



COLBY FREE PRESS



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press



Family and song

ABOVE: Brock, Jeff, Lesley and Tasha Wagoner displayed their families musical talents during Wednesday's Picnic in the Park festivities at Fike Park. Each of the four Wagoner family members took turns with the mic. Next week's featured performers are Wayne and Millie Lauritsen of the Sappa Strings. Three more Picnic in the Park events remain this summer. They begin every Wednesday at noon.

One and done

College athletic director turns in resignation letter

By Joey Falkoff

Free Press Reporter
jalkoff@nwkansas.com

Colby Community College athletic director Duane Arntt said his impending resignation was a "possibility" on June 30.

Wednesday, that possibility turned into a reality.

After just over a year in Colby, Arntt turned in his letter of resignation to college president Lynn Kreider and will take on an elementary school principal post in the Silver Lake school district in Nebraska. Arntt was an elementary school principal for eight years prior to his time at the college.

"I had a really good job opportunity come up that I couldn't turn down," said Arntt. "I wasn't looking to change. It's something that kinda dropped in my lap. I like working with kids, and that's what I miss most. With this job, you have a lot of administrative work and don't get to deal with kids a whole lot."

Also factoring into Arntt's decision was the opportunity to move closer to family and secure an early retirement plan. By making the move, Arntt says he is eligible for early retirement in 10 years.

"I really put a lot of thought into it," he said. "Did I come into this job thinking I was only going to stay a year? No. Had this opportunity not popped up, I'd still be here. I liked what I was doing, things were going in the right direction and I got along with most people."

Although Arntt was rumored on KGCR radio to have resigned early last week, he said the move didn't become a certainty until Tuesday when the school board in Nebraska approved his hiring.

He informed the college of his decision the next day.

"Dr. Kreider was kind of disappointed, but he understood the reasons why," said Arntt. "He hated to see me go."

Kreider was out of the office late Thursday afternoon and Friday morning and could not be reached for comment. A handful of coaches at the college were in their office Thursday, including new women's basketball coach DeJeanette Flournoy, who was hired by Arntt in April. Flournoy had just returned to Colby from a three-and-a-half week recruiting trip and was floored by the news.

"Wow," Flournoy said. "I mean wow. To hear that, it kinda saddens me because I made a connection with him. He gave me an opportunity to do what I love. He was really open to letting me run the program and get it where I wanted. So, wow."

Flournoy was one of two new coaches Arntt brought in this past year. The other was head volleyball coach Valerie Armstrong. Now, both will have to sell themselves to a new boss right away.

"It's going to be kind of difficult because I got used to Duane and his style, but it's a challenge I'm looking forward to," said Flournoy. "My objectives don't change. I'm all about winning in the classroom, in the community and winning on the floor. I think any AD who comes in will definitely understand and feel my sincerity when I say that. It makes me curious if they are going to bring in someone similar to him or just totally different."

On the other side of the spectrum, the news of Arntt's resignation wasn't nearly as groundbreaking for Trojan head wrestling coach Steve Lampe, who will be entering his 33rd year at the college. Lampe admitted to having doubts about Arntt's commitment to the college from the outset.

See "COLLEGE," Page 12

St. Francis man vies for judicial seat

By Karen Krien

St. Francis Herald
karen.k@nwkansas.com

District Judge Jack Burr of Goodland will not be seeking another term in the second position of the 15th Judicial District — opening the door for three candidates to vie for that seat.

Kevin Berens, St. Francis, along with Andrea Wyrick, Thomas and Logan County Attorney, and Scott Showalter of Goodland, all Republicans, have filed for the position. The Aug. 5 primary will decide which will most likely be the 15th Judicial District Judge. The

three candidates have been out in the seven-county area, beating the streets, knocking on doors and several weeks ago, met in Sharon Springs for a forum.

If elected, Berens plans to use "integrity and impartiality with the right kind of knowledge and experience."

Berens has been an attorney with James Milliken, Chartered, in St. Francis since 1999.

His legal practice takes him all over the 15th Judicial District and in other parts of Kansas and Colorado.

Mr. Berens said his diverse practice has provided him with a broad

understanding of the law, the ability to apply the law to the facts of each case and the competence to make decisions based on an analysis of the law and the facts.

He has handled legal matters such as real estate law, income tax preparation, farm leases, commercial leases, contract law, entity formation, estate planning, probate, child custody and domestic matters. He also served as Cheyenne County Attorney for four years and was a law clerk for the District Court Judges of the 3rd District.

"I have handled legal matters for clients in numerous areas of

the law and worked with people in various life situations," he said.

Berens pointed out there are three branches of government: The Legislative, the Executive and the Judicial branch.

"Each branch has its own duties and responsibilities," he said.

A district judge, he said, should follow the laws as enacted and the decisions of higher courts.

"If a judge disagrees with a law, then the judge should encourage change through the legislative process rather than changing the law from the bench," he said.

See "JUDGE," Page 6

Medical student learns from hands-on experience

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor
pdecker@nwkansas.com

Kellie Wark, 25, born and raised in Colby, is getting a unique perspective on what a family practitioner does on a daily basis.

For the past six weeks, Wark, a medical student at Kansas University, has been working alongside Dr. Victor Hildyard at Colby Medical and Surgical Center as part of a primary care research program.

"This is totally different than the classroom," she said. "In school, we learn chemicals and in a clinical setting it's more details about the disorders and diseases."

Wark, who will start her second year of medical school in August, said she was grateful for this opportunity.

"Dr. Hildyard is a really good doctor," she said.

"When I had a question, he would answer the question with an explanation, which is better than a yes or no."

Wark is a 2001 Colby High School graduate and completed her bachelor's degree with a double major in human biology and psychology, also at Kansas University.

She said she is the first in her family to attend medical school. "I have always liked biology and

medicine," Wark said.

Her goal is to graduate as a medical doctor with an emphasis in oncology, hematology and an extra fellowship in medical genetics.

Once she completes her four years at Kansas University's medical school, Wark will need to finish three more years of residency.

She is one of five children. Her parents are Kevin and Susan Wark of Colby and her brothers and sisters are Logan, Ryan, John and Caitlyn. Her grandparents are Hankie Beckman and Darrel and Valerie Wark, all of Colby.

Her last day at the clinic will be July 18.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

L-R: Rachel Albers, licensed practical nurse; Leeandra Johnson, medical assistant; Kansas University medical student Kellie Wark and Alisha Krinhop, registered nurse, discussed health issues at Colby Medical and Surgical Center Wednesday. Wark, 25, has been doing a type of preceptorship with Dr. Victor Hildyard for the past six weeks.

Briefly

Gaither video cancelled

The Gaither video concert, "Turn Your Radio On," scheduled for 6 p.m., Sunday, has been cancelled.

Queen, princesses needed

The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Pageant is looking for contestants for the 2008 contest. Girls ages 8-11 are eligible for the junior princess; those 12-15 for the princess and young women, 16-23 for the queen contest, said Marie Skolout, coordinator. "Contestants will be judged in horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling," she said. "A trophy saddle is awarded to the queen along with other great prizes for the princess and junior princess." This year's contest will be held Wednesday, July 23 with entries due by Saturday, July 19. For entry forms or questions, call Skolout at (785) 586-2228.

Animals need a home

Colby Animal Clinic has a six-month-old (chocolate-colored) Labrador Retriever and a male kitten ready for adoption. Clinic officials said this is a very nice dog and would make a good pet for just about any home as would the kitten. All adopted animals have current shots. The goal is to find homes for animals rather than to euthanize them. For questions or minimal adoption costs, call 460-8621.

Square dance Saturday

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club will meet from 8 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, at the Colby Community Building.

Food donations sought

Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass Festival organizers are wanting to help Genesis of Thomas County

by collecting canned goods at the Thomas County fairgrounds ticket booth, July 18-20, said Bev Biel, food drive coordinator. "All items need to be non-perishable and due to regulations, items cannot be opened or partially used." Some items given to those less fortunate in Thomas County include green beans, corn, peas, soups, canned fish or meat, Hamburger Helper/Tuna Helper, peanut butter, cereal, toilet paper, sugar and many other similar-type foods and staples.

Remote car races Sunday

The Racing for Christ Car Club, also known as the RC Club, welcomes everyone to attend its next remote control car races, from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, at the First Baptist Church, 615 Webster, Colby, said Kent Higerd, coordinator. "No experience is necessary and we have many remote control cars available for all ages (10 and up) who would like to learn," he

said. There are no costs and the event is non-denominational. For questions, call 462-3440 or 462-2867.

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday, at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave. in Colby. County Attorney Candidate Bruce Flipse will talk to the commissioners from 9 to 9:15 a.m. about the office of county attorney and its budget. From 9:15 to 9:30, Health Administrator Lisa Molstad will talk to the commissioner about newspaper ads for employee changes in her department. Thomas County department heads will meet with the commissioners about 2009 budget requests from 9:30 to 10 a.m., and Don Woofert will meet with the commissioners from 10:30 to 11 a.m. about raising dogs in the Murry Subdivision. Meetings are open to the public.