



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

75¢

Monday

March 7, 2011
Volume 122, Number 37
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Lady Eagles make it to state



CHARLENE KAUS

The Lady Eagles celebrated their win over Pratt/Stafford Saturday night at the Colby Community Building. With the substate victory, Colby is headed to the state tournament Thursday.

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkans.com

A pair of clutch plays from Junior Morgan Bell in the fourth quarter helped the Colby High Lady Eagles overcome a run by the Pratt/Stafford Lady Greenbacks and sealed their entry in the state tournament.

Pratt got the first points on the board with 2. After several long possessions, senior Katrina Kaus hit a 3 pointer to take the lead for Colby.

The Lady Eagles were putting a lot of pressure on the Pratt offense, keeping the score low for much of the first quarter.

A foul by sophomore Lauren Bell put Pratt at the free throw line. Two good foul shots put them back in the lead 4-3. On the next play, a Pratt player put the ball right into the hands of senior Katherine Kaus, but she was unable to capitalize on the steal. Katrina Kaus drove inside and was fouled. She made both her free throws to put the Lady Eagles up by 1.

The Lady Greenbacks answered with a 2-point bucket, but senior Kelsey Shields came right back with 2 points. Colby ended the see-saw when Morgan Bell took the ball down the court and made a three-point shot all on her own. Katrina Kaus put in another 2 points on a steal from Shields to make the score 12-6.

Pratt missed two free throws, and a jump shot at the buzzer by sophomore Kenzie Curry ended the first quarter with Colby up 14-7.

The Lady Eagles continued their run at the beginning of the second quarter with a three pointer from Curry and a 2-point bucket from

See "EAGLES," Page 3

Some schools scrambling on fire codes

By Heather Hollingsworth

The Associated Press

Cash-strapped Kansas school districts are outraged by a costly surge in citations for fire code violations.

A code that has been on the books since the 1970s and evolved over the years calls for schools to block smoke from making its way into hallways so that buildings can be evacuated safely.

But school districts generally weren't cited until fire inspectors received more training at the direction of the Legislature. In the past 14 months, 56 schools in 32 school districts have been cited for problems keeping rooms and corridors separated.

Colby Superintendent Terrel Harrison said the district hasn't had a visit from a fire inspector yet and none are scheduled. She said she and her building supervisor are aware of the problem.

Mark Tallman, a lobbyist for the Kansas Association of School Boards, said there are concerns

that districts could face big bills bringing buildings into compliance.

"I can confirm there is discontent out there," he said.

Older buildings designed before the widespread use of air conditioning are typically the ones failing to comply with the codes, said Doug Jorgensen, the acting state fire marshal.

One issue has been louvered doors and windows in and around some doors. They are all elements that promoted air circulation in uncooled buildings, but they also would allow smoke to escape into hallways if there was ever a fire.

Districts, many of them in the western part of the state, are being told they need to take steps to protect their corridors from filling with smoke in a fire, such as replacing doors. Alternatively, they can bring older buildings into compliance by adding interconnected fire alarms in hallways or providing a letter from a licensed

See "CODES," Page 3

State tornado drill delayed by weather

Kansans are well aware that severe weather can strike anywhere – and most any time of day.

National Weather Service officials say that staying safe is a matter of being prepared. That's why the service sponsors severe weather awareness events across the country.

This year, Severe Weather

Awareness Week in Kansas is this week, March 6-12. A state-wide tornado drill was scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, but it was postponed because of the weather.

To help Kansans remain vigilant, K-State Research and Extension is providing information at www.ksre.ksu.edu and www.ksden.ksu.edu.

Candidate wants college to move forward

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkans.com

Dinah Charles, candidate for the Colby Community College Board, said the college can't move forward while focusing on what's gone before.

Charles currently works as a sales associate for David Browne at Farm Bureau Financial Services in Colby. She is a relative newcomer to the county, having moved here 2 1/2 years ago after retiring from a 24-year career in the U.S. Air Force.

Charles is originally from Cincinnati, and said she came to Colby because her husband, Andrew Charles, is a native. Andrew works at Colby Ag Center. They have two children. Darrell lives in Oklahoma City and Daniel is a junior at Oklahoma State University.

Being a newcomer to Thomas County is an advantage, she said, because she isn't coming into the college board race with preconceptions or prejudices.

"I'm not looking over my shoulder at the way things used to be," she said.

Charles said she would like to see more enrollment, particularly in the health care programs like massage therapy and nursing. The United States has an aging population, she said, making health care professionals more important than ever. The age of the average farmer is also going up, she said, and the college should expand its agriculture programs so it can help find ways to keep younger farmers in the area.

"If you have an opportunity to get higher education, you should take it," she said, "and the college has a lot of opportunities.

Enrollment should start locally, she said, and then expand outward. Charles said recruiting in Colorado and Oklahoma is a good idea, and the college should have a day for high school seniors to come explore the campus.

Charles said she wants the board to get more input from students, faculty and administration.

"One little group of people can't come up with everything," she said.

The board should work with the administration to get things done, she said, and not bad-mouth presidents or faculty.

"There are ways to get things done as a group," she said.

Charles said that while she has been involved in many aspects of education, this is the first time she has run for a board seat.

Charles said her time in the Air Force gave her experience living and working in other cultures. She was assigned to Kunsan Airbase in South Korea as an accounting technician in 1998. While there she volunteered at an orphanage and helped teachers and community leaders with their conversational English.

From 1999-2003 she was stationed Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Ala., where she taught English as a second language to military spouses. While there she taught math and English courses for General Education Development students.

Charles deployed to Iraq and Saudi Arabia as part of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Her most recent assignment was to Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado.

During her time in the Air Force, Charles earned associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. She retired a master sergeant.

Briefly

Hospital open house postponed

The Citizens Medical Center open house scheduled at 4 p.m. Tuesday has been postponed due to weather. A later date will be announced. For information, call Tama Unger at 460-1214.

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.

Diabetes group to meet next week

The "Journey for Control: Monitoring Your Blood Glucose" diabetes support group will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the conference room at Citizens Medical Center. The program is free but anyone interested

should register in advance. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown in the hospital's education department at 460-4850.

Baptists offer eight-week study

The First Baptist Church plans a "40-Day Bible Adventure" program Thursdays from March 10 to April 21, covering the full sweep of the Bible story as it has played out in history. There will be two sessions, one from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and another from 7 to 8 p.m., at the church, Grant and Webster. Everyone is invited. Call 462-2867 or 462-2336 for information.

Ag department food available

The United States Department of Agriculture will distribute extra commodities from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, March 14, at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Commodities are given according to income guidelines

and distribution is first-come, first-served. Participants are asked to not arrive before 12:30 p.m. Commodities include canned beef, tomato soup, green beans, mixed fruit, vegetable soup, orange juice, cherries and milk. For information, call the program office at 462-6744.

Bluegrass benefit is March 19

There will be a benefit dance and concert for the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival at City Limits from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, March 19. Featuring Marshal Bailey and the Silver Bullets, cost is \$10 for adults and free for children under 12. Tickets are available at the Dillon's branch of Farmers and Merchants Bank and the Colby Convention and Visitor's Bureau. For information call 460-7643.

School to hold open house

Heartland Christian School will have a preschool and kindergarten open house from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Fri-

day, March 25. All parents whose children will be kindergartners next year – or 3 or 4 years old and ready for preschool – are invited, along with their children. Hands-on activities for children in the classroom will follow a parent information meeting in the Heartland library. For information, call the school at 460-6419.

Group plans candidate forum

The Colby Community College Faculty Alliance will hold a candidate forum for Board of Trustees candidates at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, in the Cultural Arts Center on campus. Questions for the candidates may be e-mailed to bob.selby@colbycc.edu or deb.bickner@colbycc.edu.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College Board candidate Dinah Charles sat at her desk at Farm Bureau Financial Services, where she works as a sales associate.

