



COLBY FREE PRESS

Increase in gas prices explained by Love's

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Almost in the blink of an eye, gas prices in town have soared from about \$1.39 a gallon a week ago to prices ranging from \$1.72 to \$1.82 today.

Yet the increase in gas prices isn't nationwide, said Jenny Love-Meyer, public relations director of the Love Convenience Stores in Oklahoma City, Okla.

The problem, she said today, is two-fold and only affecting the region that includes Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri,

Illinois, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

"One of the factors affecting our region," Love-Meyer said on behalf of Love's Country Store in Colby, "was the fire-damaged refinery in Lemont, Ill., which supplies some of the region with fuel."

Citgo Petroleum Corporation's fire, which occurred Tuesday, Aug. 14, will take about six months before all the repairs are made, a spokesperson for the company said last week.

"The Citgo refinery produces about

160,000 barrels of gasoline and distillates per day and for supply planning purposes," said Adolph Lechtenberger, Citgo senior vice-president of refining, "(and) we are assuming that the crude unit will return to service in 20 to 24 weeks."

The bigger problem for this region, though, is that the Ponca City, Okla. refinery went down two weeks ago, Love-Meyer said, and that particular refinery supplies 40 percent of the fuel for Kansas and Oklahoma.

The reason the refinery in Oklahoma

is down was unclear, she said, but speculation was that based on increased demands for fuel in recent years, combined with the fact that no new refineries are being built — the refinery could be experiencing equipment breakdowns.

As for the Love's Country Store in Colby, Love-Meyer said the company is doing its best to keep prices down.

"We are selling fuel at cost right now," she said, "and for those who unfortunately believe that gas stations are artificially raising prices because of

the Labor Day weekend — well, that's just simply not true at our store."

Other service stations in Colby offered either a similar explanation or refused to comment. At the Conoco Travel Shoppe on South Range, Jan Myer, assistant manager, said it is her understanding that there are not many places to get bulk fuel in Kansas right now and that she thought the plant in Salina was having problems.

She also said she believes prices tend to go up before major holidays and currently unleaded fuel at their station

is \$1.74 per gallon. On Sunday, the price was \$1.79 and last Monday, Aug. 20, gas was \$1.63. The Colby Amoco station spokesperson said he didn't know why the prices were climbing and no reason had been given.

A spokesperson at Cowboy Loop in Goodland said Sunday's gas prices were \$1.54 and are now \$1.82 per gallon today. She said she just heard the prices are expected to continue to rise.

Another spokesperson at Stop 2 Shop in Colby refused to discuss gas prices over the telephone.

Sacred Heart ushers in new school year

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Sacred Heart School in Colby got the 2001-02 school year underway today, with an enrollment of 104 students in K-5, and 52 children in preschool (3-4 year-olds).

Last year's K-5 enrollment was the same as this year's 104 students, while preschool gained 10 from last year's 42.

"I am really looking forward to this year," said Dave Evert, principal. "Our main emphasis is on spiritual growth, but through spiritual growth our academic growth has come out."

"We excelled in academics last year," he said.

The school has one new teacher, Rosanne Dougherty, who will be teaching third grade.

She came to Colby 19 years ago and taught several years in the Colby Public School system.

Since then, she has done volunteer work and substitute teaching at Sacred Heart School.

Dougherty and her husband Jim have three daughters — Emily is in the eighth grade, Laura in the sixth grade, and Megan in the third grade. Mr. Dougherty is part owner of Dougherty's Implement.

Other teachers include preschool, Sharon Shirley; kindergarten, Alice Ziegler; and reading recovery, Jeanette Beckman.

Sister Loretta Podlena will be teaching first grade and Kim Feyerabend is the second grade teacher.

Dougherty is teaching third grade with Jim Wessling instructing fourth grade.

Sister Rosalie Cersovsky is the school's music teacher and physical education classes will be under the instruction of Brenda Mazanec.

The art teacher is Mindy Curry and the Sacred Heart librarian is Christie Schertz.

Fifth grade has a combination of teachers, including Father Galen Long, math and English; Jeanette Beckman, reading; and Evert, social studies, science and spelling.

Joni Jackson is cook, with the new assistant cook Alice Gartner.

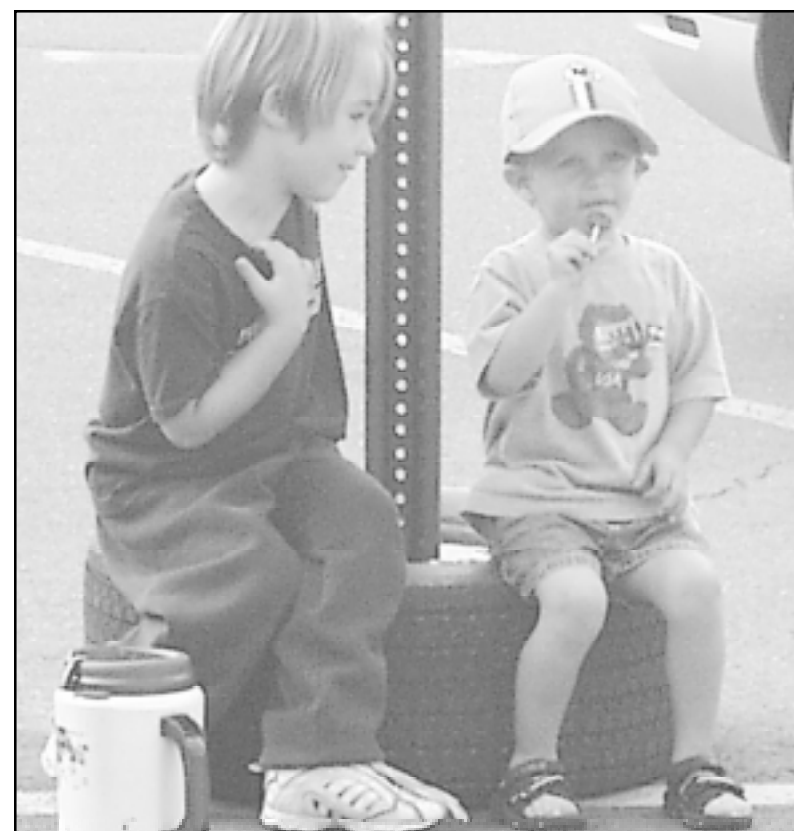
Kathy Elliott is secretary, and Phil Harry is custodian.

Evert also said he wanted to express appreciation to all the many volunteers who serve in various capacities and assist in activities and events when needed.

Passing the boot



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press



Colby firefighters took part in the annual boot drive for the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Saturday. Fire departments nationwide come out the weekend before Labor Day to raise money for Jerry's Kids. The Colby crew raised \$2,019.50, according to assistant chief Rick Dickman. ABOVE: Firefighter Sean Hankin took a donation from David Pabst in downtown Colby. LEFT: Jaime Haberer, left, and Tate Carney took advantage of a convenient bench while their fathers, Keith Haberer and James Carney, took donations at the Wal-Mart parking lot.

Heartland School now in seventh year of operation

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Heartland Christian School in Mingo started its school year on Aug. 20, with 55 students enrolled, according to Rick Roberts, administrator, who said the school is starting its seventh year and enrollment has grown steadily every year.

The school presently meets at the Mingo Bible Church, but has purchased Colby Plaza, the defunct shopping area in northwest Colby.

Volunteers will be remodeling and renovating the buildings, he said, and they hope to be in it by the next school year.

The new enlarged facilities will allow the school to expand to include grades K-12. Funds from a sizable endowment from an anonymous donor were used to purchase the property.

The school has two new teachers this year.

Kandace Rather, who will be teaching the 3rd and 4th grades, and Tammy Higerd, who will be teaching in the middle school grades.

Rather has a bachelor of arts in psychology from Pittsburg State University, and will begin course study toward a degree in education in 2002.

Kandace and her husband, Nathan, moved to Colby last year from Goodland. Nathan is the branch manager of Colby BankWest.

The Rathers and their children, Brady in 6th grade, Bethany in 5th grade, and Bailey in 2nd grade, attend Colby Wesleyan Church. This summer Kandace and Nathan also coached city recreation sports.

Higerd has degrees in education and



T. Higerd



K. Rather

in social work from Pittsburg State University, and during the last six years she has substituted for Colby, Brewster and Rexford public schools. Her husband, Lynn, has worked at Martin Tractor for 18 years, and is assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 140. The Higerds attend the Berean Church of Colby with their daughter Valerie, a freshman at Colby High School, and their son William, a senior at Colby High School.

Returning administration and teaching staff are as follows: Roberts is beginning his fourth year as administrator, and also teaches P.E., Spanish I, choir and Bible; Tami Goossen begins her second year as school secretary; teachers and years of experience are: include Dixie Snyder, K-4, four years; Lona Donley, kindergarten, six years; Erin Jamison, 1st-2nd grade, three years; Colette Hatfield, 5th-8th grade, two years.

Jonathan Hansen, band, in his second year; and other employees are: Kathy Myers, 1st-4th grade music; Jeanne Cox, 1st-4th grade art; Ronda Myers, librarian; and Karen Larmer, assistant librarian and K-2nd grade science.

School finance package face obstacles in 2002

TOPEKA (AP) — Let the public relations campaigns begin.

With the ink barely dry on the State Board of Education's three-year, \$1.16 billion budget request, a propaganda war is underway.

Based on current sentiment in the Statehouse and state budget projections, it will take a great deal of persuasion to convince legislators that schools need so much cash in what will be a difficult session come January. And it is an election year. A 50 percent increase over three years to a \$2.3 billion budget item is a tough sell, even

in a good year. "It is my belief that they have really given fuel to the fire for those in opposition to significant education funding," said Sen. Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer. "The question then is 'how much is enough?'"

Umbarger is chairman of the Senate Education Committee. He invested "a pound of flesh" last session pushing for an enhancement package for the 304 school districts. Plans requiring tax increases went down in flames — repeatedly — with colleagues. The tough part is showing legislators where the dollars will be spent.

Briefly

Weather: No change seen

No weather events appear on the Colby region radar for the rest of the week, according to the National Weather Service. Tonight, clear, lows around 60 and south winds 5-15 mph, turning to the southwest late. Tuesday, mostly sunny, highs 90-95 and southwest winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, lows up to 60. Wednesday through Friday, dry Wednesday, with thunderstorms possible Thursday and Friday, with lows in the 50s and highs right around 80. The weekend temperatures for Colby: highs, 79 on Friday, 81 on Saturday and 90 on Sunday; lows, 58 on Saturday, 61 on Sunday and 55 this morning. There was no precipitation over the weekend, leaving the month's total to date at 1.69 inches. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 77 degrees. The records for Aug. 27: 105 in 1899 and 44 in 1967. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

High school yearbooks have arrived

The Colby High School 2001 yearbooks arrived today and, Donna Henry, journalism instructor, said students who ordered a copy can pick it up after 8 p.m. or following the high school open house planned Tuesday, Aug. 28.

Office closed, no paper Monday

The Colby Free Press office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3, and no newspaper will be published that day in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Deadlines for the Tuesday, Sept. 4 edition are as follows: classified word ads, Friday, Aug. 31 at noon and display advertising, Thursday, Aug. 30 by 3 p.m.

Music boosters to meet

The Colby Music Boosters will meet at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 4, in the teacher's lounge at Colby High School. This

year's officers include Tammy Higerd, president; Mary Heier, treasurer; Janet Higerd, secretary; Shelly Bielser, vice-president; and Rosie Stockton, public relations. All parents of band or vocal students at the middle and high school level are encouraged to attend. For questions, call any officer.

Crop seminar planned

Kansas Farm Bureau will be hosting a Crop Insurance 101 seminar at the Thomas County Office Complex conference room on Wednesday, Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. Mark Nelson, commodities director for the Farm Bureau, will be the featured speaker.

He will discuss choices of crop revenue coverage, multi-peril coverage or revenue assurance.

Anyone interested is welcome. For more information call Rich Callihan at 462-2459.

Landfill closing over holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will close at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 1, and will remain closed on Sunday, Sept. 2, and Monday, Sept. 3. It will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 4. For further information call Larry Jumper, supervisor, at 462-8139.

In this issue of the Free Press

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life
full-color weekly magazine

