



# Graduation may be after college again

By Steve Haynes  
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The Colby School Board will talk about changing the dates for graduation and the seniors' last day it approved last month when it meets at 7 p.m. Monday in the district Administration Building.

Superintendent Terril Harrison said when adopting the school calendar, the board set graduation for Sunday, May 20, with the seniors' last day on Wednesday, May 16. That probably will have to be changed, she said, to Sunday, May 13, which is Mothers Day.

Harrison said Colby Community College will have its graduation on Saturday, May 12. Having graduations on two weekends will be a headache for the Community Building staff, she said, and might run expenses up. In the past, the college and high school have shared a weekend for graduation.

"We were trying to steer away from Mother's Day," she said, "but that was not to be."

The board will talk again about

a proposal to trim some financial support for longer trips by varsity athletic teams, Harrison said. The issue came up last month, she said, and the board asked for a list of trips that might be affected.

The policy would apply to non-league trips the coaches like to take to give teams experience, the superintendent said. For example, she said, the wrestling team likes to go to a tournament in Newton each year, while the volleyball team usually goes to one in Topeka.

The district will continue paying all costs of regular-season league trips, plus district and state events, she said.

Under the plan, the teams would have to pay for the longer trips out of their activity funds, and that might require more fund raising. Harrison said the district will continue to provide vehicles for transportation.

Those savings won't be large, she said, maybe \$8,000 to \$10,000.

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# College board gets grant report

By Kayla Cornett  
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The Colby Community College board heard Monday about how money from a \$1.97 million federal grant to develop online classes was spent this year.

The college won the grant two years ago to develop online courses so students can receive an associate's degree online. It is being drawn down on as tasks are completed over five years. The money comes from Title III of the federal Higher Education Act.

Under the grant, said Christine Ellison, director of federal grants, the college set out to develop 10 online general education classes this year, for a total of 20 over the past two years. They are converting six veterinary technician courses to online by Sept. 30, she said, and have been offering a certified nurse aide class in a hybrid format. That means that 60 percent of the class is online and

40 percent is in the classroom, Ellison said.

"The instructors love it," she added.

She said Joyce Washburn, dean of academic affairs and Derek Reilly, Title III activity director and online developer, are evaluating all online and hybrid summer classes, and will create faculty and student evaluations. These will continue into the academic year, she said.

Ellison reported that a new electronic document management system is up and running, thanks to the grant. It allows for long-term storage of electronic documents, and is used by the registrar, financial aid and business offices. Ten computers were purchased for faculty who either developed or were teaching online courses.

A committee was formed for online orientation, which provides the same services that are offered in person. The orientation already

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# Kids get into music at Picnic in the Park

As the Bugbee Sisters, Monica and Karla (bottom photo), sang Wednesday at the weekly Picnic in the Park, kids danced and played on the grass of Fike Park. Two older girls, Jessica Platt (left in

above photo) and McKenzie Carmichael, danced with each other. Later, Jessica danced with Alex Silsbee (left). It was a fine to be outdoors and a fine day for music.

CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press



# State looking for way to pay medical bills for poor, save benefits

By John Milburn  
The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer said Wednesday Kansas must reform its Medicaid program in the face of rising costs and potentially staggering budget deficits.

Colyer, a pediatric surgeon, told more

than 300 people at a forum in Topeka that the state must retain access to quality health care even as it overhauls the program.

"We can't just go cut 5 percent here or throw people off Medicaid," he said.

More than 200,000 Kansans receive Medicaid, including the elderly, the developmentally disabled, and low-income

families and children. Kansas is budgeted to spend \$1.2 billion on Medicaid services in the fiscal year beginning July 1. Total spending, including the federal match, is \$2.8 billion.

Colyer is leading a task force on Medicaid reform. Wednesday's forum was the first of several he will hold around the state. Gov. Sam Brownback had been

expected to take part but did not attend because of new concerns about flooding along the Missouri River in northeast Kansas.

Dr. Robert Moser, secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said the state is looking to reform Medicaid with a goal of improving health outcomes and services, such as coordina-

tion of care and delivery of pharmacy services. He also said the state would continue to work with the federal Health and Human Services agency to get maximum flexibility to make changes in the state system.

"If we have to push back on federal

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## Briefly

### City crew to fog mosquitoes

The Colby city crews will be fogging for mosquitoes for the rest of the summer, beginning Monday. On Mondays and Tuesdays, the crew will fog south of Webster Street south and Thursdays and Fridays the north side. To help keep the mosquito population down, check your yard and empty anything holding stagnant water — cans, swimming pools, tires, etc. For information, call Anita Powell at (785) 460-4420.

### Harvest matchmaker on duty

Roger Hale is available again this year — at no charge — to help farmers and custom harvesters get together. His office is at Truck Town, 105 W. Horton. For information, call him at (785) 269-7712 or 460-8785.

### Club needs cash for fireworks

The Colby Kiwanis Club is accepting donations

to help pay for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display. Kiwanis member Rick Dickman said contributions are appreciated, since costs go up each year. To donate, send a check to Kiwanis Club, Box 501, Colby, Kan., 67701.

### Church plans social Saturday

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will have a branch social at 6 p.m. Saturday at Andy Rose's house at 11 Cottonwood Drive. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Bring a salad or a dessert to share and a lawn chair. For information, call 460-6807.

### Picnic in Park on Wednesday

Picnic in the Park begins at noon on Wednesdays at Fike Park. The entertainment for Wednesday will be Shannon Myers. The event is sponsored by the

Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press. In case of bad weather, listen to KXXX/KRDQ. For information, call the chamber at 460-3401.

### Christian school sells fireworks

Heartland Christian School will sell fireworks from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Monday, July 4, in the Colby Livestock Auction parking lot on Country Club Drive. Proceeds will go to the school. For information, call Ronda Myers at 462-7727 or 443-1384.

### Trumpet soloist here next week

Trumpet soloist Scott Brookins of Colorado Springs will perform jazz, inspirational, and praise and worship music at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, July

3, at the Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine. Brookins has performed on television and radio, and with entertainers including Glen Campbell, the Platters, Mary Wells and George Shearing. He was a featured soloist and lead trumpet player with the Air Force Band. For information, call 462-8391.

### Hospital plans childbirth class

Citizens Medical Center will offer four weeks of childbirth classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays starting July 7. Women due to deliver before November should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin Oct. 6. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at (785) 460-4850.

