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COLBY FREE PRESS

Group's purpose detailed

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Everyone in Thomas County can benefit from a new foundation designed to provide money for local needs, said representatives of the organization at the Colby City Council meeting this week.

Cathy Harrison, treasurer of the Thomas County Community Foundation, and Cindy Black, president, briefed councilmen on what the group can offer.

The foundation's roots, Black said, started when the Kansas Health Foundation offered Thomas County a grant of \$100,000 to be endowed in a community foundation. The reason the state showed confidence in the county was due in large part, she said, to the successes of the county's leadership program. The problem, however, was that there was no community foundation established at that time to accept the offer, Black said. Consequently, the state foundation again lended a hand by assisting the community in forming its own vehicle to house the grant money by challenging the county to match \$300,000 in a grant process to operate the local foundation.

Known as the Thomas County Community Foundation, the task is now in matching the challenge grant from the state by Dec. 31, 2001 in pledges, Harrison said.

Donations and pledges of any amount are being accepted, she said, and Thomas County is only one of 17 communities in the state to have this type of matching challenge grant.

Once the match is met, the foundation would begin setting up funds that reflect donor direction and an evaluation of the needs in Thomas County, Black said.

Thus far, many have made pledges or donations, she said, but support is still necessary. Colby Mayor Warren Hixson commended the foundation for its work, adding that, "if 300 people were to give or pledge \$1,000 over the three-year period, that amount would translate into about \$28 a month."

... and then there are the nerds



Teachers as well as students got into the homecoming spirit during nerd day at Colby High School today. **LEFT:** English teachers Brette Pfeifer, left, and Nancy Rundell put on their best for the festivities. **RIGHT:** Victor Garcia, an exchange student from Brazil, also got into

the act. Remaining activities include a homecoming parade Friday that starts at 2:30 p.m. at Fike Park, and a barbecue and garage sale at Dennen Field at 6 p.m. The game, against the Oakley Plainsmen, starts at 7:30 p.m.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Oct. 20 important date here

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Circle Oct. 20 — a month from today. That's a special date for the immediate Colby area.

The people at the National Weather Service forecast office at Goodland told the Free Press this week that Oct. 20 is the "normal" first hard freeze date — meaning a temperature of around 28 degrees.

The weather station said that "frost has already been mentioned over parts of the High Plains, and will continue to threaten as the nights grow longer." They point out that frost can form with temperatures in the 30s, "but a hard freeze will not occur until the mercury drops below 30 degrees."

On average the official growing season ends after the second week of October across the Tri-State Area — northwest Kansas, southwest Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The people who monitor and forecast conditions in this part of the country advise that temperatures on the High Plains can get from one extreme to the other as this area gets into early October. Their advice: "If you have water lines that need to be drained or other freeze sensitive activities that need to be performed, you many want to get it accomplished soon."

The weather office at Goodland will closely monitor temperatures in the coming weeks and issue a *freeze advisory* when below freezing temperatures are expected to occur here and elsewhere in the Tri-State Area.

Following are the normal first hard freeze dates for this area:

Kansas — Colby, Oct. 20; Atwood, the 15th; Dresden, the 23rd; Goodland, the 19th; Hill City, the 23rd; Hoxie, the 21st; Leoti, the 22nd; Norton, the 25th; Oakley, the 24th; Oberlin, the 16th; Quinter, the 24th; St. Francis, the 20th; Sharon Springs, the 19th; and Tribune, the 18th.

Colorado — Burlington and Cheyenne Wells, both Oct. 18.

Nebraska — Benkelman, Oct. 15 and McCook, the 19th.

For information, contact the weather office in Goodland at (785) 899-7119.

Leadership participants for 2001-02 named

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press editor

Leadership Thomas County class members were announced this week as the program moves into its eleventh year, said Leilani Thomas, one of the Colby organizers.

Seven women and three men were

selected, she said, with nine from Colby and one from Rexford.

They are (from Colby) Cindy Cervosky, Howard Culver, Becky Dickman, Becky Donelan, Donna Finley, Carl Gilbert, Judy Kleinsorge, D'Ette Scholtz and Bill Shields. Kathi Hapke is representing Rexford.

These class members come from a wide spectrum of occupations, said Thomas, ranging from insurance and agriculture to law enforcement and retail.

The program will kick off in October and run through April with the class traveling to Topeka in February for a

legislative trip.

"Leadership Thomas County provides greater opportunities to develop leadership capacities through a very participatory program," Thomas said.

"We are very excited about the newest leadership class this year and issues that will be discussed."

President Bush scheduled to address Congress and the nation tonight

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the military on the move, President Bush addresses Congress and the nation tonight to unite Americans for a long battle against terrorists and pledge emergency action to repair the fraying economy. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld declined to rule out Iraq as a target of the anti-terrorism campaign. "There are a number of nations that are on the official, public list of terrorist nations — nations that have either sponsored terrorism or been involved in it — and we know that a number of those countries are in the Middle East," he said on NBC's "Today."

It is up to Bush to decide what targets will be attacked, Rumsfeld said.

In the speech, set for 8 p.m. CDT, Bush will make the case against No. 1 suspect Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, officials said.

"I look forward to the opportunity to explain to the American people who would do this to our great country," Bush said. "And why."

In Afghanistan, hundreds of Islamic clerics called on bin Laden to leave the country voluntarily but gave no indication they would support handing him over to the United States. The clerics had been convened by the military rul-

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U.S. President George W. Bush

ers of Afghanistan to weigh U.S. demands that bin Laden be turned over.

They said they were prepared to call for a holy war against the United States if U.S. troops attack Afghanistan in an attempt to capture bin Laden, a Saudi exile.

In his address to Congress, Bush will not seek a declaration of war or announce that a military strike is under way, officials said. Instead, he will ask imploring Americans to have patience for a long, painful hunt for terrorists.

The words are meant to build resolve as soldiers, ships and aircraft head across the sea for conflict. Bush is also expected to warn that some of those heading out may not return.

Less clear was what action the president

would propose to shore up an economy that had been slowing for more than a year even before the terrorist attacks devastated the airline and hospitality industries.

The pursuit of bin Laden and his elusive, loose-knit group of terrorists continued on several fronts. The FBI enlisted banks to follow the money trail in last week's terrorist attacks, in which two hijacked planes were crashed into the World Trade Center, another into the Pentagon and a fourth into the southwestern Pennsylvania countryside. More than 5,400 people were believed killed.

Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller planned to visit the Pennsylvania crash site of United Flight 93 on

Thursday. Just before the crash, several of the passengers on the flight made cell phone calls saying they planned to attack their captors.

With the number of people detained on immigration charges for questioning rising to 115, the FBI sent a list of the alleged hijackers to banks asking them to search for any transactions involving 21 people wanted in connection with the attacks.

Agents also were investigating the possibility that some of the suspected suicide hijackers used fake identities of people who may still be alive. Ashcroft said Wednesday that evidence shows the terrorists suspected "are harbored, supported, sustained and protected by a variety of foreign governments."

The economic fallout from the terrorist attacks sent stocks plummeting again Wednesday. Only a late burst of buying saved the Dow from its worst three-day point loss ever.

Bush planned to meet Prince Saud al-Faisal, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, on Thursday. Al-Faisal has expressed support for the war on terrorism.

The president also was mindful of the impact on the economy of last week's attacks, prom-

ising that the government would respond, pledging to help the hard-hit airline industry in particular. But Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was expected to tell Congress on Thursday to take a go-slow approach before enacting any massive stimulus package.

The Pentagon has given the coming struggle a name — "Operation Infinite Justice." The military action began in earnest Wednesday as the Air Force dispatched dozens of warplanes to the Persian Gulf area.

The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt also was sent toward the Mediterranean to join two aircraft carriers already in the region near Afghanistan. Bin Laden is believed to be hiding there.

The terrorist attacks and a two-day, federally ordered shutdown of the air travel system set in motion a crisis for airline companies — American and United airlines announced 40,000 layoffs Wednesday.

The parent company of American, the world's largest airline, said it will lay off at least 20,000 of its 138,350 workers. The cuts by AMR Corp. will affect American, TWA and American Eagle.

Briefly

Weather: Enjoyable

Not much to write home about as far as the Colby area weather forecast is concerned. Tonight, mostly clear, lows around 50, northeast winds 5-15 mph, turning to the south. Friday, partly sunny, highs 80-85, south winds 10-20 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy, lows 50-55. Saturday, partly sunny, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, highs 80-85. Saturday night, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows near 60. Sunday, partly cloudy, highs in the lower 70s. Colby's high temperature Wednesday was 86 and the overnight low this morning was 54. Precipitation remains at 3.03 inches for the month. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 66 degrees. The records for Sept. 20: 101 in 1980 and 32 in 1943. (*The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.*)

Help the cause; flags available

Contribution boxes and cans to aid the relief efforts in

New York City and Washington, D.C., can be found in numerous business locations in Colby and Thomas County. The Free Press is one such location, as are banks in the community. Additionally, the Free Press still has some American flags on hand, in case anyone out there needs one.

High school plans garage sale

The Colby High School Service Club has planned a "garage sale" for the purpose of selling old athletic clothing items. The event, said Jeff Quenzer, activities director/assistant principal at the high school, begins at 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21, southwest of the restrooms at Dennen Field. Items for sale will include old sweatshirts, cheerleading outfits, and other orange and black uniforms. All proceeds will be used to buy new clothing and equipment for various activities, he said. For information, call 465-5300.

Commissioners meet Friday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m.,

Friday, Sept. 21, at the county courthouse to approve the lease agreement for a new ambulance and rate changes in prescription cards for county employees. For information or questions, call 462-4500.

'Freedom Rally' participants wanted

Motorcyclists are still needed for the upcoming "Attack On America Freedom Rally," planned Sunday, Sept. 23, beginning at 7:45 a.m., with stops at either the Colby Community Building or Village Inn for breakfast. Cole George, organizer, said only rally participants will receive discounted or free meals. In addition, those accompanying motorcyclists are encouraged to make a free-will donation. He also asks that people wanting to take part let him know as soon as possible so that food preparations can be made accordingly at other stops. For questions or information, call 462-3135 (evenings) or 1-800-804-4840 (daytime).

Church auction scheduled

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Colby, is having its an-

nual charity auction, *A Star Spangled Auction*, on Saturday, Oct. 20. This year the auction location has been changed to the Colby Community Building. Doors open with a silent auction at 6 p.m.; the oral auction begins at 7:30. Call 462-2179 with questions.

Learning center open house today

The Thomas County Learning Center at 305 N. Franklin in Colby has planned many activities today from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the purpose of introducing the many educational services it can provide, said Melinda Fikan, director.

Where to call to give blood

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross has received many calls from area people wanting to donate blood for victims in New York and Washington D.C., said Donna Finley, director. The next blood drive is scheduled in Colby on Oct. 16. For scheduling, call Wanda Davis at (785) 462-4797, and leave name and phone number.

