



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

## New principal feels at home in Brewster

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George Staaten, the new pre-kindergarten through high school principal and superintendent of the Brewster schools, is no stranger to western Kansas.

Although he grew up in Wichita, his 20-year career in education has found him spending all but two of those years in western Kansas schools.

"It looks like I'm home, and I'm looking forward to serving the Brewster schools," he said.

Staaten began his school career in the Copeland-Montezuma school system in 1989, and then moved to Logan for five years. The next six years he spent in Jewell, followed by two years as the high school principal in Ness City. His last assignment was two years in Chepota in southeast Kansas.

Staaten said he feels optimistic about the school, and the community working together to keep their school going.

"So far, it looks like they have been very successful," he said.

He said he doesn't see any changes in the programs for the school in the coming year.

"We will still have a good curriculum, our sports will be up and running, and we'll still offer industrial arts, and family and consumer sciences. The student numbers look promising," he said, "and we haven't had to cut teaching positions or programs."

"I'm not getting too excited about numbers until Sept. 20, though," he said, "because that is the magic count day, but right now, it looks as if our enrollment could increase slightly."

Staaten's wife, Cindy will be teaching first and second grades. They have a son, Jonathan, who lives in Kansas City, and a daughter Jasmine who will be a freshman in the Brewster High School.

Enrollment for Brewster school is Monday and Tuesday. The first day of school for students will be Aug. 18.



## Parade showcases ag dealers

Colby Police Officer Donnie Valles (above) helped to keep children away from the large farm vehicles, such as this track tractor, during the Thomas County Fair Parade on Tuesday. There were 60 entries in the parade as well as some informal entries, such as World War II veteran Thurman Cox (left), who walked from the beginning

of the parade route to the train tracks. Awards were given out to the best entries in six different categories. The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services float (below), which included an appearance by Terry the Traumasaurus, won first place in the Community and Organization category. For full parade results, see Page 3.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

## Wind project nearly ready to go

By Kevin Bottrell  
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Peter Keenon, project developer for Acciona Energy, met with the Thomas County commissioners Monday to give them an update on the Solomon Forks Wind Farm project.

Keenon said the 108 megawatt wind farm is essentially ready for beginning construction. Surveys, including aerial, wind speed and hazardous materials studies, have all been completed. Keenon said that, as originally planned, the project near Mingo would be under construction right now, but delays have set construction back by months. Acciona has been planning the project for about a year, having acquired the project from its original developer last July.

"It's been a slow burn for us," Keenon said.

Currently, Acciona is looking for utilities to contract with for the power generated at the wind farm.

Keenon said Acciona uses its own capital assets to pay for the construction of its wind farms. After the farms are completed and utility contracts finalized, the company looks for financial backers to recover the costs.

Acciona can contract with any utility in the Southwest Power Pool, a bulk energy co-op that spans Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma as well as parts of Missouri, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Since the project is so far along, Keenon said, the company can bid far more accurately for power contracts.

"Being ready to go, it's very competitive with projects that aren't as far along," he said.

Keenon said the company had intended to sell the power generated by the wind farm into the open market. However, the drop in natural gas prices has affected overall energy prices. Overall

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## College board renames health building after Brewster farmer

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Pierre C. "Pete" Henry led an amazing life. He is a perfect example of someone who took the lemons life handed him and made lemonade.

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees honored Henry's memory at their meeting on July 20 when they ap-

proved renaming the health science building located on the north side of the campus as the Pierre C. Henry Allied Building.

Henry donated money through the college's endowment association that is used to give scholarships to students at the college. During his life, Henry established a foundation to award academic and technical training scholarships. Students from Decatur, Cheyenne, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Wallace

and Thomas counties can all apply for the scholarships.

"He was always looking out for people," said Kenton Kreibel, vice chairman of the board. "He was a quiet, smart guy."

Phil Keck described Henry as someone who was always willing to help out a friend.

"He wanted his money to be spent on the elderly and kids," said Keck.

Keck said Henry was an extremely fru-

gled man. "His shoes had patches in them where they were worn through on the side," he said. "Pete would say they were just broken in."

Henry was born in 1906 on a farm near Campbell, Neb. A foundation press release said he had to care for and manage the household for his four younger brothers at the age of 13 while his father tried to make a living after the death of

his mother.

He left Nebraska and headed west to California when he was 21 years old. He did what he could to scrape out a living. He slept in cars, washed dishes and rented a garage to sleep in for \$6 a month.

The press release said he eventually signed up with the Civilian Conservation Corps forest service where he harvested

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## Briefly

### Slab dance set for Thursday

As part of the Thomas County Free Fair, there will be a slab dance at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Music will be provided by CC Energy. For information, call Audrey Hines at 443-0544.

### Camp deadline extended

The deadline for registration for the Colby Eagle Net Slammers Tennis Camp has been extended to Saturday. The camp will be from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday to Wednesday, Aug. 3-5, at Fike Park for children 6 to 12. The cost will be \$25, which includes a T-shirt. For information, call tennis coach Jennifer Rall at 462-0320.

### District to hold public meeting

Colby School District Superintendent Terrell Har-

ison and Business Manager Jo DeYoung will conduct two public meetings at 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday in the Colby High School auditorium. The purpose of these meetings is to allow the public the opportunity to hear about the district's budget status and cuts that have been made. The public will also be able to ask questions. For information, call the administration office at 460-5000.

### Sacred Heart enrollment Monday

Sacred Heart School will hold enrollment for all students in preschool through fifth grade from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday at the school, which is located at 1150 West Sixth St. For information, call the school at 460-2813.

### College to hold budget hearing

The Board of Trustees of Colby Community College will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday

in the board room of Thomas Hall. The meeting will be a public hearing of the 2009-2010 budget. For information, call the college at 462-3984.

### School registration Aug. 6 and 7

K-12 returning student enrollment will be at 4 p.m. on Aug. 6 at Colby High School. New student enrollment will be at 8 a.m. Aug. 7 in each school. The first day of athletic practices will be on Aug. 17, with time to be determined by the coaches. The first day of classes will be Aug. 20. The district also has class of 2008 diplomas available for pick-up at the administration office. For information, call the district at 460-5000.

### Free dance planned for Friday

There will be a singles and married couples dance Friday, Aug. 7, in the Community Building from

7:30 to 11:30 p.m. This is a free dance for Janet Phelps' 75th birthday. Please, no gifts. For information please call Lue Duffey (785) 855-2341.

### Equivalency classes offered

The Adult Education Department at Colby Community College is offering free General Education Development (GED) preparation classes beginning Aug. 17. The diploma is widely recognized as credible and valuable by employers and colleges. One in 20 students enrolled in post-secondary education nationwide holds a general education diploma. Class times are flexible. To enroll call Nance Munderloh at (785) 460-4663.



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