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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Don Weiss, candidate for Colby Community College president spoke before a small crowd Tuesday.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press
Charles Kater, who spoke to the public Thursday, was the second candidate interviewed by the college board.

City talks supervisor for new pool

By Andy Heintz
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The Colby City Council discussed what they wanted to pay for a newly created "Aquatic Supervisor" position at the Aquatic Park, which is currently under construction, at a meeting on Tuesday at City Hall.

City manager Carolyn Armstrong said she would like to get the position filled by the middle of March. She said the position would carry the responsibility of overseeing the overall operation of the aquatic park and the concession stand, just to make sure everything is running smoothly, overseeing the payroll and controlling the cash receipts for the facility.

The city manager said she would like to have this person available when the contractor provides training on the pool operation. She suggested this person be paid on an hourly basis until the pool officially opens. Once the

pool opens, Armstrong proposed this person be a salaried worker who gets \$10 or \$12 an hour plus 10 percent of revenue made by the concession stand.

Stacy Lee, Colby recreation department director, said there would also be a head lifeguard and other lifeguards hired to work at the new pool. The board decided they wanted to talk to managers of other aquatic parks to find out how much they paid their workers before they made any decisions.

In other news, the council:
• Tabled a decision about allowing alcohol to be served at the Mixed Martial Arts event on March 19 at the Community Building. Lee said 12 to 15 bouts will take place, but the event time hasn't been set yet.

Council president Jim Brown said he hoped the council would say no and let the fight audience go somewhere else to drink. The Mixed Martial Arts fighting occurs in a cage where the fight-

See "POOL," Page 3

Last candidate to go on Monday

By Kevin Bottrell
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The fourth and final candidate for Colby Community College president, this one with experience in community and technical colleges around the Midwest, will meet with the board of trustees and the public Monday morning.

Randy L. Smith, Ph.D., is currently the president of the Rural Community College Alliance, a national organization that provides training and advocacy for community colleges. Smith has been with the alliance since 2008.

Smith holds a doctorate in higher education leadership from Touro University in Cypress, Calif., a master's degree in emergency health service policy and administration from the University

of Maryland in Baltimore, Md., and a bachelor's degree in political science from Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont. According to his resumé, he is a paramedic and a reserve law enforcement officer.

Smith began his career in health education as a coordinator for the cardiac education program from and later a teacher and continuing education coordinator in the department of emergency health services at the University of Maryland. In 1996, he moved to Scottsdale, Ariz., to be national director of emergency medical service education at the Rural/Metro Corporation, a private ambulance service.

In 1997 and 1998, he was a teacher and director of the emer-

See "CANDIDATE," Page 3

First candidates speak

DeVry dean looking for a challenge

By Andy Heintz
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Colby Community College presidential candidate Don Weiss introduced himself and answered questions from a small group of faculty members and others on Tuesday who dared to venture outside in the bitterly cold weather and travel to the multipurpose room in the student union.

Weiss, dean of evening, week-

end and graduate studies for the Keller Graduate School of Management at DeVry University in Kansas City, Mo., said one of the things that attracted him to the job was the opportunity to help solve pressing problems at the college and in community at large. He cited the aging and diminishing population as a problem that affects both the college and the community.

Weiss has been involved with higher education since 1989. "I'm living and breathing higher education from morning to night," he said.

When asked what he considered to be some of the colleges most pressing problems, Weiss

See "DEAN," Page 3

Tech director touts public, private work

By Vera Sloan
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The second candidate for Colby Community College President, Charles "Chuck" Kater, a life long Kansan and a member of the Kansas Board of Regents, spoke with the public in a question and answer session at the college Thursday morning.

Kater, director of technical programs and curriculum at the board of regents, said colleges

need to build "a load of confidence" in young people and he feels that his long career, first in the workforce and then in leadership in the public sector, has given him a favorable background to do that.

"When you come up with solutions never before thought of to facilitate progress, it ends in success," he said.

He said that as a member of the Kansas Board of Regents, it is the ethical standards that supersede everything else. He said he holds true to principles and statutes and said sometimes it can get to be lonely. He added that his intent is to never make a mistake, but that's something

See "DIRECTOR," Page 3

House Republicans want to balance spending with equal cuts

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Speaker Mike O'Neal and other Republicans pledged support Thursday for a proposed rule that would require spending cuts to offset any new increases as the Kansas House prepares to begin its first significant budget debate.

The rule, which supporters call "pay as you go" or "paygo," is similar to a measure Congress approved last year. It would prohibit members of the Kansas House, during debate by the entire chamber, from

proposing amendments to appropriations bills adding spending to one part of the budget without coupling that with a cut in another part.

"We've got to have a balanced budget, and so if you're going to be serious about wanting to add money, then you ought to be serious about finding a way to pay for it," said O'Neal, a Hutchinson Republican.

But opponents are already lining up a possible constitutional challenge if the rule is approved. House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat, said

he is researching whether the proposed rule violates the state constitution by limiting legislators' power to appropriate state funds. He wouldn't rule out a court challenge.

"There is nothing that is more important that we do here than allocate expenditures, and the roughly 25,000 people that I represent deserve to have a vote on what that amount is going to be," said Davis, who's not an Appropriations Committee member. "The speaker has a majority of votes to do whatever he wants, and I don't see why this is necessary."

Congress operated with rules in the 1990s that said spending increases or tax cuts had to be offset so the federal deficit wouldn't increase, but the rules became looser and members often found ways around them before enacting the 2010 version in a law that also raised the limit on the federal debt. Democrats frequently cited "paygo" principles in opposing tax cuts proposed by Republicans.

The Kansas House's version of "paygo" is designed to limit spending. The state already can't run a deficit, and legislators are already limited in what revenue-raising

provisions they can slip into budget bills. Tax hikes, for example, must be approved separately.

Some House Republicans have wanted such a rule for several years but haven't found enough support, even with a GOP majority. Last year's elections left the Legislature more conservative, and the House's 92-33 Republican majority includes 33 GOP freshmen, many sympathetic to the tea party movement's focus on fiscal restraint.

See "SPENDING," Page 3

Briefly

Food sign-up open now

Prairie Land Food sign-up is open until Monday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be Saturday, Feb. 19, at the Sacred Heart School gym. For more information, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

Dance Saturday at clubhouse

There will be a singles and couples dance from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Course clubhouse. Craig Stevens will provide the music. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

Show school spirit, get in free

The Colby Community College Athletic Department is encouraging area students to show their school pride during the Trojan basketball games on Saturday. All students from any school, wearing something identifying that school, will get in

free. Parents who go with their student will get in half-price. The women's game will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the men about 8 p.m. The Trojan Pep Band will be performing and several college T-shirts will be given away. For information, contact Debbie Schwanke at 460-5411 or Ryan Sturdy at 460-5548.

Youth group plans dinner, auction

The Colby Middle School Methodist Youth Fellowship will hold a Valentines pasta dinner and community service work auction from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Colby United Methodist Church. The auction will begin at 12:35 p.m. Fellowship members will be auctioned off to complete community service projects. Money raised will go to the fellowship's mission projects. For information, call the church at 460-2761.

Baseball sign-up is Sunday

American Legion Baseball will have a sign-up day

at 3 p.m. Sunday upstairs at the Colby Community Building for eligible players aged 16 to 19. Coach Jeff Krzycki said all interested players must sign up at the meeting. For information, call Krzycki at 443-2542.

Senior group offering tax help

The American Association of Retired Persons will offer tax preparation help for low and middle income taxpayers — with preference to those 60 or older — by appointment from early February to April 15. For information or to set up an appointment, call Earle Rice at 462-2990.

Church to hold marriage talks

The Colby Independent Baptist Church will hold a free marriage and family conference Sunday to Wednesday, at the church. Lectures will be at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday; and at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Dr. Bob Bliss from

Colorado Springs will speak about biblical principles for successful marriage, family and home life. The conference is open to the public. For information, call Pastor Bernard Heinz at 460-0313.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.



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