



COLBY FREE PRESS

Heat wave catches council's attention

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

Record-breaking temperatures and high water usage in Colby have prompted the city council to not only consider revamping the water emergency procedures, but also to urge residents to act responsibly when using water.

Although there are no mandatory guidelines in place, the council at its meeting Tuesday night, strongly suggested that people conserve water whenever possible.

During the past weekend when temperatures were over 100 degrees, water usage in the city averaged some 3.5 million gallons a day with the total usage in May up 30 million gallons over the average past five years for the same period, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. An average May usage is approximately 50 million gallons, Bieker told the council.

Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said that with no rain to speak of and, in trying to stay within the allocated water rights directed by the state, citizens need to look at ways to reduce their water consumption.

The council said it plans to revisit the water emergency policy in the near



F. Britton



T. Barrows

future and direction will be given to the city manager at that time.

In other council business:

Bieker recommended purchasing a used vibrating packer that Thomas County personnel just traded in on a new machine. Sellers Tractor, which has the packer for sale at a cost of \$14,000, also agreed to replace the manifold and cylinder inside the steering column should the city decide to buy it. Councilman John Bremenkamp said it is hard to find a piece of equipment at that price. The funds for the packer, which will assist the city's street department packing soil prior to resurfacing, will be paid from the Municipal Equipment Reserve Fund with repayment over the next two years from the special street fund. The coun-

cil voted unanimously in favor of the packer.

Francis Britton retired from his position as councilman in Ward IV after moving to another area of the city. Replacing him on the council is Todd Barrows, who was sworn in at the meeting. Britton was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his service. Britton was a councilman from April of 1993 until May of 2002.

The council unanimously approved an agreement with Miller and Associates in Nebraska to do a wastewater treatment facility evaluation at a cost of about \$22,000. The idea of an evaluation was discussed earlier by the council after they were made aware of problems with the treatment facility that would become more serious in the future.

The council approved the annual contract between the Thomas County Commissioners and the City of Colby for communication services.

A request from the Pioneer Memorial Library board for employee benefit funding, which has also been done on an annual basis, was again approved by the council. Under the funding agreement, the city agrees to pay employee benefits for library employees.

Busy weekend in store for Colby

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

Colby will host Heritage Daze Weekend on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, combining activities from both the annual Prairie Heritage Festival and Cruise to the Past Rod Run, said Leilani Thomas of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"This weekend will be a lively one in Colby," she said, "beginning Friday evening with a Cruise-in and early registration beginning at 5 p.m. at Sonic Drive Inn and Montana Mike's.

"Enjoy a 'blast from the past' as our guest disc jockey from Colorado spins your favorite oldies from the 50s and 60s," she said.

As the weekend continues, Saturday events will take place at Fike Park beginning at 9 a.m. with the Show &

Shine as the cars park around the perimeter of the park.

Activities include a horseshoe tournament and fun walk, Thomas said, and there will be loads of door prizes for the participants with about 200 top-notch cars competing for prizes and for the spectators to see. Award sponsors will have the opportunity to judge the cars and present the awards.

A church service will kick-off the event on Sunday morning in Fike Park, said Bev Biel, one of the coordinators of the Rod Run, with the message by Ron Palmer. A Poker run for \$500 in cash prizes will begin at 10 a.m. with the awards presentation at noon in Fike Park. Prairie Heritage Daze activities will be held Saturday also in Fike Park.

"This event is held to remind us of our heritage with events planned to

typify the activities of the early day settlers and is free to the public." Thomas said, "and the fun will begin at 9 a.m. with children's activities and an outdoor craft show."

New for the children this year will be a slide and a castle brought from Mile High Party Jumpers in Colorado, she said, along with an Early Prairie Iron Tractor show featuring antique tractors with awards given for the favorites.

"Numerous food vendors will be serving everything from traditional barbecue to Kettle Korn and a free watermelon feed will be held at 3 p.m.," she said.

Musical entertainment will be presented throughout the day as well as the Rod Run D.J. playing the oldies.

For information, call the Convention and Visitors Bureau at (785)462-7643.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Tera Raymond and her father Roger displayed their new -found family of baby rabbits. Seven of them were left in a nest in the Raymond front yard. The nest is visible in the picture at the bottom toward the left corner.

Surprise! Lawn yields bunny haven

By **DARREL PATTILLO**
Colby Free Press

Nine-year old Tera Raymond of Colby can do a near-perfect imitation of a baby rabbit in distress.

That's because Tera has first hand experience with baby rabbits. Seven of them, to be exact. Tera was playing in her front yard Monday with her parents, Roger and Karen, when she accidentally stepped on a nest of rabbits. The nest is camouflaged

perfectly, a hole about 10 inches deep surrounded by crabgrass and covered with a mixture of grass, twigs, and rabbit fur. This reporter walked right past it without seeing it; Roger Raymond mowed over the nest last week.

"I never saw it," he said. Roger has no idea how long the nest has been in his front yard. "We've never seen the mother."

What did you hear when you stepped on the nest, Tera?

"Eeek, eeek," she said.

The fate of the seven little rabbits is up in the air at this point; Tera says she wants to keep one as a pet, and Roger has acquired a book on raising rabbits. He is also busy keeping the family cat from staking a claim.

"I'm certainly welcome to suggestions," Rogers said. "Anyone with any idea of what to do with these rabbits just needs to get a hold of me."

His number is in the book.

Candidate using uncle's book title to help win secretary of state office

TOPEKA (AP) — If elected Secretary of State, Sen. David Haley promised to trim 10 percent from the office's budget and work to guarantee accurate and accessible elections.

Haley, D-Kansas City, said Tuesday he would challenge Republican incumbent Ron Thornburgh for the post. If elected he would be only the second Democrat in state history to hold the office.

Playing off the title of his uncle Alex Haley's Pulitzer Prize winning book, "Roots," he asked voters to give him a chance.

"Kansas voters should give our roots and our desire to ensure fair and equal elections a chance," he said.

Haley, 43, has spent eight years in the Kansas Legislature.

He served three terms in the House and was elected to the Senate in 2000.

His father, George Haley, was the first black elected to the state Senate in 1964.

A Republican, the elder Haley went on to serve in the administration of five presidents and was the ambassador to the Republic of

Gambia under President Clinton.

Haley said he would move quickly with election reform, citing problems in the 2000 presidential election in Florida.

He said that election had reaffirmed many voters' belief that their vote didn't count.

"This office should be the cradle of democracy," said Haley. "It is important that whether it's one vote or 10,000 that everyone is counted."

Election reforms proposed in Congress could signal the end for paper ballots and hand-

counting of election results.

Those methods would be replaced with touch-screen computers and other electronic devices capable of directly counting votes.

Besides election reform, the secretary's office is preparing to implement digital signatures which will allow Kansans to conduct business with the state online.

That project is not expected to be finished until next year.

Republicans have held the secretary of state office for 51 years. The only Democrat to hold

it was Larry Ryan of Manhattan — who many say won because he had the same last name as his Republican predecessor Frank Ryan.

Thornburgh, 39, a native of Burlingame, announced Monday he was seeking a third term. He has worked in the secretary of state's office for 19 years, starting in the mail room while in college.

He took over after Gov. Bill Graves was elected to his first of two terms as governor.

The filing deadline is June 10 for statewide offices and June 24 for legislative seats.

Death toll reaches 16 in suicide blast

MEGIDDO, Israel (AP) — An Islamic militant ignited a massive fireball when he blew himself up in a car packed with explosives alongside a crowded Israeli bus today. At least 16 passengers were killed and dozens wounded in the suicide attack marking the 35th anniversary of the 1967 Middle East War.

The bus flipped over twice and some passengers were hurled onto the as-

phalt, while others, including a man and woman embracing in their final moments, died trapped in the burning vehicle. Many passengers were soldiers en route to bases in the West Bank.

The bombing was claimed by the Islamic Jihad group and condemned by the Palestinian Authority. Israel held Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat responsible.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is to meet President Bush at the White House next week, convened his security Cabinet. "Following this attack, there will be no sanctuary and no safe haven for any terrorist," said Sharon adviser Raanan Gissin.

Education Minister Limor Livnat, who participated in the consultations, said no decision was made on a response.

Briefly

Heat moving in

It looks like the Colby region will be returning to much warmer temperatures, the National Weather Service forecast suggests. Tonight, expect skies to be mostly clear, lows in the 50s and south winds no more than 10 mph. Thursday, mostly sunny and warmer, highs in the lower 90s and south winds 10-15 mph. Thursday night, mostly clear, lows in the upper 50s.

Friday, mostly sunny, highs in the lower 90s. Friday night, clear and breezy, lows around 60. Saturday, mostly clear, breezy and continued very hot with highs in the upper 90s. Colby's high Tuesday was a cool 68 and the overnight low this morning was a very comfortable 52.

The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth has cooled down to 67 degrees. An additional 0.04 inches of precipitation falling after Tuesday's 8 a.m. measurement, gives Colby 0.56 inches to date for the month. The records for June 5: 98 in 1960 and 39 in 1970.

(The temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Bluegrass group to sell doughnuts

The Bluegrass Festival Committee will again be selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts with proceeds going to help with the annual festival, scheduled this year on July 19, 20 and 21. The doughnuts sell for \$7.50 per dozen and will be available in the Wal-Mart parking lot on Saturday from 7-10 a.m. The committee will also man a doughnut booth at Prairie Heritage Day in Fike Park on Saturday, and for the same purpose.

Cemetery board offers reminder

Cemetery officials in Colby are reminding everyone that now is the time to remove all Memorial Day decorations from Beulah Cemetery.

Any non-permanent decorations that are still at the site by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 10, will be removed by maintenance crews. The reason for removal of the decorations is to allow routine upkeep on the grounds.

Wheat Field Day next Monday

The annual Wheat Field Day is scheduled for Monday, June 10, beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Mike Brown's farm, five miles south of I-70 at the Levant exit.

The program will include presentations from Dr. Roger Stockton, area agronomy specialist with Kansas State University and Dr. Dan O'Brien, area agriculture economic specialist at Kansas State University. A light breakfast will be served at 7:15 a.m., followed by the presenters before moving on to the plot location. The field day is being sponsored by Mattson Farms in Levant.

Governor candidate plans visit

Dave Kerr, candidate for governor, will be in Colby at 11 a.m., Thursday, at the Colby Municipal Airport to announce his running mate in the race.

Field day planned June 6

The Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby is hosting a field day on Thursday, June 6. For information, call Vicki Brown at (785) 462-6281.

Deputy resigns over bad practical joke

NEWTON (AP) — A practical joke that backfired — a faked arrest by a Harvey County Sheriff's deputy — led to the deputy's resignation.

Matt Stineman resigned Monday, saying he regretted embarrassing the department.

"I learn from my mistakes," he said. "I sure didn't mean for it to go this far. It's a practical joke gone bad."

Stineman was not charged in the incident, and the sheriff's department said it has no plans to seek the revocation of his law enforcement certification.

I sure didn't mean for it to go this far.

Matt Stineman, Harvey County Sheriff's deputy

"He was allowed to resign," Det. Steve Bayless said. "We don't think this is an issue that in any way would affect his ability to be a law enforcement officer with any other agency."

Stineman, who had worked for the sheriff's department since January 1999 and was a road patrol deputy since June 2000, said he was playing a

joke on a civilian passenger in his patrol vehicle.

The joke involved making a bogus arrest of a woman Stineman has known for several years. But it led to a search for a man purportedly impersonating an officer after a relative of the woman reported the incident to a sheriff's department employee.

