



10 pages

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Orange and Black coming to town

The 27th Annual Paul Wintz/Tom Bowen Orange and Black Classic Basketball Tournament will fill the gyms at Colby High School and the Community Building from Thursday to Saturday, drawing an estimated 500 to 800 people to town.

The first games will start at 3 p.m. on Thursday in both gyms.

The Colby girls will open their action at 6:30 p.m. that night against Liberal at the Community Building while the boys will play their first game there at 8:15 p.m. against McCook, Neb.

Special events around town will highlight the weekend. At 10 a.m. Friday, the owner of Colby Cinema will provide free movies for all tournament participants, including players and coaches. One movie

will be "War Horse" and the other is yet to be determined.

"We appreciate (owner) Jay Hawk doing this and hope that your teams will be able to enjoy a nice opportunity," said Colby High Principal Larry Gabel.

The theater is just east of Burger King at 1935 S. Range Ave.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will sponsor speaker Mitch Thompson, who will talk at the Colby Community Building at 9 a.m. Saturday.



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

A "Welcome" banner hangs out front of the Community Building.

According to the Colby Public Schools website, Thompson, a native of Good-

land, graduated from Fort Hays State University. An assistant baseball coach at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, he has helped coach nine teams to 40-win seasons, helped lead three to the College World Series and participated in 15 National Collegiate Athletic Association regional tournaments. In November 2006, he was named National Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association and Baseball America.

Admittance prices for the tournament in-

clude: Tournament pass: adults, \$18; students \$12.

Daily passes: adults, \$7; students, \$5.

No league passes will be accepted.

The teams participating in the event are, for the girls, Blue Valley Northwest from Overland Park, Colby, Holcomb, Hugoton, Liberal, McCook, Palmer Ridge from Colorado and Scott City. The boys teams are Colby, Holcomb, Hugoton, Liberal, McCook, Palmer Ridge, Scott City and Wichita South.

Brackets can be found on Pages 6 and 7 of today's paper. They're also at www.colbyeagles.org/vnews/display.v/ART/4f0e2f04dbf9a. These will be updated with results each evening.

Jury finds Colbyite is guilty

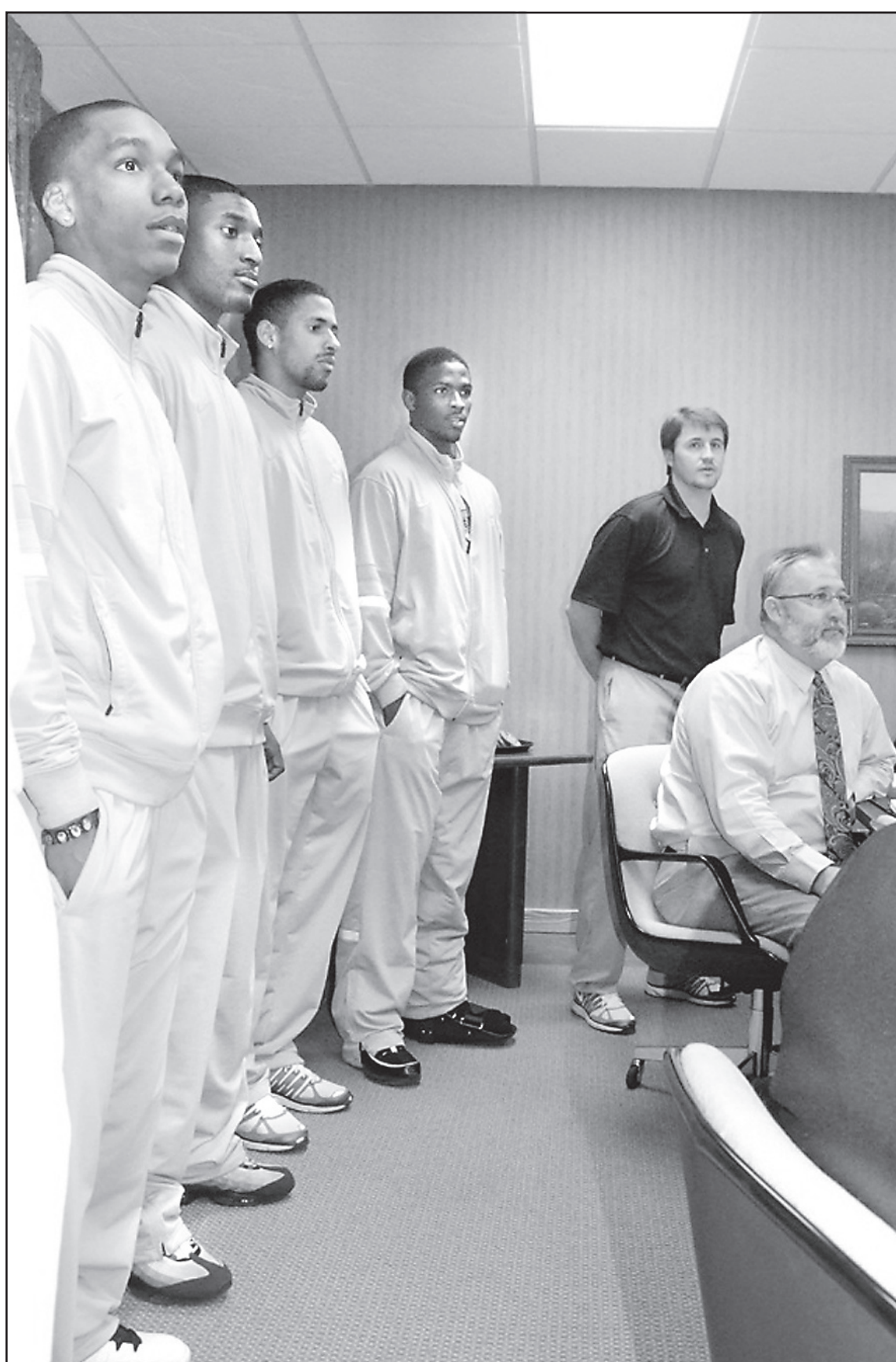
Man, 26, convicted of illegally selling mortgaged livestock

A Colby man has been convicted in federal court in Wichita of selling cattle that were mortgaged to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency and converting the money to his own use.

U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom said Tuesday that Travis L. Siebert, 26, was convicted in a jury trial on one count of conversion of mortgaged property. During the trial, prosecutors presented evidence that Siebert received three loans totaling \$115,000 that were used to purchase a bull, 60 cows and 90 feeder calves. The animals were pledged as collateral. In 2007, with about \$84,000 remaining on the loans, he fell behind on the payments.

From Dec. 17, 2007, to March 26, 2010, he engaged in the unauthorized sale of livestock. As part of his scheme, he sold livestock under the names of at least three other people and went as far as Monte Vista, Colo., to sell the cattle. In May 2009, he created a corporation, Cow Heaven Ranch LLC, to sell cattle and pay himself.

Sentencing will be scheduled later. Siebert faces a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000. Grissom commended Special Agent Laszlo Sagi of the Department of Agriculture and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Hart for their work on the case.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

The Colby Community College men's basketball team visited a trustees Monday to give a program report. Coach Dustin Pfeifer told the board the team's successes and goals for this season, especially the men's grade average.

College coach brags on men's grade average

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press
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The Colby Community College trustees heard Monday that the men's basketball team hopes to have highest grade average in the nation this year.

Coach Dustin Pfeifer brought in his whole team to the board's monthly meeting in Thomas Hall. He first introduced his second assistant, Cody Wilmath.

"He's done a really good job for us," Pfeifer said.

Next, he had his players introduce themselves and he talked about the team's success.

Pfeifer said last year's team finished fifth in the country in team grade average. He said he calculated this year's average for the fall semester at 3.1.

"Our goal - we set it at the beginning of the year - our goal is to finish No. 1 in the country in team GPA," Pfeifer said, "and we had four 4.0 GPAs the first semester."

"So we're extremely proud of the efforts that they've put in the classroom. I think that the other thing we're really proud of is we've put together a basketball team that people outside of the college have embraced."

Pfeifer said the players have done a good job in the community, working with kids in basketball tournaments and camps, and they're proud of the effort they've put in on the basketball floor. However, he said, they are extremely proud of what they've done in the classroom.

He said the team's record was

15-3 and 3-1 in the Jayhawk conference as of Monday.

"We've got a pretty good opportunity ahead of us here if we keep handling ourselves with maturity and keep playing hard and playing tough," Pfeifer said. "We've got three of our next four at home, and that could really put us in a good situation midway through conference play."

He said the team's other goal is to be able to play the first round of the playoffs at home. To do that, the team would have to finish in the top four of the conference. That hasn't happened for about eight years, he said.

Pfeifer said the team will play Butler Community College on Wednesday at the Community Building, adding that he hoped he would see everyone there.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the consent agenda after removing a contract for Christy Coyle.

Vice chair and treasurer Arlen Leiker asked about some charges.

He asked if the college was allowed to pay the interest on credit cards, and Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs, said that it is as long as the money used is not from the general fund. Leiker then asked how a board member can tell where the money comes from and Waites said all he had to do was ask.

Leiker said he was concerned about budgetary issues in the External Affairs department. He said on the year-to-date report, the transportation expense account is

See "COLLEGE," Page 2

Arts checkoff plan proposed in House

TOPEKA (AP) - Kansas taxpayers would be able to make a donation to support the arts while they are filling out their tax returns under a bill to create a Kansas Arts Commission Checkoff Fund.

The proposal, sponsored by 40 Republicans in the Kansas House, coincides with Gov. Sam Brownback's efforts to encourage private funding of the arts so state money can be used on core functions, such as public schools, social services and public safety.

Last year, Brownback vetoed the Kansas Arts Commission's entire \$689,000 budget, making Kansas the first state in the nation to eliminate arts funding. His budget for the coming fiscal year proposes \$200,000 in state money for a new Kansas Creative Industries Commission.

The checkoff would allow donations of \$1, \$5, \$10, or any other amount, with all the money to be used by the arts commission.

Henry Schwaller, a member of the commission who has criticized Brownback's approach, said the checkoff fund would be welcome but he doesn't expect it to raise a substantial amount of money.

"My concern is it's not an adequate funding source for a state agency," said Schwaller, who added that people might be reluctant to donate if they don't know how the money will be used.

House Speaker Mike O'Neal, one of the sponsors, said the idea had been approved by the Department of Revenue and the governor's office.

The advantage of the proposed fund is that the money raised should qualify as supplemental state funding to earn federal matching money, O'Neal said.

Getting across safely



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Colby students crossed busy Fourth Street north of the Colby Grade School last week. Safe Routes to School has set two meetings for next month, Wednesday, Feb. 2, and Sunday, Feb. 6, on plans to encourage kids to walk - and making sure they'll be safe on the way.

