



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Ah, life's like that



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

As temperatures climb above the century mark, people and animals are looking for ways to beat the heat. ABOVE: Cattle in a pasture on the Vic Mazanec farm, six miles north of Colby, took advantage of an

irrigation sprinkler moving through the edge of the pasture. BELOW: This lemonade stand was temporarily abandoned, but the owners encouraged customers to return.



# School budget to be published

By PATTY DECKER  
*Free Press Editor*

The Colby Board of Education held its reorganizational meeting, along with installing new board members and approving the publication of its proposed 2001-02 budget this week.

The district's proposed budget calls for an increase in the mill levy from 39.45 to 39.90, which is equivalent to about \$106,000 more in local taxes, according to Jo DeYoung, business manager.

That amount represents a higher county valuation estimate and the .45 mill levy increase, she said.

The entire proposed budget will appear in the Colby Free Press on Friday, July 27, with the budget hearing planned for Monday, Aug. 6. The hearing is open to everyone.

Stan Molstad was renamed president of the board for a second term with Cathy Gordon elected vice-president. New board members Tracy Rogers and John Cranston were sworn-in, along with Gerry Fulwider and Wilburn Holloway, who were re-elected.

Prior to electing Molstad for a second term as president, board members Holloway and Bill Miller did express some concerns regarding lack of communication in the previous year.

Molstad said that he would make sure every effort was made in the new year to touch base with other board members, although he didn't believe he had held anything back from the board.

The vote to approve Molstad as president was four in favor with Holloway and Miller casting no votes. Gordon arrived late and was counted absent on the vote.

In other business:  
• The board approved the resignation of Linda O'Connor as high school English teacher and accepted the employment recommendation of Margaret Houtz to replace her in that position.  
• Other employment recommendations approved included Karen Deibert

to replace Marilyn Walz as the district's library media clerk.

Leta Lee was approved to replace Kristy Herl as the high school secretary.

Nadine Struckoff was approved to replace Josh McCraghan as special education paraprofessional and Holly Bricker replaces Sean Kennedy, also as special education paraprofessional.

• The board approved out-of-district requests for the following students: Kelsey Strickler, Zacharia Beckley, Ryan Downing and Dylan Titus.

• The board took no action on an out-of-district request for Logan K. Rall, but did approve the request for Levi, Candee, Drew and Tucker Vonlehe.

• The board approved the grade school, middle school and high school handbooks for the new year.

• Approval was given to pay \$160 for a Western Plains Arts Association membership.

• Emergency substitute certificates were approved for Marilyn Walz, Harriet Holloway and Bernice Skiles.

• The contract for services with the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center was approved in the amount of \$102,548, which Colby Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said was lower than last year's amount of \$103,536.

• Under special business, the board established dates for board meetings in the 2001-02 school year; named board members to various positions; named the Colby Free Press as the official newspaper; renamed John Gatz as the school's attorney and approved an increase for services from \$100 an hour to \$150 an hour.

In addition, Gatz wrote in the proposed increase that he would drop the monthly minimum charge of \$100.

• The board took no action on establishing facility rental funds and would discuss it at the next meeting in August. It also planned to discuss the official bank depositors at the next meeting as well.

# Retirement won't keep Bowen off the Eagles' basketball court

By JAY KELLEY

*Colby Free Press*

Tom Bowen's retirement won't mean a change for Eagle basketball fans.

The long-time physical education teacher for the Colby School District has retired, but said he is coming back for another season as assistant basketball coach under Derek Bissitt.

"I enjoy assisting, and it will keep me busy during the winter," said Bowen, who has been an assistant at the high

school since 1996.

Bowen was head coach from 1981-1989, before moving over to Colby Community College as an assistant for six years.

Before that he was head coach at Ellis from 1971-1980, along with



Tom Bowen

assistant football coach and head track coach.

"I fell into that one," said Bowen. "The track coach left in mid-season and they elected me."

He was also head coach at Weskan for one season, right after graduating from Fort Hays State University.

"I enjoyed being a head coach, but there is a lot more pressure," said Bowen. Bowen also played basketball for the Trojans in the 1960s.

As for his retirement, Bowen said, "I

have no idea what I'm going to."

He has been busy painting and playing golf, he said. "I plan to do some substitute teaching in the winter."

Bowen's wife, Mary Kay, teaches fifth grade at Colby, although the couple has discussed moving to Wichita to be closer to their grandchildren, Max, 6, and Madison, 2.

"We have a lot of friends here, but the grandkids are a stronger pull," he said.

Bowen took several teams to state and sub-state competition as head

coach in both Ellis and Colby. He was assistant to head coach Jeff Parriott when the Eagles won the state championship in 1999. If they move, Bowen said he would like to continue to coach.

"I certainly won't say no," he said of coaching opportunities in the Wichita area. Some of his greatest memories include a picture at the end of a two-overtime loss in sub-state at Ellis. "Everyone was crying, it was so emotional," he said. He is also quick to credit others.

"Whatever success I had was due

to the people around me," said Bowen.

Bowen still hears from some players and sees them at reunions. "They have turned into great gentlemen," he said. He also credits school administrators and other teachers. "It's easy when you work with great people," he said.

His wife and some friends and former students held a roast for him at his recent retirement. "It was great," he said. "There was a lot of emotion."

"If it hadn't been for those attitudes, I wouldn't be as successful," he said.

# 'Operation Save America' could extend stay in Wichita, director says

WICHITA (AP) — Anti-abortion protesters may be in Wichita longer than a week.

Though no decision has been made about extending the demonstrations, organizers were talking about the possibility on Wednesday.

Rev. Flip Benham, Operation Save America national director, said protesters will stay if Wichita churches refuse their "rightful place" outside abortion clinics.

"God has called us to be here and we will stay," said Troy Newman, director of Los Angeles-based Operation Rescue West. "We don't expect God to accomplish everything in one week."

Newman said it would be "beautiful" if anti-abortion protests lasted as long as in 1991. This week's protests are scheduled to end Saturday.

The protesters' chief target has been the clinic of Dr. George Tiller, one of the few physicians in the nation who

performs late-term abortions.

Operation Save America is sponsoring the Summer of Mercy Renewal on the 10th anniversary of abortion protests that lasted more than 45 days and resulted in 2,700 arrests.

Asked about the possibility of an extended stay, city spokesman Mike Taylor said, "The city would obviously have to respond to that if that's the case. The police would have to stay out there."

On Wednesday, two abortion-rights supporters were arrested outside the clinic — the first arrests of protesters during the Summer of Mercy Renewal campaign.

Deputy Chief Stephen Cole identified the two as Joshua Klein, 26, of Columbus, Ohio, and Karen Rose, 30, of Chicago. Both were held on \$3,000 bonds.

Both people arrested were abortion-rights supporters, police said. They faced misdemeanor battery charges for

allegedly pushing anti-abortion protesters while jockeying for spots outside the clinic, Cole said.

A federal judge ruled Monday that abortion opponents could parade on the street fronting the clinic for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon each day.

Organizers said about 580 people marched past the clinic Wednesday morning.

About 100 people later protested outside another clinic, Wichita Family Planning, which resumed performing abortions in June.

As temperatures soared passed 100, the afternoon parade consisted of 43 vehicles and some two dozen marchers.

Wichita churches are deeply divided on the abortion issue. After the 1991 demonstrations, pastors supporting abortion rights formed their own organization, Kansas Religious Leaders for Choice.

# Pickin' on the Plains begins Friday

By PATTY DECKER

*Free Press Editor*

The sixth annual Pickin' on the Plains Festival will kick off Friday and this year the organizers said they have expanded many of the activities and are offering prices affordable to everyone.

The following is the schedule of entertainment:

**Friday, July 20**  
6 to 6:45 p.m. — The McLemore Family  
6:50- 7:30 p.m. — Sappa Strings  
7:40- 8:25 p.m. — The New Old-Timers  
8:35- 9:20 p.m. — Larry Booth  
9:30-10:15 p.m. — The Chapman Family  
**Saturday, July 21**  
10-11 p.m. — Youth Contest  
11 a.m. - noon — Open Stage  
Noon -12:40 p.m. — Larry Booth  
12:50-1:30 p.m. — Sappa Strings  
1:45- 2:30 p.m. — The New Old-Timers  
2:40- 3:25 p.m. — Spontaneous Combustion  
3:35- 4:20 p.m. — The Chapman Family  
4:30-5:15 p.m. — Shadow Creek  
5:25- 6 p.m. — High Atmosphere  
6 - 6:30 p.m. — Supper Break  
6:30- 7:10 p.m. — The McLemore Family  
7:20- 8:05 p.m. — The New Old-Timers  
8:15- 9 p.m. — Shadow Creek

9:10- 9:55 p.m. — The Chapman Family  
10:05-10:55 p.m. — Spontaneous Combustion

**Sunday, July 22**

10-11 a.m. — Gospel Sing Along  
11:10-11:50 a.m. — High Atmosphere  
Noon -12:40 p.m. — Shadow Creek  
12:50- 1:30 p.m. — Spontaneous Combustion  
1:40- 2:20 p.m. — The New Old-Timers  
2:30- 3:10 p.m. — The McLemore Family

The youth activities on Saturday begin at 10 a.m. with a bluegrass contest.

The rules and information will be available at the information booth.

In addition to the entertainment, free "make and take" crafts will be available from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., also on Saturday and from 1 to 6 p.m. anyone with a festival armband can have their children 12 and under swim free-of-charge at the Colby swimming pool.

Throughout the weekend there will be free horse-drawn wagon rides, cowboy poetry, adding a comical element to the event, and lots of food and drink vendors. Discounted tickets are available at Dave's His Shop, House of Wood Furniture, Bourquin's Campground and the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For information, call Leilani Thomas at 462-7643 or 1-800-611-8835.

## Briefly

### Weather: Heavy rain?

The National Weather Service forecast center at Goodland said today that thunderstorms tonight in the Colby area could produce locally heavy rain. They set thunderstorm chances at 30 percent. Lows tonight should range between 65-70 with south winds 5-15 mph. Friday through Sunday should bring partly cloudy conditions, a 20 percent chance

for thunderstorms, highs in the 90s and lows in the 60s, with southerly winds 5-15 mph. Wednesday's high in Colby was 101 and the overnight low this morning was 66. Precipitation remains at 0.63 inches for the month. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 88 degrees. The records for July 19: 107 in 1926 and 50 in 1902. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the*

Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Office to close for fair week

The Thomas County Extension Office will be closed the week of the fair, July 30-Aug. 3, so employees can help with the activities. Anyone having questions is encouraged to

call the office at 462-4582.

### Dog Show is Saturday

Activities for the Thomas County Free Fair will begin Saturday, July 21, with the 4-H and Open Class Dog Show to be held in 4-H Building. The activity will begin at 9 a.m. with the 4-H Dog show.

