



College enrollment down this year

By Andy Heintz Colby Free Press aheintz@nwkansas.com

Paula Davis, vice president of academic affairs at Colby Community College, said that enrollment is down 85 students since last year and the school is down 651 credit hours at Monday's board meeting in Thomas Hall.

Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs, said the college is still expected to

face a \$300,000 shortfall in their budget.

The tax credit donations the college has received may help with this problem. The college has over \$400,000 worth of tax credits, Waites said. He said the college has received \$10,500 worth of tax credit donations from the public thus far. While this amount is not enough to affect the college's budget problems, Waites said the more credit donations the college receives, the more likely it will be able to decrease its shortfall.

The college is selling these credits at 54 percent. This means 54 percent of your donation applies as a credit to your state income taxes. So if you donate \$1,000 to the college, you get \$540 tax credit on whatever taxes you owe Kansas. It will also provide a deduction from your federal tax net income. The amount of money that will be deducted depends on what tax bracket your in. The state granted the college \$266,000 in tax credits in 2010-2011. The other tax credits they had were

left over from the previous two years.

Waites said the more tax credit donations the college receives, the more likely they will be able to decrease their budget shortfall.

In other news, the board:

• Heard Waites report that the college had \$9.5 million left of the 2010-2011 budget. This represents 76.5 percent of the original budget.

• Approved hiring Jim Stringer, a seven-time interim president, to act as

consultant and assist Max Heim, interim president at the college, with the search for a permanent president. Stringer arrived Wednesday and he will work on Thursday and Friday. He will be paid \$3,000 for his services.

• Heard Waites report that the college had a cash balance of \$1.43 million on Sept. 30.

• Decided to approve holding a meet-

See "COLLEGE," Page 3

Candidate says he's closing in

By Kevin Bottrell Colby Free Press kbottrell@nwkansas.com

Democrat Alan Jilka says he's within striking distance of being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 1st District candidate said in an interview Tuesday that he and his staff believe the race is closer than some polls have it. Jilka is currently riding high with endorsements from the Hutchinson News and the Kansas National Education Association. He said he's been making as many stops and talking to as many people as he can in the two weeks left till the election. Grassroots campaigning is the only way reach voters in the 1st District, Jilka said, because no one media outlet reaches every area.

Jilka is marketing himself to moderate Republicans. He has formed the Republicans for Jilka committee, which includes Doug Sebelius, former State Rep. Dan Johnson and Atwood Mayor Betty Micky. Jilka said that, as a moderate, he wants to appeal to Republican voters who feel the extreme right wing has hijacked the party. "Now that the election is getting close, a lot of people are going to take a look at candidates and say,

ELECTION 2010

'this person has to represent me,'" he said. "They're saying, 'that other guy's to extreme for me, who's that Alan Jilka?'"

Jilka singled out opponent Tim Huelskamp as an extreme conservative. He pointed to an endorsement from the Club for Growth, a political action committee, which endorses only the most conservative candidates. Jilka said voters should take a hard look at such organizations and their agendas. The Club for Growth's agenda includes privatizing social security and eliminating all farm aid, which would hurt western Kansas, he said. The club endorsed Huelskamp during the primary.

"They contributed as much as they legally could and then they paid for attack ads on Jim Barnett," he said.

Barnett, one of Huelskamp's primary opponents, was targeted late in the race by attack ads which may have contributed to his loss.

See "CANDIDATE," Page 3

Pour it on



Colby firefighters poured water on a small field fire Wednesday afternoon. Firefighter Ross Carney said the first burned about an acre of dry corn stubble, and two trucks and three firefight-

ers had no trouble putting it out. Carney said the department sometimes sees a lot of small fires in crop stubble this time of year, depending on how dry the weather has been.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Tuesday fire damages St. Francis nursing home

By Karen Krien The St. Francis Herald karen.k@nwkansas.com

About 1:30 on Tuesday afternoon, smoke was evident at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis. The staff called 911 and began moving residents out of the building. Within 15 minutes, all residents were safely out.

Workers had been putting insulation in the attic of the facility and it was suspected that there might have been something that went wrong but there are no confirming reports.

The fire apparently started in the attic of the facility toward the east end and spread through the attic and down the walls.

Firemen, emergency medical technicians and law officers were on the scene almost immediately. Residents had been moved to the north and west sides of the building. One of the staff remarked that it was a nice day so they could be moved outside.

At one point, the wind changed direction and residents on the north side were moved to the east

end. It was a community effort as people arrived to help move the residents and records, and gather needed supplies.

Ambulances from around the area came to help move residents. The high school bus was used as a vehicle to move people who were able to walk and climb the steps.

The high school gym was opened up and residents were moved in. Doctors and nurses arrived to help the Village staff with any medical problems, to take vitals and reassure residents that they were going to be OK.

The school staff and students showed up with water and snacks. The students were talking to residents, others were helping load and unload equipment while others were running errands as needed.

Many of the residents were able to be moved to nursing homes in Goodland, Atwood, Wray, Benkelman and Sharon Springs. Others were able to go home with relatives until a place could be found for them.

At the time the paper went to press, details on the fire and damage to the facility were unknown.

Colby financial planner anticipates brighter future

By Vera Sloan Colby Free Press vsloan@nwkansas.com

Unsolicited calls are most often ignored and quickly forgotten. Not so for Jim Oliver, owner of Oliver and Associates at 155 W. Third Street in Colby.

As a Raymond James branch manager and financial advisor for many years, Oliver got such a call about four months ago from LPL Financial and In-

surance Services Company and is happy he didn't ignore the call.

"My first gut reaction was that I wasn't interested," Oliver said. "Then as I listened, and learned, I began to see that their philosophy for investments in this part of the world, lined up with my philosophy."

Oliver said Raymond James Financial Services is a very good company. However, he sad he believes

See "ADVISOR," Page 3

Colby alumnus starts new business

By Vera Sloan Colby Free Press vsloan@nwkansas.com

One thing all small rural communities wish for is that their young people will return to their home town and establish new roots of their own.

Brett Bandy, 2005 graduate of Colby High School and in a 2009 graduate of Colby Com-



Brett Bandy

munity College, has returned to Colby to set up his own business, Cumulus Computers.

Bandy is well suited for the business. He earned the No. 1 spot among 1,400 competitors from throughout the nation, including foreign exchange students, in the "Help Desk" category in mid July at the Phi Beta Lambda

National Leadership Convention in Nashville.

"Contestants took a 100-question 'help desk' test online," he said, "and then had to go through a performance test too. In the performance test, we were presented with a situation and were allowed 10 minutes to prepare for it."

"When we went in front of the judges to present the solution, it

See "BUSINESS," Page 3

Briefly

Walk the red carpet for the parish

Sacred Heart Parish will hold their 13th annual auction and banquet at 5 p.m. Saturday at the City Limits Convention Center. The theme this year is "A Night on the Red Carpet." Tickets are \$30. For information, call the church rectory at 462-2179.

Church focusing on missions

The Colby Berean Church will have a talk by Martin and Sharon Huyett about their mission work at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the church, 1000 S. Franklin Ave. Steve Bender of Baptist Bible Fellowship International in Springfield, Mo., will also speak about his mission experience, all part of the church's Missions Month. For information, call 460-2763.

Red Cross collecting blood Nov. 4

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive

from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, in the student union at Colby Community College. Schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org or call Trudy Wildeman in the college Health Science Building at (785) 460-4797. Walk-ins are welcome.

Women's group to sell greenery

The Colby Presbyterian Women are selling fresh Christmas greenery to raise money for mission projects. Items include wreaths, swags, garlands, holly, table decorations and more. Order by Sunday, Oct. 31, for delivery the first week of December. Call the church at 462-6342, Mary Smith at 462-3387 or JoAnne Sunderman at 460-2476.

Genesis needs names for baskets

Genesis-Thomas County food bank plans once again to help area families during the holiday season. Forms are available for families in need who would

like to receive a food basket. Come to the office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 13, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays by Tuesday, Nov. 9. For information, call 460-7930.

Berean Church to study Esther

The Colby Berean Church will be doing the Beth Moore study "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman" and a six-week Crown Money Map Seminar from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sundays starting Oct. 31. Enrollment for Esther will end Friday so books can be ordered. For questions or to register, call the church office at 460-2763. For information on the money seminar, contact Jerry Barton at jerrybarton@st-tel.net or call (785) 443-3680.

District Music Concert is Oct. 25

The Colby Schools' District Music Concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Community Build-

ing. This free event, open to the public, will feature musicians from the grade, middle school and high schools. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

Massage class needs clients

The Therapeutic Massage Program at Colby Community College is offering massages by students in the Massage Clinic I class from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. For an appointment, call (785) 460-5427. The fee is \$5. Any gratuities will be put into the Massage Therapy Club fund to help students pay for the National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, said Debra A. Waites, director of the program.

