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COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday

September 24, 2001

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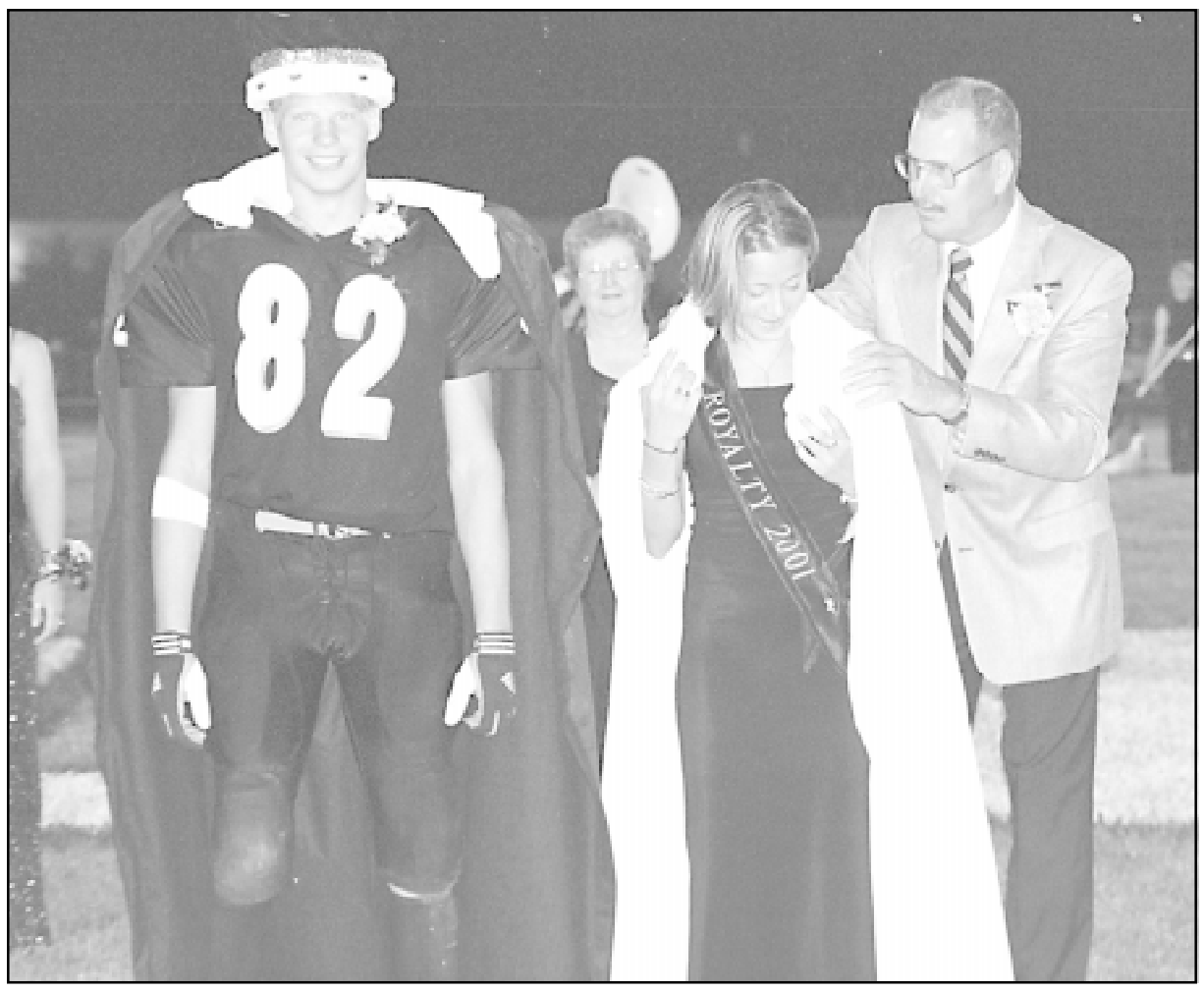
Volume 112, Number 187
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Colby was the place to be

Free Press staff photos

Area residents and visitors were treated to many activities in Colby during the weekend. Here are just a few of the events: **TOP LEFT:** Lane Ochs and Derek Price talked about hunter safety during a break in a youth hunting skill program organized by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and held at the Tom Jones farm north of Colby. **TOP RIGHT:** Rustin Brooks, from Colby Community College, was one of more than 450 contestants at the College Rodeo held at E.L. Garrett Arena on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Seniors Ryan McLemore and Jessie Brenn were crowned homecoming king and queen Friday night at Dennen Field, honorary attendants were long-time teachers Jim and Shirley Malcom. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Zachary Cardwell registered with Michelle Fay for the St. Jude Wheels for Life Bike-a-Thon Friday afternoon at Fike Park. All proceeds went to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., which specializes in finding cures for catastrophic childhood diseases.



First 'brrr' of the fall season here

By TOM (TD) DREILING
Free Press Publisher

What's that stuff on the windshield?

That was the question asked by some Colby motorists this morning as the community's official thermometer flirted around with the freezing mark.

That *stuff* on windshields, or the rear window in some cases, was a light treatment of frost, created when the early morning's dampness challenged the thermometer's 34 degrees. The thermometer won out.

The community's thermometer is located at the Northwest Research-Extension Center.

The 34 degrees was not a record for the date. That record belongs to 1989 when the mercury dropped to 29 degrees.

However, this morning's 34 degrees is the lowest reading so far this month. On two other occasions the temperatures was in the 30s — on the 9th at 38 degrees and on the 10th at 39 degrees.

Ironically, the National Weather Service forecast office at Goodland was talking about this very thing — frost — just this past week. "Frost can form with temperatures in the 30s...," the weather people at Goodland advised.

Colby generally receives its first hard freeze around Oct. 20. A hard freeze is defined as a temperature below 30 degrees. With the mercury dropping to 34 today, can that hard freeze be very far away?

The forecast for Colby through most of the week calls for lows to be in the middle 40s — no where near the hard freeze requirement.

Weather details are in today's Briefly column.

Lawsuit filed in recent gas price increases

TOPEKA (AP) — A lawsuit has been filed against a Leavenworth oil company accused of increasing fuel prices at three Topeka gas stations after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Shawnee County district attorney Robert Hecht is seeking a $5,000 civil penalty from Charles R. Wood Co. Inc. for each time it sold fuel at a raised price after the attacks.

Hecht said one of the three stations raised its price to $4 per gallon of gasoline and the other two raised prices to $2.49 per gallon.

Rumors of fuel shortages that circulated after hijacked planes crashed on the East Coast sent motorists rushing to gas stations to wait in long lines.

Square dancers hope to increase numbers; activity can be challenging fun

By MAXINE NELSON
Colby Free Press

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club of Northwest Kansas has seen a decline in membership over the past couple of years and is rallying for new dancers.

"Square dancing is good exercise and is challenging to the mind and memory to learn the calls," said Delma Dible, of Oakley, a longtime member. "It can be stress relieving as you can't worry about anything but your brain telling your feet where to go," she said.

The club meets from 8-10:30 p.m. every second and fourth Saturday night at the Colby Community Building.

Providing a historical perspective, Dible said the club celebrated 50 years last year, having evolved from the DoCiDo Square Dance Club which was organized in March 1950, from a group who played cards together, but wanted to do something new.

"At that time," she said, "membership was limited to 32 couples and later raised to 50 couples." The Y Knots club was formed in June 1955, with five couples. Membership in 1959 was 100. In 1963 the two clubs combined to form the Golden Buckle Club.

In the 1950s and 1960s, there were many clubs in the area. By driving within a 150 mile area, one could 'square up' every night of the week. National callers like Frank Lane drew crowds of up to 300 dancers, a large crowd for this area, she said. Thirteen local couples went to Estes Park, Colo., to dance to his calls in 1967.

Since that time, square dancing seems to be on the decline all over with a few exceptions, explained Dible. "Our membership is presently about seven or eight couples and four singles."

Quinter has an active club and several sometimes attend from there. Goodland has a club with Marie Edwards of Goodland still cueing the rounds a lot for the area club. A couple from Brewster and a couple from rural Rexford often attend, among others.

Ron Snyder has been the club caller since 1986. The local club wears square dance clothes but long western skirts are accepted in most places. Salina is the host for the state square dance convention attended by approximately 1,000 dancers the first Friday and Saturday in June. A national convention is held every year in different parts of the country.

"To dance the new challenging square dance, a series of lessons is necessary.

"They are not exactly easy but most people can learn. Many people do not realize that it is not like what is, or was, done in their physical education classes or even 4-H. There are 67 basic calls and many levels, with calls like 'Spin Chain and Exchange the Gears' that keep you on your toes figuratively and physically," Dible said.

Modern square dancing uses all types of music whereas the old style used only country/western, swing, etc. Now they dance to all kinds of music — classical, Irish, songs from musicals, popular, patriotic and spiritual are used depending on the caller. There are some callers who do gospel dances, Dible said.

"It is a wholesome recreation with no alcohol allowed and the people are friendly and you have a common bond with square dancers wherever you go, even in other countries where the basic calls are able to be understood as words like 'dosado' and 'allemande' left are the same in any language," she said.

The club has been funded by serving concessions at Hazlett's Auctions, as well as members' dues.

For information, contact Ron Snyder at 462-7996, Delma Dible at 672-3065 or Colby Recreation at 462-4440.

Golden Buckle Square Dance Club dancers enjoying a regular event.

Briefly

Weather: No change expected

Clear skies, nighttime temperatures in the 40s, daytime temperatures in the middle 70s to near 80, light winds and little or no precipitation is the Colby region's forecast through Thursday, says the National Weather Service forecast center. Colby's weekend temperatures: 82 on Friday, 92 on Saturday and 65 on Sunday; lows, 49 on Saturday, 46 on Sunday and 34 this morning. Precipitation remains at 3.03 inches for the month. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 69 degrees. The records for Sept. 24: 95 in 1979 and 29 in 1989. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

School carnival Saturday

BREWSTER — The annual Brewster school carnival will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday and run until 8 p.m. at the school. Fun and excitement has been planned by the Class of 2003, sponsors for this year's event. Many games are planned and many businesses and individuals have donated items for the silent auction.

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.

Music boosters meet tonight

The Colby Music Boosters will meet tonight beginning at 7 p.m. in the teacher's lounge at Colby High School. One club official said the group is really needing people to become more involved.

Church auction scheduled

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Colby, is having its annual 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. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the parish rectory, call 462-2179.

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