



COLBY FREE PRESS

6 pages

Expansion project



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Jennifer Krol, an electrician with Jim's Electric in Colby, worked today on the expansion project at Living Center North on the campus at Colby Community College. The construction started in early August, said

Debbie Schwanke, public relations officer. The major expansion will be in the commons area of the building with some remodeling work underway in the coordinator's living area.

Western Plains Arts Association begins membership drive

By Tom (TD) Dreiling
Free Press Publisher

The drive is underway!
In this case the drive thrives for memberships in the areawide cultural organization known for many years as the Western Plains Arts Association.

Joan Albers, one of the longtime supporters of the association and deeply involved in its workings, told the Free Press that ticket prices for the 2001-2002 season are \$40 for adults, \$15 for students (high school senior and under), or \$90 for a family which includes two adult and a student ticket for each child high school senior and under in the family.

"What a lot you are getting for your money," Albers said.

"This year, as in the past," Albers said, "we are offering many excellent family entertainment performances for the people in northwestern Kansas."

In Colby, she said, "we will be privileged to see two ballets this year. The Mid-Illinois Ballet will perform *The Three Little Pigs* and excerpts from other ballet shows, and The David Taylor Dance Theatre will allow local dance students to perform in their presentation of the Christmas classic, *The Nutcracker*."

Albers said the Broadway classic and Tony award winner, *Damn Yankees*, will also be here as well as Frula, an Eastern Europe folk dance troupe.

Other programs include the Wichita

Children's Theatre presenting *The Tortoise and the Hare* in area schools; measureXmeasure, a unique a cappella men's group; Windsong of Colorado, a Sweet Adelines style of music; Laser Vaudeville combines high-tech effects of lasers and black lights with juggling, comedy and acrobatics; Common Ground specializes in Irish folk dance, country clogging and American tap-dance routines; Credibility Gap is a country/bluegrass band; Eddie & Robert Hiebert play dulcimers, guitar and autoharp; The Starry Night Trio, includes Julie Rivers, piano, Randy Willis, synthesizers, and Peter Larsen, guitar, performing many old and new favorites; Theatreworks will present *The Boxcar Children*, the adventures of four orphaned children during the Great Depression; and The Boston Mountain Chamber Players, a faculty chamber ensemble in residence at the University of Arkansas.

Albers said all ticket holders may attend any of the performances in any of the area communities, "and most performances this year are on a Sunday afternoon."

Tickets, if you are interested or haven't been approached as yet, can be had by calling any of the following: Joan Albers, 462-6448; Carol Barnes, 462-2641; Amie Kendrick, 462-3837; Vicky Waldschmidt, 462-6620; or Pat Ziegelmeier, 462-3984, ext. 307, or 462-7808.

Beulah Cemetery board seeks donations for new archway gate

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Plans are underway to give Colby's cemetery a more distinctive look by adding an archway at the east entrance just off County Club Drive — but money is needed to make it happen.

"We really don't have anything that distinguishes Beulah Cemetery as our cemetery," said Dale Deaver, cemetery board member.

The cost for installing the 60' steel posts and the arch gate would be about \$1,800, he said.

Any money collected over that

amount would go toward finishing the fence, which was started on the north side of the property as one of many improvements.

"We are about 50 percent done with the fencing work that started about five weeks ago and we still could use money to complete that project as well," he said.

The cemetery board receives money from the county; however most of that goes for maintenance, upkeep and salaries, with not much leftover for improvements.

Last year's budget was \$47,655 and

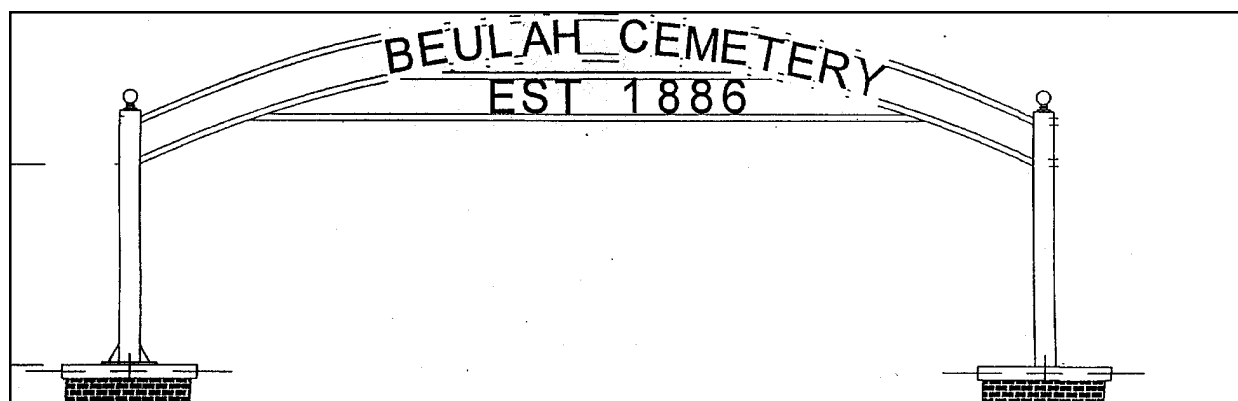
this year the board received a slight increase to \$49,502 to help with the fencing project, although not enough for the archway.

The cemetery board approved L&M Steel and Manufacturing in Colby to build the archway and posts.

Donations can be sent to: Dale Deaver, Box 43, Levant, Kan., 67743.

"We just started collecting for this project on Monday," he said.

"As the treasurer of this project, I will be keeping good track of names so that those who help can be acknowledged at a later date," he said.



Above is a drawing of the proposed archway into the cemetery from Country Club Drive.

Colbyites involved in rollover

Two Colby residents were involved Saturday afternoon in a rollover accident two miles east of Monument on a county road. According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, the accident occurred at 1:35 p.m., when 22-year-old U.S. Kocher was northbound in his 1979 Ford pickup and unable to slow down at a T-intersection.

When he attempted to turn left, the vehicle left the roadway and rolled over on its top.

Kocher and his passenger, 20-year-old Holly A. Youvon, were taken to the Logan County Hospital with what were described as minor injuries. According to a hospital spokesperson, they were treated and released.

Districts finding ways to fill teacher vacancies

TOPEKA (AP) — Not all students in Kansas have certified teachers greeting them as they begin the school year.

Legislators were told Monday that revised figures from the Department of Education showed that as of Aug. 1, there were 512 teacher vacancies, compared with 530 at the same time last year. This year's vacancies occurred in 125 of the state's 304 school districts. Most of the vacancies have been

Administrators say they are stealing from each other."

— Dale Dennis, deputy commissioner

filled with long-term substitutes or retirees who moved to different districts, deputy education commissioner Dale

Dennis told the Legislative Educational Planning Committee.

"It's tough," Dennis said. "Admin-

istrators say they are stealing from each other, so somebody else ends up being short." The vacancies, Dennis said, are a rate of 1.4 percent for the more than 34,000 teachers statewide. He said there are vacancies statewide, but particularly among special education teachers, where there were 175 openings. Dennis said Monday's presentation was the third he had given in recent weeks.

Water litigation with Colorado, Nebraska remains on track, Stovall says

By JOHN MILBURN

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas' lawsuits against Colorado and Nebraska over violations in water compacts remain on track, legislators were told Monday.

Attorney General Carla Stovall gave an update on progress to gain money and water from the state's neighbors. She said briefs for the case against Nebraska over the Republic River were due to the court-appointed special master by November.

Officials from Kansas and Nebraska have been in discussion over the lawsuit, though no settlements have been reached. At issue is the amount of water Kansas claims Nebraska has failed to allow to flow into the state.

A special master has recently toured the Republican basin, Stovall said. The two states now are working through the logistics of exchanging several 100,000 documents.

Stovall said Kansas has claimed one victory in the case when the special master ruled groundwater pumping in Nebraska is governed

by the compact.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that Kansas is entitled to \$14 million in damages as a result of Colorado's failure to abide by the Arkansas River Compact. A special master is to decide how much Kansas will receive in interest since the case was filed in 1985.

"In this case, Colorado is not agreeing to anything," Stovall said.

She said the case is a landmark ruling by the Supreme Court in that it sets precedent for allowing one state win damages from another

for water issues.

"We paid a lot of money to be proud of that," Stovall said.

Legislators have appropriated \$17.3 million for the Colorado litigation since 1984. Any money received by the state as a result of the lawsuit will be deposited in the Interstate Water Litigation Fund, with money then used to help pay the costs of other water litigation, monitoring compliance with other water compacts. All amounts above \$17.3 million will be used for water projects, with a third of the

money earmarked for the state Water Plan and the remainder for projects affected by the Arkansas River Compact.

Legislators expressed concern Monday that Colorado would be slow to make payments. They also wondered if any money above the attorney fees could be returned to the state general fund for other uses.

David Pope, chief engineer for the attorney general, said the Kansas situation could set the stage for other litigation regarding management plans for the Missouri River.

Briefly

Weather: Rain total 1.71

A recount of the precipitation total for the month of August shows Colby has received 1.71 inches, not 1.69. We'll take all we can get. It doesn't look like we'll be adding much to that total by month's end — Friday — if the National Weather Service forecast is on target. Here's how they see it: Tuesday, clear, lows around 60 and south winds 5-15 mph; Wednesday, partly sunny, highs around 90 and south winds 10-20 mph; Wednesday night, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows around 60; Thursday through Labor Day, partly cloudy, lows 55-60 and highs around 80, with a slight chance for thunderstorms. Monday's high in Colby was a summer-sickening 95 and the overnight low this morning a very comfortable 58. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 78 degrees. The records for Aug. 28: 107 in 1899 and 39 in 1911,

and that ties Aug. 22, 1904 as the coldest August temperature on record in Colby. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Tailgate party Friday

The Colby High School Booster Club will hold a tailgate party at Dennen Field on Friday, Aug. 31, beginning at 5 p.m., prior to the football game against Atwood, which starts at 7:30 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips and a drink will be served, booster officials said.

No yard waste pickup Monday

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be operating Monday, Sept. 3 for the Labor Day weekend. Yard waste will not be picked up on Monday, but will be picked

up on Tuesday, Sept. 4, along with the regular yard waste route, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. For questions, call 462-4410.

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.

Yearbook distribution tonight

The Colby High School 2001 yearbooks arrived Mon-

day, said Donna Henry, journalism instructor, and students who ordered a copy can pick it up after 8 p.m. or following the high school open house planned tonight.

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.

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.

