



COLBY FREE PRESS

Logan County Fair highlights



Briana Jacobus of Oakley (left) set up her junior individual project booth for 4-H at the Logan County Fair. The carnival begins nightly at 7 p.m. The grandstand entertainment tonight is a free family night of games.



Lane Ochs of Russell Springs (right) washed up his bucket calf to get him ready for today's judging. All beef animals are judged today. The sheep and pigs will be judged on Thursday.

CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

City council acts in wake of drought

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Lots of heat + lack of rain = tough action by the city council!

Drought conditions, coupled with the real possibility of exceeding total water rights in Colby, have prompted city council members Tuesday night to take action and limit the time for outdoor watering, along with imposing excess water use charges for usage of water over certain amounts.

Effective immediately, the council said there will be no outdoor watering allowed between the hours of 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily. The motion, which was brought forward by Councilman Ken Bieber, was unanimously approved.

The watering restriction was not limited to just residential areas either, but rather was inclusive of all businesses to include commercial, industrial or governmental entities as well. In other words, the council made no allowances for the city, schools, college or other agencies.

"Everyone needs to cut back, not just the residents," said Eugene Wieland, council president.

The decision to restrict watering during 10 a.m. through 7 p.m. was made because that is the hottest part of the day, another councilman said. At one point, it was suggested to allow outdoor watering starting at 6 p.m. However, Councilman Herb Sunderman said at 6 p.m. last night the temperature was still at 95 degrees.

The council also agreed to enforce the restriction by directing Randy Jones, chief of police, to ticket any offenders.

For a first offense, the council decided on a warning or letter of reprimand with no monetary penalty. After the first and only warning, residents or businesses that fail to comply will be issued a \$25 fine, followed by a pro-

gressive increase up to \$250 if the violations continue.

The other change approved dealt with water charges for both residential and commercial/industrial customers.

Under the current water charge, residents pay a minimum amount of \$10 for the first 3,000 gallons of water used that month.

After that, the next 9,000 gallons are charged at a rate of 70¢ per thousand. In the proposal that took effect last night, the new rate would remain the same for both, said Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

The major changes will be seen when a resident uses between 12,000 and 25,000 gallons of water. Under the current system they would pay 70¢ for each one thousand gallons over the initial amount and in the newer plan approved, the cost jumped to \$1. Residents who use more than 25,000 gallons of water during the billing cycle will be charged an additional \$2 for each one thousand gallons, which is \$1.30 more than they would have paid before.

Commercial/industrial water charges changed as follows: The minimum charge of 3,001 gallons to 300,000 gallons will stay the same at 63¢ per one thousand. When businesses use between 300,001 to 500,000 gallons, the rate would be \$1 per one thousand rather than 63¢. Any businesses using more than 500,000 gallons of water would pay \$2 per thousand or \$1.37 more.

The council directed Armstrong to send postcards to all customers who pay a water bill within the city.

Bieber also requested that any money generated from the increased water charges be placed in a fund for future use should the state fine the city for exceeding its water rights or to apply for a larger water allocation in the future.

School board passes on downtown building

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby School Board took a pass on the building it was considering as the new home of the administration offices, after hearing from board members Wilburn Holloway and Bill Miller, who serve as the building committee for the board.

The board had been looking at the Lauterbach Building, located at the corner of Franklin and Fourth.

Holloway told the school board that the roof needs work, parking is limited, space inside the building is limited, and it would cost \$50,000 to wire for phones.

"I don't see where we would be gaining anything by moving there," Holloway said.

"Even if we don't take this building," Bill Miller said, "our first priority should be getting out of this one."

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen asked Miller and Holloway to meet with him to continue the search for another building.

Board treasurer Jo DeYoung presented the 2002-2003 budget for review. DeYoung informed the board that she had received an e-mail from the state that said Gov. Graves may withhold payments to the school districts in September.

The amount the state may hold back will be anywhere from 1 to 4 percent, she said.

"We are going to have to be ready to levy up to \$320,000 from the supplemental general fund," DeYoung said.

"We have to make this decision now," she added, "because we can't do it after the budget is published."

Miller and Holloway protested, citing the bad year that farmers have already had.

"We don't need to be paying any more taxes," Miller said.

The board told DeYoung to proceed with the budget. It will be published in August.

The board re-organized for the upcoming school year, re-electing Stan Molstad as president, while Cathy Gordon stepped down as board vice-president, nominating Tracy Rogers who received approval.

There were no other changes to the board.

The board approved the handbooks

for the district, and voted to renew its annual membership in the Western Plains Arts Association.

It also waived some policies, which will allow local and state law enforcement agencies to use school property to conduct training.

Also approved were out-of-district student admissions for Kelsey Strickler, Ryan Downing, Zachery Hinnergardt, Jewel and Jake Margheim, Corey Reed, Morgan and Paige Stephens and Dylan Titus.

The board approved the school district's 2002-2003 agreement with Head Start, with no changes.

The next regular meeting of the board will be Monday, Aug. 5, at 7 p.m. in the board room of the Administration Building, 210 S. Range.

Hospital board vacancies filled; two others accepted into membership

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Two new hospital board members were appointed last week to fill unexpired terms vacated recently by Kay Weston and Doug Munderloh, said Michael Boyles, chief executive officer at Citizens Medical Center.

Sheila Frahm and Bob Standage were nominated for the positions following a special membership meeting and advisory election held for that purpose last Monday. The hospital board then acted on the recommendation of its membership's nominating committee later in the day, he said.

In addition to Frahm and Standage being nominated and voted onto the hospital board, the entire membership also voted to allow Dave Jennings and Ron McInay position status as members. All four people will now be part of the 21-member group whose primary focus is to represent the overall community in affairs relating to the hospital, Boyle said.

During the past few months, both Boyles and Vern Schwanke, president of the board, have frequently been asked questions about the membership and who owns the hospital.

"Although we are a private hospital and cannot have open meetings," Schwanke said, "we understand that people want information."

Therefore, one of the major goals the board is keeping everyone informed by getting the word out on issues that affect them, he said.

As a way to open the lines of communication, Boyles and Schwanke talked about the membership, by-laws and hospital.

Although the hospital is a private and not-for-profit organization, Boyles said the by-laws call for 7 to 21 members, which make up the membership. It is from this membership that board members are chosen as representative of the community-at-large.

With the recent vote to include Frahm and Standage, the board and its membership are once again both at full strength. Other hospital

board members are Schwanke, president; Terry Cousins, vice-president; Curt Stephens, Judith Sears and Terry Wendall.

Prior to the four new members stepping forward, the membership totaled 19, but according to the by-laws, Boyles said, there can only be 21 people. Consequently, two members resigned their membership to make room for all those who volunteered to serve.

Stepping down from the membership were Edna Hansen and Larry Cox, who both gave varying reasons for their decisions. In Hansen's case, Schwanke said, she was nearing her three-year term and decided to give up her position for a newer member. As for Cox, the reason he resigned was based on employment obligations and the fact that he could not give as much time as he felt was needed for the position.

Under the by-laws of Citizens Medical Center, Inc., it is the entire membership's mission to seek out new members or arrange for committees when necessary, Boyles said.

The membership also gets together at the end of the year to review the financials and are given updates on activities at the facility, Schwanke said. The membership is also the pool from which board members are drawn to serve on the board of Citizens Medical Center, Inc. and Prairie Senior Living Center, he said.

This change occurred in 1998 when the hospital was refinanced and the living center was rolled over into the financing. Prior to the refinancing, each entity had separate boards and separate financial arrangements.

In determining who will be in the overall membership, Schwanke said the process can vary from word-of-mouth and people asking to become a member to the membership itself recruiting.

Along with the current board members, who are responsible for making decisions based on the representation of the entire membership, the other members at large include the two newest people, Jennings and McInay. Others are

Greg Schafer, Kevin Kriss, Evelyn Saddler, Donna Jennings, Lisa Wilson, Sharon Kriss, Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Kay Weston, Doug Munderloh, Craig Hills, Bud Van Horn and Tom Waldschmidt.

"Citizens Medical Center, Inc. was built in 1982 and it's the voting membership of the 501-C3," Schwanke said. For all intents and purposes, it is the membership who owns the facilities, but the members make decisions based on the "feelings of the community," he said.

Prior to the new hospital being built, the county owned St. Thomas Hospital.

According to historical records, a fund-raising campaign was organized in the late 1970s that encompassed Thomas County and beyond for the purpose of seeking out contributors for the new hospital.

At the time the new hospital opened, nearly \$1.8 million was raised through pledges and cash donations to assist in the financing of the \$5.6 million hospital, records noted.

WeatherWatch

Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers

Tuesday's high, 96
Low this morning, 65
Year ago today, 97 and 68
Temperature at 10 a.m. today, 81; Rainfall past 24 hours, 0.00; Month's rainfall, trace; Soil temp, 84
Records for July 17: 107 in 1930 and 49 in 1900

The forecast

The heat is going to remain. Today's high should reach near 98. Tonight, clear, lows in the upper 60s, south winds up to 15 mph. Thursday, sunny and hot, highs near 101, south winds up to 15 mph. Thursday night, clear, lows in the upper 60s. Friday, sunny and hot, highs again near 101. Thunderstorms are creeping into the forecast for late Sunday and Monday, but we'll just have to wait and see how that all meshes when we close in on the weekend. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Briefly

Logan County Fair activities

Tonight at the Logan County Fair, 6:30 — Public Style Revue (grandstand); 7 — Tri-County Amusement's home-owned carnival opens; 7:30 — Free Family Night of Games (grandstand)

Thursday at the fair beginning at 8 a.m. — 4-H Building opens; 8:30 — Sheep & Swine Show; 10:30 — Horticulture Judging; 1 p.m. — Round Robin Showmanship; 6 — Bread Baking Contest 7 — Tri-County Amusement's home-owned carnival opens; 7:15 — Logan County Drill Team; abd7:30 — KPRA Rodeo (grandstand)

The fair continues through Saturday night. Remaining schedules to appear in Thursday's and Friday's editions of the Free Press.

Pageant entry deadline nears

Entries for the Thomas County Rodeo Queen/Princess Pageants are due by Saturday, July 20 (not Sunday, July 28, as previously reported). This year's pageant will be held on Friday, July 26. For questions or information, call Trudy Wildeman, (785) 462-2848.

Registration deadlines near

The last day to register to vote or to change party affiliation for the Tuesday, Aug. 6 primary election is Monday, July 22, said Tracey Perkins, Thomas County clerk. Persons wanting to change affiliation or register can do either at the county clerk's office at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The clerk's office is also open through the lunch hour.

Blood drive slated next week

The Thomas County American Red Cross is sponsoring a community blood drive from noon until 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 24 at the Comfort Inn meeting room, 2225 S. Range Ave., Colby. To make an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE and walk-ins are welcome.

Teams sought for Relay for Life

Teams are now forming for this year's annual "Relay For Life" event in Thomas County to benefit the American Cancer Society. "The event is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to cel-

brate survivors, remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer," said Tina Dreiling, team captain chairman. "Relay for Life," will be begin at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 16 and conclude at 7 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 17. For questions, call Dreiling at 462-8677.

Extension office closes during fair

The Thomas County Extension Office will be closed during the week of the fair, July 29 through Aug. 2, and officials are reminding everyone that any business or services they may need during that week should be brought in prior to or after the county fair.

Nine-Run-Run apps available

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is hosting its seventh annual Nine-Run-Run, which will be held on Saturday, Aug. 3, beginning at 7 a.m. with registration. Those interested in participating in either the 10K run, 5K and 2 K fun runs, or the 53K bicycle ride, are encouraged to call the office at (785) 462-4585 or stop by the facility at 1275 S. Franklin, Colby to pick up applications.

