

COLBY FREE PRESS

Queen, princess named during rodeo activities

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press

People in the grandstands were entertained thoroughly on Tuesday night as PRCA Rodeo came to the Thomas County Fair and the 2002 Rodeo Queen and Princess were named.

Amy Wilson, 15, of Colby was named 2002 Rodeo Queen. She is the daughter of Lonnie and Lori Wilson, competing against Lisa Jones of Colby and Amy Anderson of Goodland.

Quinnlyn Woofter, 12, of Colby was named 2002 Rodeo Princess. She is the daughter of Mike and Jennifer Woofter. She was competing against Sam Nickel of Atwood, the daughter of Craig Nickel and Sandy Morris; Jessica Shaw of Selden, the daughter of Steve and Joni Shaw; and Amanda Fromholtz of Colby, the daughter of Shawn and Lisa Fromholtz.

Rodeo coordinator for the fair, Gary Garrett said 251 contestants are entered into the seven rodeo events which include bare-back riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, and barrel racing.

The rodeo will continue tonight at 8 p.m. where the scores from tonight will be added to Tuesday's for the final placings.

The first three place standings after Tuesday are as follows:

Bare Back: Dustin Murray, Corrales, N. Mex., 77 pts.; Zach Dishman, Beaumont, Texas, 76 pts.; and Steven Anding, Kaufman, Texas, pts.

Saddle Bronc: Bart Nichols, Guymon, Okla., 86 pts.; Bret Franks, Goodwell, Okla. 82 pts.; Dan Etbauer, Goodwell, Okla. 81 pts.; and Matt Elliott, Valentine, Neb., 81 pts.

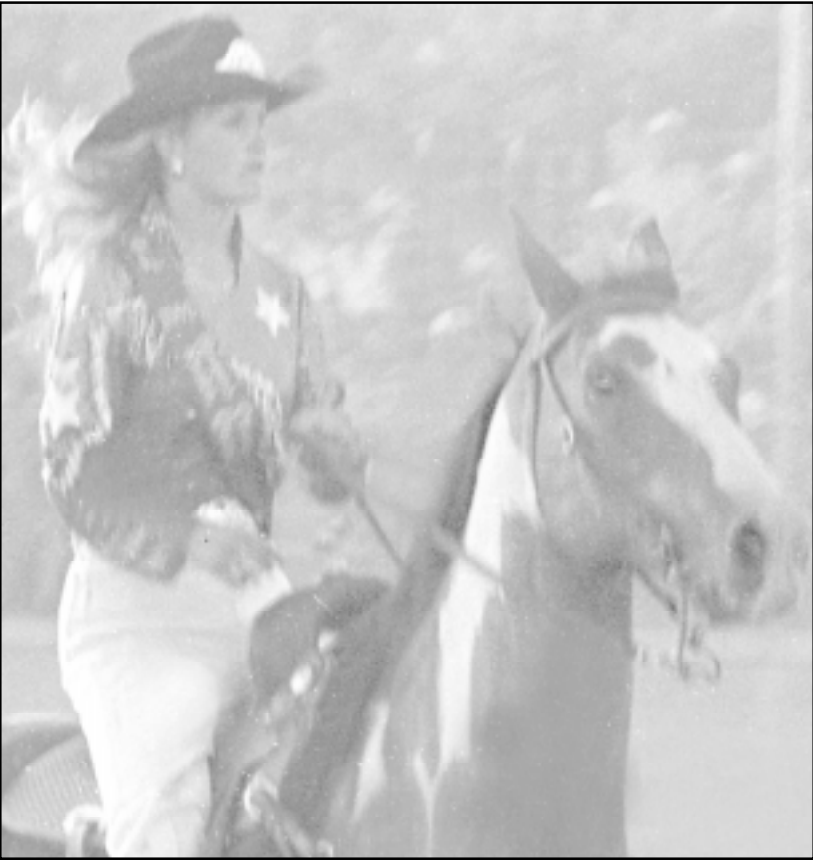
Bull Riding: Justin Jacobucci, Brighton, Colo., 84 pts.; Andre Metzker, Dallas, Texas, 76 pts.; Josh Johnson, Elizabeth, Colo., 75 pts.

Calf Roping: Cimarron Boardman, Jackson, Miss., 9.6 sec.; Brandon Neugebauer, Colorado Springs, Colo., 9.7 sec.; Tyler Mayse, Ponca City, Okla., 10.7 sec.

Steer Wrestling: Brady Bernahm, Burwell, Neb., 4.0 sec.; Garrett Nokes, McCook, Neb., 4.1 sec.; Clay Schaack, Wall, S.D., 4.3 sec.

Team Roping: Bret Boatright, Mulhall, Okla., and Mike Bacon, Soper, Okla., 5.2 sec.; David Key, Ledbetter, Texas, and Dugan Kelley, Paso Robles, Calif., 5.5 sec.; Mikey Fletcher, Okeechobee, Fla., and Travis Woodard, Stockton, Calif., 6.1 sec.

Barrel Racing: Jeanne Anderson, White City, Kan., 16.43 sec.; Gloria Freeman, Calhoun, Ga., 16.45 sec.; Deb Schroetion, Yuma, Colo., 16.71 sec.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

ABOVE LEFT: Rodeo Queen Amy Wilson rode her horse around the arena during the Queen Promenade after Tuesday nights coronation. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Many youngsters participated in the Mutton Bustin' competition before the rodeo on Tuesday night. Competition will begin again tonight at 7:30 p.m. **LEFT:** Children portraying Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs took first place for Second Generation in the children's float division of the fair parade.

Graves expands drought warnings

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves has expanded the state's drought warning to 83 counties because hot, dry conditions continue to burn up crops, stress livestock and deplete surface water supplies.

Graves said Tuesday that the situation has intensified since his July 3 drought warning for 61 counties. He put the losses to the state's agriculture economy in the "hundreds of millions."

"This is the most significant drought conditions in state history, rivaled by only a couple of previous

occasions," Graves said during a State-house news conference.

"We believe that we've exhausted most of the options and opportunities that we have for state response to a drought situation to this magnitude," Graves continued.

Included in Tuesday's warning were most of Kansas' urban population centers, in Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties, along with the Lower Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas-Lower Republican river basins.

Officials in the Kansas Water Office

have classified the drought as extreme in the Upper Republican, Solomon, Upper Arkansas and Cimarron river basins and severe in the Smoky Hill-Saline basin.

The governor has requested federal assistance, including asking President Bush to declare the counties disaster areas, which would trigger the release of grants and low-interest loans.

"Absent some moisture, there is little we can do," Graves said.

Graves has also asked Bush to support legislation that would give

Fair board releases parade winners

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press

The 2002 Thomas County Fair officially got underway Tuesday afternoon with the Fair Parade, which made its way from Fike Park in Colby down Franklin Ave. to Cedar Street and proceeded to the fairgrounds.

The following are the results of the judging from this year's Thomas County Fair Parade:

Adults: Band, Drill teams: first, Colby Middle School; second, Colby High School Dance team.

Animal Drawn vehicles: Wilburn

Henry, Paula Eidree Chapin, Bralyn and Bryce Henry.

Horse and Saddle Clubs: first went to Darla Talley; second, Carlee Ann Parke, Miss Rodeo McCracken.

4-H Clubs: First went to the Abiline Hustlers; second, Solomon Valley; and third the Gem 4-H Club.

Business Floats: 1st, F&M Bank; 2nd, Paul Stephens Harvesting; 3rd, Wal-Mart.

Organization and Personal Floats: first place went to John McDermott; second, Farm Bureau; third, Conservation District.

Antique Drawn Vehicles: first place

to Mark Wood; second, Murray Adrian; third, Stan Kauk.

Children:

Organizational and Personal Floats: first to Mickey Miller - Second Generation; third, Sugar and Spice, Shannon Koon; third Madison and Freddy Haines.

Best Dressed Pet: Jaylea Black, Jay and Cindy Black.

Most Unusual Costume: first place to Nathan Quagliano; second, Tucker Gerstner.

Best Decorated Wheeled Vehicle: first, Mason Fromholtz; second, Zachary Cardwell.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers
Tuesday's high, 100
Low this morning, 63
Year ago today, 98 and 72
Temperature at 10:15 a.m. today, 83
Colby's rainfall, 0.00
Month's total, 1.49
Oakley's rainfall, 0.00
Month's total, 2.91
Soil temp, 85
Records for July 31: 108 in 1935 and 44 in 1925

The forecast
Today's high for the Colby and Oakley area is expected to reach near 105. Tonight, clear, lows around 71, south winds 10-20 mph. Thursday, partly sunny, a chance of showers or thunderstorms (about 30 percent), highs in the lower 90s, northwest winds to 20 mph. Thursday night, a 30 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows near 65. Friday, partly cloudy, another 30 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, highs in the lower 80s. *(Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)*

Colby Water Usage
• July 30 = 2.986 million gallons
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

Patrol seizes \$122,000 in routine stop

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press

The Kansas Highway Patrol seized \$122,000 from a Las Vegas man on July 18, said Capt. Kelly McQuire, with the public resource office in Hays today.

Harold Becker, 62, was pulled over at mile marker 66 on Interstate 70 by

the Highway Patrol for failing to maintain a lane and consented to a search of his rented 2002 Pontiac Grand Am. Troopers found the money in a duffel bag in the trunk of the car.

McQuire said that Becker initially told the troopers that there was \$72,000 in the bag, but a subsequent count revealed the actual amount. The money

and the car were taken to Colby, where a drug dog alerted on the car, but not the money. McQuire said that federal laws require documentation of amounts over \$10,000. Becker lacked this documentation, so the money was seized pending an investigation. The FBI, IRS, and the DEA have been notified, McQuiresaid.

Briefly

Armed robbery suspects arrested

A couple suspected of being involved in the armed robbery at Colby's Dollar General Store last week are now in custody with St. Joseph, Mo., law enforcement officials. Colby police officials received word on Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. about this development in the case, said Gary Shull, Colby police investigator. The suspect's name is Gary W. Reynolds, 43. However, as of press time, authorities had no other details as to where Reynolds was from or who the female suspect was. The incident occurred when Colby police were alerted of the armed robbery by an employee of the store last Wednesday. Within a minute, officers were at the scene in an effort to catch the suspect before he had a chance to get away, said Colby Police Chief Randy Jones. The couple is also suspected of robbing a TCBY in Hays and Ellis County is also wanting to extradite Reynolds and the female companion as well. No other details of how the couple were captured or status of the extradition were available today.

State park to enforce fire ban

Due to the continued drought, a campfire ban is now in place at the Prairie Dog State Park, located outside of Norton. All open fires, including the use of upright grills, fire-rings and any type of campfire are banned until further notice, said Steve Mathes, park manager.

However, he did say that propane grills are still being permitted for cooking purposes. Signs have been posted at the entrance to the park. "Knowing that campfires are a big part of camping, we held off as long as we could before instating the fire ban," Mathes said. The reason for the ban is the potential fire danger, which has increased in recent weeks. Several other western Kan-

sas parks also have a current ban on open fires.

Retiring school personnel invited

School personnel considering retirement or are retired are encouraged to a meeting in Colby beginning at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 14, in the administration building located at 210 S. Range. The Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel and the National Association of Retired Teachers are sponsoring this listening tour across Kansas, said Jewel Thomas, president of the association. "The association believes that these meetings will help people better understand the needs of retiring and retired school personnel, he said. No pre-registration is required.

Railroad club takes part in fair

The Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club will have their layout open to the public during the Thomas County Fair. The club will be open beginning tonight and through Friday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. They are located at the back of the Colby Public Schools administration building.

Leadership nominations wanted

Applications are now being accepted for the 2002-03 Leadership Thomas County program, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators.

The purpose of the program is to develop future leaders for the county and application requests can be made by businesses, civic clubs, organizations or by individuals, she said. Additionally, people can nominate themselves if they are interested in learning more about 21st Century leadership.

Completed forms must be returned to the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce by Friday, Aug. 23. For questions

or an application, call (785) 462-3401 or stop by the office at 350 S. Range, Suite 10 in Colby.

Rexford plans flea market for Aug. 3

Rexford PRIDE will be holding its Farmers/Flea Market on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a city-wide garage sale running at the same time. These events are held the first Saturday of the month and booth space is \$10, said Peg Greenwood, one of the organizers.

Among the vendors taking part at the next flea market are the Rexford Boy Scouts who will be setting up for lunch and having bake sale items available.

Anyone interested in participating as a vendor can call Greenwood at (785) 687-4346 or Evelyn Johnson at (785) 687-3925.

Landfill hours revisited

The Thomas County Landfill is open for their summer hours Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. For information about the landfill or charges contact Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

Vendors wanted for sidewalk sale

Vendors are wanted for this year's annual *Sidewalk Sale* beginning at 4 p.m. and concluding around 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8. According to organizers from the Colby Downtown Merchants Committee, any groups or organizations that would like to sell items are encouraged to call Bonnie Dinkel at 462-2751.

One example of a group planning to do something at the sidewalk sale, she said, is the 9th-10th grade Mid-America Youth Basketball boys team, who will be selling cotton candy.

