



County's budget task continues

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The Thomas County Commissioners met again Friday to continue hashing out budget details for the coming fiscal year.

Commissioners Paul Steele, Byron Sowers and Mike Baughn had met earlier in the week to begin the budgeting process, but needed time to run more reports and make additional calculations.

The commissioners plan to officially approve a proposed budget at their Wednesday, July 31, regular meeting, but the budget must go through several steps before then. First, the commissioners had to work together to establish a tentative budget.

Next, they will take the tentative budget to the accounting firm Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball to allow them to estimate the mill levy needed to fund it. After Steele makes a few additional adjustments, he said, he will bring the budget back to the commission for further adjustments or approval on July 31.

The proposed budget will then

be published in the *Colby Free Press*, and the commissioners must wait at least 10 days before holding a budget hearing. At the hearing, tentatively scheduled for Monday, Aug. 19, the commissioners will hear comments from the public and vote to adopt the county's official budget for 2014. The proposed budget is not final until then.

"At the budget hearing, people can come in and voice their opinions about the budget," said Steele. "We can always vote to approve a budget less than what we publish." The commissioners cannot approve a budget higher than what is published without publishing another proposed budget.

They began their meeting by authorizing transfers from the 2012 general fund to several departments' capital outlay funds. Capital outlay funds hold departmental money for future large purchases.

Based upon the recommendations of auditors from Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, they transferred \$3,426 to the register of deeds' capital outlay fund,

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Horse trainer has ministry

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A unique horse trainer will travel to Brewster for a Friday presentation demonstrating how horses learn lessons from their trainers similar to those a Christian learns from God.

Paul Daily, founder of Wild Horse Ministries, does not "break" horses, instead gentling them with words and pats until they let him bridle, saddle and ride them — all during the two-hour presentation.

Dale Hudson invited Daily to his arena after seeing Daily give a presentation in Sharon Springs last year, along with Daily's wife, Joana, and grown children Lenora and Dan.

"They're just good, ordinary people," Hudson said.

As Daily prepares a local halter-broke horse to be ridden, Hudson said, "he compares the horse's training to how God gains our trust."

Wild Horse Ministries began

in Louisiana in early 1997 when founder Paul Daily, a horse trainer and oil field worker, was working with a horse in a round pen. Daily said God inspired him to take the lessons the horse was learning in the round pen experience and relate them to man's life lessons with Jesus.

During the first three years of the ministry, Daily gave demonstrations before almost 15,000 people in Louisiana and Texas. The ministry gradually expanded to presentations around the country.

"His gentle manner and way of reading a horse is what is interesting to me," said Hudson. "Come and watch him."

The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Friday at the Dale Hudson Arena, one mile west of Brewster on Manchester Road. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, and the program will be held inside if the weather is bad.

Daily will speak again Saturday and Sunday in Tribune.



Fair goes to dogs (show)

At the 4-H dog show Saturday morning at Heartland Christian School, Karson Haggard (above) gave his mini Australian Shepherd Sophie a hug. Open class competitors like Manten Crow (right) dressed up a little more at their show, at noon Saturday at Heartland. Madisyn Haggard (below) led her black lab through the agility competition Sunday at the ballfields.

SAM DIETER and R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press



College trustees choose officers for next year

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The Colby Community College board of Trustees elected officers for the coming year at their monthly meeting.

Trustee Arlen Leiker will stay in his place as the chair of the board of trustees and the board's representative to the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. Trustee Dale Herschberger will be the vice chair, college President Dr. Stephen Vacik will be the secretary, Trustee Kenton Krehbiel will be the treasurer and Audrey Hines will be the ex officio member of the college endowment foundation.

In other business, the board heard reports July 15 from its administrators:

• Vacik presented a report for the student affairs department, since Keegan Nichols, dean of student affairs, left recently to take a job at Fort Hays State University. That department has processed 70 asso-

ciate of arts diplomas, 46 associate of science diplomas, 74 associate of applied science diplomas and 80 certificates. Eleven students and resident advisers are in the dorms for the summer, and 211 students have submitted housing contracts.

Vacik later thanked Brandon McLemore and Amy Melikova for their work in admissions, in light of the fact that so many other people have left that department.

• Gregory Nichols, the new Dean of Academic Affairs, reported that the college had not yet filled its Farm and Ranch Management position, that the college will use part-time help to fill a business instructor position and that it still needs part-time physical education teachers.

The second session of summer school started July 1, Nichols said, and 553 students are enrolled for all summer courses. The college's adult-based education program will provide adult-based education to inmates at Norton Correctional Facility.

The college got a \$69,538 grant through the Carl

D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act for technical education, and has the chance to get a competitive \$160,000 reserve fund grant. It got about \$4,000 for the second phase of its Rocky Mountain Solar Training Provider grant for training and equipment for instructors in the area of alternative energy, and could get another \$12,000.

Nichols thanked a handful of faculty members and staff for helping a group of students with the Kids College program this summer.

• Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs, was not present. His written report said that the college will have a concealed carry training on Saturday, July 27, and its youth outdoor skills day on Saturday, Aug. 17. Kaaz was at a strategic planning meeting June 20 with community leaders, discussing economic and social goals for the county. Construction was completed June 28 on the floor of Ferguson Hall, and some landscaping projects were completed in late June and early July.

• Dr. Xuemei Yang, head of institutional effective-

ness, reported that a graduation satisfaction survey has been sent to outgoing students.

• Public Information Director Debbie Schwanke reported that Vacik went the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on July 1.

• Athletic Director Ryan Sturdy reported the cross country and track team, coached by Crystal Berndt, were named the number one academic team in the country for their sports for cross country, half marathon and indoor and outdoor track.

• Trustee Nick Wells, head of the endowment foundation, said that with the county fairs starting up in the summer, the foundation is planning when and where to show off a 1964 Chevy Impala it bought to take to parades where the college will be represented.

