## Colby professor dies

Colby Free Press kbottrell@nwkansas.com Iconic Colby Community College professor Dr. Max Pickerill died Monday at the age of 85.

Pickerill taught math and science at Colby for 36 years – beginning in 1974 – and even after his retirement, he remained involved in the college. Services were at 9:30 a.m. (Mountain Time) Friday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Visitation was from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Thursday at Harrison Chapel at Colby.

Pickerill had spend the last year in an out of hospitals and care centers. Roger Hale, a friend and former Colby College teacher, said Pickerill slipped into a coma in his final days, speaking intermittently

Pickerill was born in 1925 in Par-

and his eight siblings grew up durburg State University, Fort Hays ing the depression. His mother died in 1936 and his father spent three years unemployed. Pickerill had six children, three boys and three girls. His daughters, Cynthia England Pittsburg. and Beverly Grabel, both live in nine great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

the U.S. Navy. He was trained as a Distinguished Professor Award by radioman and served on board the the college. U.S.S. Blue Ridge, the command ship of the 7th Fleet. He was honorably discharged in May of 1946.

While in the Navy, he earned the Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the American Area Campaign Medal. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

In civilian life, Pickerill attended sons to Earl and Inez Pickerill. He Parsons Community College, Pitts-

State University and Louisiana State University. He spent 61 years teaching, beginning his career while he was still an undergraduate in

While he was teaching, he was Colby. He had eight grandchildren, named an outstanding community college instructor by the University of Kansas six years in a row, In 1943, Pickerill enlisted in and was chosen as the 1984-85

Pickerill's former students are spread all throughout Kansas, Hale

"You didn't go anywhere that he didn't know people," he said.

The college named its lecture series after Pickerill in 1998.

Just last year, Pickerill was named professor emeritus at the college's graduation ceremonies.



Dr. Max Pickerill teaching a class at Colby Community College. He taught math and chemistry for

## Commission met to talk about court finances

By Kevin Bottrell

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Lawyers, judges, court employees and business owners made up most of the audience that turned up Tuesday, April 26, to talk with members of a Blue Ribbon Commission that is looking into the Kansas court

Colby lawyer Cal Williams, Finney County lawyer John Wheeler and Patrick McAnany, a judge and commission chair, met with the public at Colby Community College. Williams said the commission members were taking notes at 19 public meetings around the state, looking for ways to save money, and what services people want to keep local.

"We are examining all aspects of the court system," he said. "We want to improve the courts and make better use of taxpayers money. That's a major concern at this point."

Williams said once the meetings are done, the commission will organize all the information and make a recommendation to the Kansas Supreme Court, which will in turn make a recommendation to the Legislature. Even though the courts are a separate branch of government, he said, the Legislature controls the budget, and so can exert a lot of control over how the courts operate.

Williams said there were several areas he wanted people to consider, such as increasing flexibility of personnel, what services can be provided better regionally and what would be better done locally and how technology can be used to streamline the courts.

Williams emphasized the commission has no recommendation yet, and is holding the meetings to get ideas from the public.

"We're not here to tell you what's happening," he said. "We're here to ask what it is we should be doing. We're not here to close courts, we're not here to fire anybody."

Paul Bailey, who owns an appraisal company and a title company in Colby, said whenever corporations talk about making things more efficient, they usually mean cutbacks.

Bailey said a lot of his interaction with the court system involves looking up probate cases and lawsuits involving titles, and he was concerned about where he would have to go and how far he would have to travel to look them up. Online records are good, he said, but a lot of records are not electronic yet.

Bailey said he is concerned about small claims courts being too far away. Some business owners can't spend time away from their offices to travel to appear in court, he said, and so would not make use of small claims courts when they should.

Williams said location of records was not something that had been brought up in the other meetings.

"Those are the kinds of things we

need to take back," he said.

Thomas County Attorney Kevin Berens said losing judges in some of the northwest counties would increase travel costs for lawyers.

Berens asked the commission members to consider what effect losing judges would have on the poor, such as a person seeking a protection from abuse order who didn't have a car and couldn't get to a county with a judge. They could have a remote conference, he said, but people don't want to see and talk to a judge in person.

Judges in high-population counties like Shawnee do a lot of first appearances by remote, Berens said, suggesting instead of eliminating judge positions in western Kansas, having western judges hold hearings over the internet for cases in

at raising fees to generate more

Etta Walker, a lawyer from Sharon Springs, said she practices in Colorado, a state which has gone to part-time judges in some areas. Walker said it is nice to have a local judge, Wallace County's judge has been in place for eight years, but the state is paying him full time for about two days of work. She suggested either making the position part time, scaling down the county to two magistrate judges or sharing a judge with a neighboring county.

"I don't want to lose access to a judge," she said, "but I don't believe we need to have judges tied to certain counties."

Hoxie Lawyer Ken Eland disagreed, saying counties would get less-qualified judges if the positions were made part time. Eland said ready access to title re-

cords is key for his practice. During



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Berens suggested the courts look unable to get information, such as if a judgement had been made on a title before closure, which is a potential liability for him.

"Service is what's important, and sometimes that costs money,"

Eland suggested raising taxes may be necessary to maintain essential government services. Douglas Spencer, an Oakley lawyer, said that had occurred to him, but he was not sure how much of an increase would be necessary. People need to

last year's court furloughs, he was know raising taxes is an option, he ties' hands." said, so they have the choice when they vote. "If we want to keep these nice

> things we have, we have to pay for them," he said. Spencer suggested returning responsibility for magistrate judges to the counties. Counties would likely pay them less and reduce hours he

said, but the burden would no longer be put on the state. The bottom line is the state is looking to cut judges," he said, "and that ought to be in the coun-

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Walker said some of the northwest counties, such as Wallace and Logan, can't raise much money with taxes because of how farmland is assessed. Residential and commercial property owners pay the lion's share of the taxes, and the low-population counties don't have enough of those to generate a lot of revenue. "I'm afraid of dumping the bur-

den on counties until we can fix that," she said.

Spencer was concerned about state-required technology upgrades. Counties are having trouble as it is to maintain computers, he said, and would the state provide continuing support or just pay for the upgrades?



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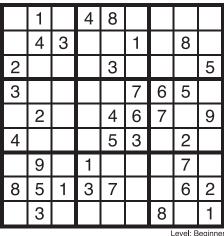
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Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mindbending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

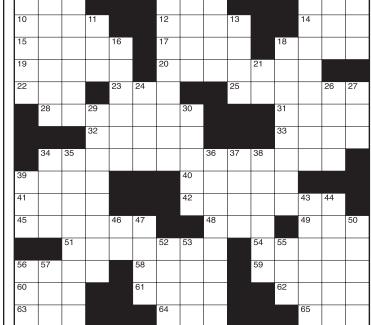
# **CLUES ACROSS** 1. PCLUES ACROSS

- 1. Annualized percentage rate 4. Short term memory
- 7. Outward flow of the tide
- 10. Sob loudly 12. Minerals
- 14. Integrated data processing 15. Mountain spinach
- 17. Animal flesh
- 18. Grapefruit & tangerine
- 19. Language of No. India
- 20. Below 22. Angry
- 23. Soviet Socialist Republic 25. Blood-sucking African fly
- 28. Fusses
- 31. Close by
- 32. Blood pumping organ 33. W. Samoan monetary unit
- 34. Salmonella aftermath
- 39. Counterbalance to obtain net weight

48. Right angle building exten-

- 40. About pope 41. 45th state
- 42. Slips by 45. Be suitable for
- 49. Chicken \_ \_ king
- 51. Azotaemias 54. 55120 MN
- 56. Cologne 58. A thing or unit
- 59. Ointment 60. Actress Lupino
- 61. 4,840 sq. yards
- 62. Film spool
- 63. For every 64. NYSE for Honeywell

### **Crossword Puzzle**



65. Point midway between S and

**CLUES DOWN** 1. Resistance unit

2. One rejected from society

3. E. Central African nation 4. Mexican hat

5. Arboreal plant

6. Unkind 7. XVIII

8. Bundle (abbr.) 9. Characters in one inch of tape

(computers)

11. Computer screen material

13. Retain a printing correction

16. Booed and

18. Implements 21. To the same extent

24. Swat

26. Musically vocalized 27. Before

29. Used for easing the foot into a shoe

30. Supporting stalk

34. Future destiny 35. Relating to an oracle

36. Salespersons 37. Opaque gem

38. 3rd largest Italian city 39. Vessel used for washing

43. Birds of prey

44. One bound in servitude 46. 41st state

47. Denotes substance is present in the blood

50. Administer an oil 52. What you scratch

53. Relating to aircraft 55. Swiss river

56. Weight = to 1000 pounds 57. Lyric poem

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

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