It doesn't mean we care about them more than another program. We spend more on the Orange and Black than the Eagle Invitational. That's just the way it is. I hope the wrestlers don't feel slighted."

According to Steve Molstad, who played on Colby's 1970 boys state championship basketball team, this new system of fairness and equal support among the programs is a farcry from how things were.

"We had some state champion wrestlers, but I think basketball commanded a bigger crowd," said Molstad. "Their financial success was probably a disaster."

Any sort of revenue sharing program was non-existent as well.

"The basketball program got more money than wrestling and it was common knowledge," said Molstad.

"I remember the wrestling mats they had were thread-bare and all scraped-up. They practiced in a dungeon. We had nice, bright-lit gymnasiums."

Molstad said the rivalry was also noticeable between players

and coaches.

"The wrestlers hung out with the wrestlers and basketball with basketball," he said. "There was a lot snide remarks. The wrestlers would call us 'hoopstas.' I doubt if the coaches are throwing rocks at each other anymore, but they didn't use to get along."

Molstad has a son, Kyle, who is a member of the Eagle junior varsity basketball team and admits that in 2008 things have changed.

"If I go to the post office or around town when a wrestling event is going on, I darn sure know it," said Molstad. "You drive by the community building now, and you wouldn't know whether wrestling or basketball is going on. I don't think kids care anymore whether wrestling makes \$10,000 or basketball loses \$10,000. Win or lose they are going to go to Sonic, and there's probably basketball players and wrestlers in the car together."

With fans and student-athletes now united, it should make for that much more orange in the stands if all three winter sports teams make it to the state tournament in Salina.

"That would be a really neat thing for Colby," said Gabel. "If all three made it down there, it would really be something. It's exciting to see our kids and coaches have success."

Obama captures Kansas in Super Tuesday Caucus

By Kevin Johnson

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With 100 percent reporting, Kansas Democrats overwhelmingly chose Sen. Barack Obama over Sen. Hillary Clinton in Tuesday's Democratic Caucuses by a margin of 48 percent.

Obama received 73 percent of the caucus vote and Clinton received 25 percent. Though Clinton incurred a crushing defeat in Kansas, the state was not a total loss for the Clinton campaign. Because Clinton finished with over 15 percent of the caucus votes, she is still considered a "viable" candidate and will still have Kansas representation in Kansas Congressional District Convention, and the Democratic National Convention as well. She will not have near the number of Kansas delegates as Obama.

Super Tuesday was an event where 22 states held both Republi-

can and Democratic caucuses and primaries to determine delegates for both Republican and Democratic delegates. Senator John McCain emerged the frontrunner for the Republicans while Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are still running neck and neck for the Democrats.

Kansas Republican caucuses will be held for all 40 Senate Districts on Saturday. Republican party members for the Kansas 40th Senate District, which includes Thomas County, will meet at the Colby Community Building in the little theater to caucus for the delegates of their choice.

Caucusing will begin at 10 a.m. and those wishing to participate must have registered as Republicans by 5 p.m. on Jan. 25 to participate in the Republican caucuses. The Kansas Democratic Caucuses on Super Tuesday only make up a part of a long process leading up to the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colo., Aug.

Kansas Republican caucuses will be held for all 40 Senate Districts at 10 a.m., Saturday. Republican party members for the Kansas 40th Senate District, which includes Thomas County, will meet at the Colby Community Building in the little theater to caucus for the delegates of their choice.

24-28.

At the Democratic National Convention, delegates from across the country will gather to nominate the 2008 Democratic Presidential candidate based on the results of a caucus held on Tuesday.

The results of Tuesday and Saturday's caucuses will be used to determine Kansas' allocation of delegates among the Democratic Presidential candidates to the Democratic National Convention in August.

Once the votes from Tuesday's caucus are tallied, the number of delegates for each candidate will be determined and the results will

be called into the Kansas Democratic Party. Delegates will be selected from each of the 40 Kansas Senate Districts and sent to Topeka of the Kansas Congressional District Convention on April 12.

At the Congressional District Convention, the delegates, as selected on Tuesday, for each candidate meet to elect from a list of filed candidates for District Level Delegates to represent their candidate at the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

All candidates who were found viable, or receive more than 15 percent of a particular Senate District caucus vote Tuesday, will be

allotted a number of delegates to the Kansas Congressional District Conventions on April 12. At each caucus, members of these viable candidate groups will elect delegates to represent their candidate at the Congressional District Conventions.

The Kansas Democratic State Committee will then meet May 17 to elect Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates and at-large delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Candidates for PLEO and at-large delegates must file by May 2. The Kansas Democratic State Committee will apportion delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention based on the results of the February 5 caucus.

Kansas will send 41 delegates and five alternates to the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Thirty-two delegates and five alternates will be pledged to a particular candidate at the Democratic National Convention. deter-

mined by the results of the Super Tuesday caucuses and the Congressional District Conventions. At the Congressional District level, the delegates will elect district level delegates to represent their candidate at the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

Kansas' un-pledged delegates consist of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Congresswoman Nancy Boyda, Congressman Dennis Moore, Democratic Party Chair Larry Gates, Democratic Party Vice-Chair Teresa Krusor, Democratic Party National Committeewoman Randy Roy, Democratic Party National Committeeman Lee Kinch and National Federation of Democratic Women Chair Helen Knetzer.

In addition to these, Kansas will send one un-pledged add-on delegate who will be selected by the State Party Committee using a signed, written ballot. The State Party Chair nominates individuals for this position.