



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Park restrooms destroyed by Fourth of July vandals

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Six toilets were destroyed at two different public parks in Colby on Tuesday and Wednesday nights after vandals flushed firecrackers down the stools, according to Randy Jones, police chief.

As a result, the restrooms will be out of order until the toilets can be replaced at Villa High Park, on the south side of the city, and Phillips Park, on the west side, he said. The Fourth of July is an important holiday and celebration for our country, he said.

Although it is illegal to explode fireworks within the city limits, police officials have tried to be tolerant.

"However, after this incident and the fact that the new toilets will cost the taxpayers \$1,800, we will be stricter next year in enforcing the law."



Gerry Bieker, public works director, examined the damage to one of the six toilets destroyed by fireworks this week.

The toilets must meet ADA requirements, which is why the cost to replace them will be high.

According to Jones, there were about two dozen complaints from residents on the Fourth of July and officers followed up on each of the calls.

Compared to years past, the number of complaints was not high. In most years, the biggest concern by police has been people lighting fireworks and throwing them out of vehicles and even those cases have been few.

"We (police officers) tried to be as lenient as we could with respect to fireworks in the city," Jones said, "but because of the actions of a few, we won't be as tolerant in the future."

According to officials at the Thomas County Sheriff's Office, no reported complaints or incidents were received during the Fourth of July holiday.

National magazine to become an insert in Colby Free Press

American Profile, a full-color national magazine with regionalized editorial content celebrating the interests, values and events of life in America's hometowns, will debut in the Colby Free Press as an insert each Monday beginning July 9.

Each edition of American Profile will include a broad range of regular features, including regional selections of Hometown Heroes, Close-To-Home regional calendars of events, as well as stories on celebrities with hometown ties, health trends, entertainment, and important current issues. A special regional editorial feature of each issue is a profile of one of America's great hometowns.

"American Profile is one of the most exciting ideas for smaller newspapers that the industry has ever seen," said Tom (TD) Dreiling, Free Press publisher. "This full-color magazine will complement our local news coverage by providing editorial content that celebrates the people and places that make up our hometowns. American Profile embraces the values and spirit of our readers and we are pleased to bring it to them on a regular basis."

Until now, hometown and community newspapers have not had access to a magazine with quality content and production that meets or exceeds that of the Sunday magazines, according to Dan Hammond, publisher and CEO of

American Profile.

"Large market daily newspapers are well-served with the existing Sunday magazines, but weekly and small market dailies require fundamentally different approaches for editorial content, production and distribution," Hammond added.

American Profile will appear in locally delivered issues of the Free Press, in newstands and in mailboxes of subscribers throughout our trade territory. "Due to the high cost of mailing the magazine, it will not appear in issues of the Free Press in distant locations," Dreiling said. He thanked the First National Bank for helping sponsor American Profile.

Brushing on history



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Tom Moorhaus (left), history instructor at Colby Community College, is one of many former art students assisting in the mural project at the college. Ken Mitchell (right), who taught at the college from 1969 to 1989, returned in mid-June to take charge of creating the 47' across by 12'8" high mural depicting educational scenes in Thomas County over the past century. Moorhaus said he was Mitchell's student from 1974-76, teaching high school art for one year before switching to history. According to Mitchell, four of the 17 panels are finished and the remainder are partially completed. "By next Tuesday or Wednesday, all the panels will be put together, placed on the wall, and touch up work will begin," Mitchell said. When completed the mural will adorn the reception area at Bedker Memorial Complex.

Tobacco firm, group spend \$17,000 on media

TOPEKA (AP) — A large tobacco company and a horse racing group together spent more than \$17,000 on communications and media advertising in lobbying the Legislature in April, as members were trying to finish their business for the year.

The expenditures stood out because more than three-quarters of what lobbyists spent from Jan. 1 through April 30 covered the cost of meals, snacks and drinks provided to legislators, their staff and other state officials. Also, lobbyists have been spending less this year, in large part because of a disclosure law enacted last year.

Philip Morris Management spent more than \$10,600 on communications in April. The company is best known for manufacturing cigarettes, such as the Marlboro brand, but it also has other interests, including beer brewing. Legislators considered in-

creasing tobacco and alcohol excise taxes to help raise money for public schools and universities.

The Kansas Quarter Horse Racing Association spent more than \$6,800 on media advertising in April, promoting a proposal to allow electronic gambling machines at dog and horse racing tracks.

Lobbyists reported spending about \$408,000 during the first four months of the year, according to a report compiled by the state Governmental Ethics Commission. That's about 3.8 percent less than the \$424,000 spent during the same period in 2000.

Philip Morris' spending on communications put it among the top 10 spenders for the year and made the company the leader for April. Communications covers contacts, such as newsletters, by a group or company to members, employees or others, to get

them to pressure legislators.

Philip Morris lobbyist John Bottenberg said the company keeps a list of retailers, smokers and others who have told it that they want to be kept informed about legislative issues. The company then contacts them when issues arise, he said.

That's not an uncommon tactic. Another tobacco company, R.J. Reynolds, does the same thing and spent nearly \$4,900 in March on communications. Lobbyist Ron Hein said it also was lobbying against an increase in tobacco taxes. The company's efforts pushed communications spending through April to nearly \$35,000. Lobbyists reported spending about \$37,000 in all of 2000. Legislators did not approve any tobacco or alcohol tax increases.

Lobbyists report spending on newspaper, radio or television advertising under mass media and, thanks in part

to the horse group's campaign, this year's spending on mass media is about \$17,000, compared to only \$1,800 in all of 2000.

Jonathan Small, a lobbyist for the group, said it bought two ads in newspapers across the state in April to promote its views. However, legislators didn't approve any proposals to expand gambling. Lobbyists reported spending nearly \$311,000 through April on food and beverage, which covers the meals, snacks and drinks they provide. That was 76 percent of their total spending.

But it's 16 percent less than for the same period in 2000, when they spent about \$370,000 in the same category. Last year, legislators enacted a new law that requires lobbyists to report the name and value of gifts to individual officials, and both lawmakers and lobbyists say it has led to less spending.

Wintz leaving Fort Hays for head coach job at Hutch

HUTCHINSON — Chad Wintz, Colby native and head basketball coach at Fort Hays State University the past four years, was expected to be named head coach at Hutchinson Community College at a news conference this afternoon. Wintz will replace Tim Duryea, who has accepted an assistant coaching job at Utah State.

Wintz has coached at Fort Hays State University the past four years, compiling a 77-35 record. This past season his Tigers went 23-6 and captured the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Eastern Division Title.

Wintz' move to Hutchinson caused some surprise at Hays as word of his pending departure hadn't appeared in the Hays media as late

as Thursday afternoon.

Wintz had coached at Dodge City Community College for four years, compiling a 67-57 record, and in his fourth year there posted a 25-7 mark and a Jayhawk Conference Western Division crown.

Wintz, 36, played basketball two years at Butler Community College under Randy Smithson. Wintz graduated from Kansas University in 1987 where he played for current Philadelphia 76ers coach Larry Brown and with Mark Turgeon, who is now head coach at Wichita State University. Wintz was recommended for hiring over Derek Zeck, College of Southern Idaho and Wisconsin-Milwaukee assistant coach Ryan Swanson.

Japanese walkers to arrive in Colby Saturday

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

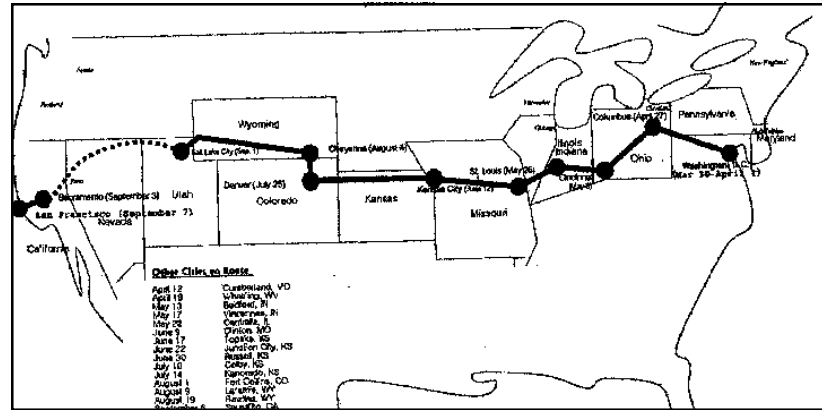
The "Trans-America Walk" is coming to Colby. Thirteen young Japanese men and women, walking across America to celebrate the close relationship between America and Japan in the 21st century, will arrive in Colby on Saturday.

The team is recreating a route taken by five Japanese college students in 1963. The male members will finish their walk about five miles east of Colby on U.S. 24 at 3:30 p.m. The female members will join them on Sun-

day morning. They plan to cross the state line on July 12.

They left Mt. Vernon, Va. on March 30 and plan to arrive in San Francisco on Sept 8 to attend ceremonies associated with the 50th anniversary of the peace treaty between Japan and the United States.

The group will be writing a daily diary to be posted at the following website: www.americawalk.org. They will also be participating in various events along the way, including cultural exchanges in schools and senior centers.



The map shows the Trans-America Walk by the Japanese walkers.

Thumbs up!

✓Larry Booth, Shawna Eberle, Wayne & Millie Lauritsen, McLemore Family, Jeff Wagoner Family — for your Picnic in the Park performances. (There are still three more Picnics remaining on July 12, 19 and 26.)

✓Fireworks Crew — for a super show!

✓Kenton Krehbiel, Cleona Flipse — on your reelection as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the Colby Community College board of trustees.

✓Clayton Elliott and Jessica Cox — on your national technology awards.

✓Nikol Scheuerman — Colby Community College's newest member of the recruiting team.

✓Heartland Christian School officials — on your decision to relocate in Colby.

✓Rev. David Hall — new pastor at Colby's Trinity Lutheran Church.

Briefly

Weather: 102-107

The forecast for the Colby region continues to be wrapped up in one little word: H-o-o! Tonight, clear, lows around 70 and south winds 10-15 mph, turning to the southwest. Saturday, sunny, highs 102-107 and southwest winds 10-15 mph, turning to the south. Saturday night, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 60s. Sunday, sunny and hot with the highs 101-106. Monday, thunderstorms possible, lows in the 60s and highs 95-105. Thursday's high in Colby was 95 and the overnight low this morning was 65. There was no additional moisture. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 85 degrees at the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center in Colby and 75 degrees at the National

Weather Service Forecast Center in Goodland. The records for July 6: 108 in 1964 and 49 in 1924. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Commissioners meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 1 p.m., Monday, in the commissioners room of the courthouse. Lynette Koon will bring next year's proposed budget for the Thomas County Conservation District at 1 p.m. Charles Schwanke will discuss resurfacing the courthouse parking lot at 1:30 p.m.. Chris Bieker, roads supervisor, will discuss mowing crops and farming the right-of-way at 1:45

p.m. Josh Buffington and Martin Rinehart, director and assistant director respectively, will discuss the Emergency Medical Services budget at 2:30 p.m. Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, will bring the 6-month tonnage figures and discuss the concrete pile and a pit. All meetings are open to the public.

Brewster school meeting changed

The regular meeting of the Brewster Board of Education has been postponed, according to school officials. The meeting planned for Monday, July 9, has been moved to Monday, July 16. The time remains the same at 7:30 p.m. in the Brewster School cafeteria.

Singles dance planned tonight

The Colby Singles Group has planned a dance today from 8 p.m. to midnight, according to Don Birzer, organizer. Entertainment will be provided by Jim Christiansen and the event is open to single people, alumni and their guests. For information or questions, call Birzer at 462-2127.

EPA to hold meeting here Monday

The Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting beginning at 7 p.m., Monday, July 9, at the Colby Community Building. The purpose of the meeting, according to Hattie Thomas, with the EPA office in Kansas City, is to discuss the Ace Services superfund site.

