



Remembering

Brian Davis (right), of the Sons of the American Legion Honor Guard, played taps to close the Memorial Day ceremony in Beulah Cemetery Monday.

MARIAN BALLARD
R.B. HEADLEY
Colby Free Press



Trustees renew contract

By Sam Dieter
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The Colby Community College board of trustees voted to renew the contract for its president and replaced a high-level employee at their monthly meeting.

ered for the top job at another college, but decided to stay here "for personal reasons."

The board voted to accept the resignation of Dr. Keegan Nichols as vice president of student affairs and replace her with Gregory Nichols, who is finishing up his doctorate and will earn \$85,000 a year.

Dr. Nichols will step down effective Saturday, July 20. She wrote that she wants her family to be closer to needed health care and said she will be the assistant

Vacik said he had been consid-

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Crashes send two to hospital

Two out-of-state truck drivers were sent to the hospital over the weekend in slide-off accidents along Interstate 70.

gional Medical Center, where he was treated and released.

On Friday evening, wind blew a tractor-trailer rig into the median of Interstate 70 in Sherman County, sending the driver to the hospital for a checkup.

On Sunday afternoon, the Patrol reported, a Colorado driver was hospitalized in Gove County after his rig drifted off the side of the highway.

The Kansas Highway Patrol worked the accident and reported that David Philip Mierzwa, 52, of Seminole, Fla., was headed east when a gust of wind caught his rig at 7:15 p.m. Friday. The rig was pushed across both eastbound lanes and into the median at mile marker 28.4 about a mile east of Edson, where it overturned. Mierzwa was taken to Goodland Re-

At 2:47 p.m. Daniel Glenn Carlin, 60, of Fort Collins, Colo., was going west when he went off the north side of the highway at mile 92, two miles west of Grainfield. His 1996 Peterbilt truck and the trailer it was pulling flipped over and turned around, coming to rest in the north ditch facing south. Carlin was taken to Gove County Medical Center. The patrol reported that both men were wearing seat belts.

Testing an inconclusive link between pairs of 1959 killings

By John Hanna
Associated Press

TOPEKA - DNA testing so far has been inconclusive on whether two men executed in Kansas for the 1959 killings that inspired the book "In Cold Blood" can also be linked to the unsolved murders of a Florida family weeks later, a senior investigator said Wednesday.

The KBI initially projected it would have definitive results from the DNA early this month, but the agency now has no timetable for when the testing will be complete.

"Justice never rests," Smith said. Hickock and Perry Smith were hanged in 1965 in Kansas for the killings of Herb Clutter, his wife and two of their children in the family's farmhouse outside the southwest Kansas town of Holcomb.

Kansas Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Kyle Smith said the agency will continue testing material collected from the remains of convicted murderers Richard Hickock and Perry Smith. Investigators believe the men fled to Florida after killing the Clutter family in a gruesome case later documented by Truman Capote in his genre-forming classic.

The hunt for the killers mesmerized the nation and drew journalists from across the U.S. to the small farming town. Capote's book takes readers through the killings, Hickock's and Perry Smith's trial and their execution. It is celebrated because it reads like a novel; scholars have long debated its accuracy.

"The analysis is not completed," Kyle Smith told the Associated Press. "We are still trying."

Attention quickly turned to Hickock and Perry

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Famed fossil restored as bird

By Alicia Chang
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES - A raven-sized creature that lived about 150 million years ago is back on its perch, a new study says.

Natural Sciences believes Archaeopteryx should indeed be considered a bird.

The famed fossil was discovered in 1861 in Germany and quickly became an evolutionary icon. Archaeopteryx possessed part-bird, part-reptile traits. It sported broad wings and feathers like a bird, but it also had three-fingered claws, sharp teeth and a long bony tail similar to a dinosaur.

of a previously unknown dinosaur dubbed Aurornis xui. It lived during the middle to late Jurassic era in China's Liaoning province where many early birds and feathered dinosaurs roamed.

Belgian researcher Pascal Godefroit and his team compared the anatomy of the newly discovered dinosaur fossil to a variety of birds and dinosaurs to determine their relationship. The analysis, published in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature, classifies Archaeopteryx back into the bird category.

Fossil discoveries of feathered dinosaurs in northeastern China over the past two decades have challenged Archaeopteryx's place in bird evolution.

The latest evidence suggesting Archaeopteryx had more in common with birds than dinosaurs comes from the discovery of an intact, well-preserved skeleton

Lawrence Witmer, a bird evolution expert at Ohio University, called the analysis compelling. But he said it's still tough to tease apart that segment of the family tree.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Clay Williby (above) skimmed across the water of Colby's Aquatic Park after splashing down from one of the big slides Saturday afternoon.



Pool opens with a splash

Glorious sunshine and big splashes greeted many who attended the Colby Aquatic Park season-opening event on Saturday.

Temperatures were nearly 90 degrees as water fans of ages flowed into the colorful facility. The bravest and boldest were quickly visiting the high dive, while others began speeding down water slides.

splash or two while others dashed around him.

Family was a familiar theme throughout the park. Dad Joel Edwards took several trips down the slide next to 4-year-old daughter Hayla, who demonstrated some ballerina moves to help dad's balance.

Others preferred a more leisurely pace like 11-month-old Gabe Cook with his cool sun hat, who lounged in the kids' pool, occasionally making a

Sadly, storm clouds and cooler weather rolled into Colby late Saturday afternoon, but opening week still appeared to be a success on Sunday. Complete details on how many attended were not available at press time.

