



# College to waive career technical fees

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press  
kcornett@nwkansas.com

Colby Community College trustees decided Monday to waive general fees for high school students taking career technical classes through the college beginning next fall.

President Stephen Vacik said he wanted to do this for students as a way to follow the "Governor's Roadmap," Senate Bill

155, which will help increase the number of students going into career technical courses.

"One of the things he (Gov. Sam Brownback) wanted to see," Dr. Vacik said, "was more high school students coming out that already had some sort of a credential or some sort of degree so they could go to work."

What the bill does, he said, is provide money to pay for those students' tuition. He said there's also money to help the

schools pay for transportation.

"The one thing that's not covered, though, is fees," Vacik said.

He said he's spoken with schools who said students are interested in this program, but can't afford the fees. Vacik said he doesn't want high school career technical students to pay general fees, which are \$38. However, he said, the students will still be responsible for program fees, which can be considerable and vary depending on the program.

"(I want to) try to find a way to make it possible for more students to take advantage of this," Vacik said. "It'll help us ... these would-be students that we ordinarily would not see. So I think it's to our advantage to waive those fees."

Trustee Kenton Krehbiel asked what classification they have to be to take these classes, and Vacik said he doesn't think the law has a position on that, but he expects they would be working with mostly upperclassmen.

Vacik said the college doesn't have a lot of career technical programs, but there is interest. He said high schools that have students finish a certificate or degree before graduating also receive a bonus, so there's incentive for the schools to encourage those students to complete their program.

Trustee Bill Shields asked how many credit hours these students would have

See "COLLEGE," Page 2



# School board talks about technology use

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press  
sdieter@nwkansas.com

The Colby School Board discussed the use of technology in classrooms and let out bids to help improve its wireless network at its meeting last week.

During the meeting Nov. 19, four high school teachers and a counselor reported on the "tech-rich classrooms" program, which involves using technology to help students learn.

Science teacher Chris Giersch, math teacher Jessica McCoy, journalism teacher Donna Henry and world history teacher Rick Williams gave the report, along with counselor Teresa Morgan. One device the teachers have been using is an Apple TV, which they use to feed overhead projectors. Williams said he can use an iPad to change the image being projected as he is giving a lecture.

Henry said she uses Quick Response codes, the checkered designs seen on magazines and merchandise at the supermarket, which can be scanned with a smart phone to produce a link to an Internet website.

Since her students are using their own phones to work, she said, they do not drain the school's

wireless Internet network.

Williams said he is frustrated when problems occur with school technology because it wastes time spent preparing for class. It's good to have kids use technology such as their own phones, he said. The other teachers agreed that the school's wireless network must be beefed up. Morgan said that all the technology they have for classrooms is being used up.

To improve Internet access, the board allowed technology coordinator Phil DeYoung to seek bids to install fiber optic cable in school buildings.

"What we have right now is an ad hoc network with different consumers," rather than a single network for the whole school, DeYoung said after the meeting.

The project will allow the school to build its own network, DeYoung said, and would cost about \$70,000. Bids will be due Friday, Dec. 14, he said, and brought to the board at its Dec. 17 meeting.

If a bid is approved, work for the project will start the day after the meeting and be completed by March 1, so configuration of the new network can take place over spring break.

The cost of the bids, he said, was covered by the capital outlay fund.



# Santa visits Selden

Aimee Cheney (above center) shared her Christmas wishes with Santa on Friday at the fourth annual Winterfest in Selden as her sister Amanda tried to listen in. They are the daughters of Matt and Lyn Cheney of rural Rexford. A group of kids (left) eagerly awaited the arrival of Santa. The old elf arrived on a fire truck and listened to all their Christmas wishes, then distributed treats provided by area businesses.

JUDY ROGERS

# Legion Riders plan soup supper

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansas.com

Members of Colby's American Legion Riders invite adults and children to the Legion Hall, 1850 W. Fourth St., after the light parade on Sunday to visit with Santa and warm up with a bowl of soup.

Donations from the soup supper will go to Santa City.

This is the third year that the Riders have sponsored this event, said director C.W. Hamilton II, and they hope to raise as much as they can.

Last year, he said they were able to donate about \$350.

"We donate the net donated to us," he said, "and, although it isn't nearly enough, it all helps."

For Sunday, he said, Barb Albers will make homemade chicken and noodle soup and Karen O'Neal and Tracey and Relda Galli have teamed up to make chili.

Tickets for a Traeger Junior Grill worth about \$480, a grill cover and pellets will be sold for \$5 per ticket or \$20 for five, Hamilton said.

He said the Riders' co-director, Darren Kannady of Goodland, has a distributorship for Traeger grills and supplies and discounted the price of the drawing items.

Tickets may be purchased during the supper, or from 5 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday at the Legion Hall. You do not need

to be present to win, said Hamilton.

Proceeds will support programs that benefit veterans and their families.

"We donate locally, state, nationally and overseas care packages for our veterans there," he said. "Anything that the (Riders) members vote on that will help veterans and their families. Needs change about every day, so we are flexible as long as we are helping the veterans' cause."

Hamilton said the Riders were established here about four years ago, and since then, they have donated to many causes, including the Kansas Soldiers Home, wounded warriors for the Big Red Turkey Run for the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Riley, Honor Flights for World War II veterans and the annual Run for the Wall, just to name a few.

"We collected supplies for a soldier in Iraq for 'Read Iraq,'" he added, "and have donated money to a family with autistic children so they could have some presents under the tree at Christmas. We helped remodel a home for handicapped accessibility and donated money for a soldier to be able to fly home in time for the birth of his child."

"We also donated to help pay for the sign for the World War II Memorial Highway on U.S. 24 near the Nine-Mile corner."

# Archaeologist gives talk at museum here

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press  
sdieter@nwkansas.com

Don Rowlinson, a longtime archaeologist and curator at the Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site in Sheridan County, outlined the basics of archaeology in this state.

"Maybe we'll get through everything, maybe we won't, but don't be afraid to ask questions," he told the crowd.

The High Plains Chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Association invited Rowlinson, who lives between Hoxie and Hill City, to speak to a meeting at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. He talked for about an hour and a half to about 20 people, including association members and others,

before asking for their questions and talking to several of them one on one. The association had a brief business meeting afterward.

His lecture and slideshow were based mostly on digs he had done. He started with theories about the first people to migrate into North America, and covered these "prehistoric" people up until the historical period. In Kansas, he said, started in 1541 when the Spaniard Francisco Coronado came the

state in search of Quivira, a rumored "city of gold," making the first written record of what would become Kansas.

The images he showed included both photos taken at archaeological digs and sketches of what those ancient sites might have looked like.

"There's no magic to archaeology," he said. "It's basically just

See "MUSEUM," Page 2

