



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Program values analyzed

By Sam Dieter

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Colby Community College trustees discussed a cost-benefit analysis of each of the college's programs.

Dr. Greg Nichols, the vice president of student affairs, helped college President Stephen Vacik present the analysis last Monday. Nichols said later the analysis had already been prepared before he replaced Joyce Washburn this summer. Based on the analysis, health and agricultural sciences programs seemed to cost the most money, while business, industry, arts and other science programs did the best.

The analysis included the revenues and the costs from each program for the college. The revenue yielded by each program included

tuition, general fees, course fees and grants the college got from the state in connection to each program. Wages and benefits for employees, supplies and other equipment accounted for the costs.

Programs in business, industry and behavioral and social sciences did well in the analysis, taking in \$1,269,783 and costing \$635,137 as a whole. Only broadcasting appeared to run a loss; it cost \$54,307 but only made the college \$36,416.

Arts and Letters programs also did well in the analysis, with \$1,361,991 in income and \$815,490 expense. Music was the only losing program in this area, making the college \$82,132 but costing \$135,351.

Combined, health sciences yielded \$1,118,116 for the college,

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## Reading goes high-tech here

By Heather Alwin

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Colby Grade School students are participating in a new reading program that incorporates technology and games to help improve their reading skills, Principal Lance Krannawitter told the school board last Monday.

Statewide, reading scores have declined over recent years, prompting Gov. Sam Brownback to propose a new reading initiative Nov. 14.

The grade school's new web-based curriculum, Lexia Reading Core5, is being used in kindergarten through third grade and with some fourth- and fifth-graders, he said.

"This is quite a program," Krannawitter added.

It is based on research, he said, and it has been in place in other schools for a number of years.

Reading teachers Jamie McClure and Becky Quenzer walked

the board through a demonstration of how the program works.

When children log into the website from their computers or iPads, said McClure, they first go through an assessment in which the program determines each student's reading level.

The program has rated most of the kindergarten, first- and second-grade students in Colby at below grade level, Quenzer added.

After a student is placed in one of the program's levels, he or she completes game-like reading exercises to build skills including phonics, structural analysis, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Each student can choose which skill he wants to work on, but he must complete a set of exercises in each area before he can move on to the next level.

"The games that they're actually playing are building fluency, they're covering standards," said

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## Domestic violence reports up in state

TOPEKA (AP) — The number of domestic violence incidents in Kansas is at its highest since 1992, according to a Kansas Bureau of Investigation report.

The KBI's new Domestic Violence, Stalking and Rape in Kansas report based on 2012 statistical data submitted by Kansas law enforcement agencies, shows that between 1992 and 2012, the highest number of domestic violence incidents occurred last year, when 24,373 incidents were reported.

There were also fewer arrests made in 2012 than in 2011, according to the report released Nov. 7. In 2011, there were 13,478 arrests. Last year, there were only 13,193. *The Topeka Capital-Journal* reported (bit.ly/17TPpxK).

Joyce Grover, executive director of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, said while the report gives a snapshot into domestic violence and rape in the state, it only includes incidents that are reported.

"I think this is one small piece of the data," Grover said. "I want people to remember this is the reported domestic violence. There are many, many more people impacted by these issues...."

There were 24 domestic violence-related homicides in 2012. Grover said about one in four homicides in Kansas has been related to domestic violence for the last four years.

"That is really concerning because I think if you look at 2009 through 2012, that is really when the whole nation was going through an economic downturn," Grover said.

"I can't say it is directly caused by the economy, but it does stand out. We know that victims feel like they have fewer options (in a tougher economy). They are concerned about their jobs, housing. Sometimes they end up in a more dangerous situation because they have fewer options."



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Ally O'Neal, a "big" with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County (top), decorated a shirt belonging to her little, Morgan Durham, 9, Sunday afternoon at Colby Bowl and Fun Center. The bigs and littles went to the bowling alley, where Jenilee Gray (left) showed off her skills, for the organization's monthly activity. Christian Titus (above), 5, tagged along with his older sister Laural Titus, 8, another little in Big Brothers Big Sisters. He is on the waiting list to join the program.

## Bigs, littles raise money

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County will be out and about for a month trying to raise money for the organization.

Members of the organization, including bigs and littles as well as board members, stood at the entrance to Dillon's from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. They asked people to donate a dollar or more as part of the organization's Christmas for Kids stocking program. Once inside the store, customers can get a stocking on the wall with their name on it for \$1. You can buy as many stockings as you like.

"All it takes is just a dollar, but if they want to donate more than that, that's com-

pletely OK," said Orvella Romine, director of the organization, "if they donate 10, we put up 10 stockings, if they donate 100, we put up 100 stockings."

Local banks are offering the same deal. Big Brothers will have volunteers outside every Saturday at the same time until the end of the fund raiser on Saturday, Dec. 21. The organization is hoping to raise \$5,000.

"Where we used to have to go out and recruit bigs and littles, we're getting referrals from different agencies and the school," said Doug Finley, board chairman. "As the program's getting bigger, we're getting more funding to support it."

Two years ago when Romine started as director, Finley said, Big Brothers Big Sisters had seven kids matched with mentors, or "bigs." Now the organization has 30 matches, and hopes to have 50 matches by next year. Right now, more matches are being processed.

They spend about \$1,000 a month on each match, Romine said. The money is used for putting the bigs through a background check to make sure the kids will be safe around them, then checking up regularly on each match. They also have a monthly activity, such as swimming or bowling.

## Citizenship law root of lawsuits

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Secretary of State Kris Kobach and his critics are tangled in two lawsuits over whether Kansas will create a dual voter registration system, but the disputes are only proxies for ongoing battles over the state's proof-of-citizenship law.

The lawsuits, one each in state

and federal court, deal with how Kansas treats prospective voters who use the federal government's national registration form. The federal form has people sign a statement affirming their U.S. citizenship but doesn't require them to produce a birth certificate, passport or other citizenship papers. If people use state registration forms, they aren't eligible to cast ballots in any race until they

produce citizenship papers under a law that took effect in January.

Under a dual registration system, people who use the state form and comply with the proof-of-citizenship rule could vote in any race on the ballot. People who use the federal forms and don't submit citizenship papers to election officials would be eligible to vote only in presidential, U.S. Senate and congressional races.

Kansas is moving toward such a system, though Kobach last week described the steps as only "contingency plans" for a worst-case scenario. The secretary of state championed the proof-of-citizenship law, and he's trying

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