



COLBY FREE PRESS

Getting things ready



Darrell Pattillo/Colby Free Press

Kurt Maurath and Ryan Inman worked to put the finishing touches on a classroom sink Thursday afternoon at Heartland Christian School. There will be a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony followed by

an open house on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. School will officially begin in the new facility on Tuesday, Aug. 27. The school's new location is along west U.S. 24 in what once was the Colby Plaza.

Nielsen confirms application sent for water permit

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen confirmed today that the school district has applied for a permit to drill an irrigation well on the Colby High School campus. He said the application was submitted by hand to the Kansas Department of Agriculture in Topeka on Aug. 9.



K. Nielsen

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Kirk Nielsen,
Colby superintendent

"This is something I've thought about doing since the new high school was built," Nielsen said. "However, at this time I'd say the chances of it being done are very small."

Nielsen cited cost as the reason that plans for a well are now on hold. "I did some checking around, and decided it would be more cost effective to continue buying water from the city instead of drilling."

There was a \$400 in application fees for the permit, which Nielsen said is "good for awhile."

In light of the fact that Colby Community College had considered a wa-

ter well of their own, Nielsen denied any sense of urgency in filing the application by hand.

"We had somebody going to Topeka that day," he said. "It was just a matter of them dropping it off. If we decide for sure that we're not going to drill the well, we'll let the college know."

Nielsen also denied any concerns with the drought conditions as a reason for digging a well. "It's always made sense to have a well near the school, with the practice fields so close," he said. "I've always thought it was a good idea."

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Thursday's high, 92
Low this morning, 56
Year ago today, 83 and 64
Temperature at 11:15 a.m. today, 81
Colby's 24-hour rainfall, 0.03
Oakley's 24-hour rainfall, 0.10
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 80
Records for Aug. 23, 106 in 1943 and 41 in 1964

The forecast

Today, look for temperatures to climb into the middle 90s. Tonight, there is a 60 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows are expected to be in the 60-degree range, southeast winds around 15 mph. Saturday, cloudy, a 50 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, highs in the upper 70s to around 80, east winds 10-20 mph. Saturday night, cloudy, precipitation chances decrease to around 20 percent, lows in the upper 50s to around 60, with areas of fog after midnight. Sunday, sunny, highs in the upper 80s and Monday, partly cloudy, highs in the upper 80s. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the North-West Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Colby Water Usage

• Aug. 22 = 2.702 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)

Conservation district concerned with future funding

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

When it comes to helping rural homeowners and producers, many people might not be aware of all the services provided by the Thomas County Conservation District office.

Within the district, financial assistance can range from replacing failed septic systems and plugging cesspools to technical support, education and a

lot of other cost-sharing dollars for projects, but no organization is immune to the rising cost of doing business.

"The Thomas County Conservation District is the only entity in the county that has state funding available to assist rural families, stockmen and agriculture producers to install practices that conserve and protect local resources," said Jon Starns, director of

the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts which serves the 18 northwest Kansas counties.

However, Starns said that Thomas County, along with other districts in the 18-county area are facing financial hardships.

"The money invested in the conservation district is a good investment for the county and I speak for many when I say that I would hate to see these op-

portunities jeopardized because of lack of support from our county," he said.

For Starns and the district, the major concern is not being able to continue to grow and contribute to the same degree as in the past.

"If we do not have appropriate funding, we cannot meet the operations expenses and service demands," he said.

In substantiation, Starns said that

during the last 59 years, the Thomas County Conservation District has concentrated its program on non-point pollution control, groundwater and surface water protection, urban activities, flood control, rural development, grassland improvement, soil conservation, wetland and wildlife enhancement, solid waste reduction and con-

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Kansas to launch statewide Amber Alert system Oct. 1

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas plans to launch a statewide Amber Alert system on Oct. 1, to become one of a dozen states with a method for locating and recovering abducted children.

A 30-member task force formed by Attorney General Carla Stovall has

been meeting since March to get the program operating. It is a partnership between the attorney general, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas Highway Patrol, local law enforcement and the Kansas Association of Broadcasters.

Stovall made the system one of her initiatives as she completed her term this spring as president of the National Association of Attorneys General.

"I really thought it would take more to get it going, but that's not been the case," said Stovall, whose term in state

office ends in January.

Stovall said Kansas had been working on the system long before a spate of child abductions gained national media attention during the summer. She cited the recent successful rescue of two California teenagers as proof

that the system works.

"There's no question we have a lot of media attention," said Stovall, pointing to the reporters present at Wednesday's meeting. "Partnering with the media makes our job a lot easier."

District patrons invited to meet new Colby teachers

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

More new faces, and everyone in the Colby School District is invited to come out and meet them.

A "Meet the Teachers" reception will be held Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby, sponsored by the Parent-Teacher-Student Association.

"We hope people will attend and support this event, which will be a 'come and go' casual and relaxed atmosphere," said Toni McAdams, president of PTSA.

There are 25 teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators and other support staff that will be welcomed to the community, she said.

Among the new faces is Don Barta,

principal at Colby High School; Kimber Boardman, high school vocational CCVEP; James Gray, high school vocational technical education; Jennifer Wassemler, high school vocal; Paige Gawith, middle school language arts; and Keith Ross and Dolly Vincent, middle school math.

Other new teachers are Eric Eicher, high school English; Vanessa Eicher and Jennifer Higerd, high school foreign language; and Jesse Vincent, high school physical education and strength training.

Two new custodians include E. Doyle Glasscock and Kayla Korte and two new food service employees, Shari Lock and Carl Schwarz.

In addition, there are seven new paraprofessionals to include Rose

Schacher, Roger Herren, Bonnie Dible, Julie Barnes, Janet Pinkelman, Jo Holmgren, and Stacy Hall.

New clerical help at the high school is Kathy Owen in the counseling department and two new high school library clerks, Jayme Pfeifer and Arlene Scartozzi.

The new teachers replaced departing staff to include Margaret Houtz, English; Leanna Wylie and Shirley Faver, language arts; Mike Gottsch, Bryan Bullington, Duane Custer, Wayne Wiens, Chris Latta, Karla Denny and Del Dack.

Questions or information about the event on Sunday can be directed to McAdams at 462-6248 or Connie Davis, secretary-treasurer, at 462-7188.



By PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Toni McAdams, Parent Teacher Student Association president, spoke with new teacher from the Colby Middle School on Thursday afternoon. They are: (left to right) Dolly Vincent, math; Paige Gawith, language arts; Toni McAdams, PTSA president; and Keith Ross, math. PTSA will host a "Meet the Teachers" on Sunday afternoon.

Briefly

Girl Scout registration set

Registration for Girl Scouts will be Thursday, Aug. 26, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Colby Girl Scout Center, 520 West Fifth, in the basement of Puddle Duck Preschool. For information contact Shannon Koon at 462-6662.

Amusement Association to meet

The Thomas County Amusement Association will be meeting on Monday at 8 p.m. at the Thomas County Office Complex. The public is invited.

Meeting planned to recruit EMTs

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will have an informational meeting on Thursday, Aug. 29, beginning at 7 p.m. for the purpose of recruiting interested people in becoming emergency medical technicians. Everyone is invited to attend. For questions or information,

call Kathi Wright, director, at 462-4585.

Actors sought for fall production

The Colby Community College drama department will be conducting auditions for the fall production of *Scapino!* by Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 4-5.

Auditions will begin at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby College campus. The auditions are open to students and the community, said Walter Yuhre, drama instructor, and will consist of reading from the script. "Actors who have prepared monologues are invited to perform their audition pieces," he said.

The play will feature roles for both men and women between the ages of 18 to 65 with performance dates of Nov. 7, 8 and 9. Those selected from the audition will begin rehearsing on Tuesday, Sept. 17. For questions or information, call Yuhre at 462-4783.

Democrats invited to meeting

The Thomas County Democratic Central Committee will meet on Thursday, Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex. All interested Democrats are invited to attend. This is the re-organization meeting and plans for fund raising will be discussed, said Rosalie Seemann, one of the coordinators of the event.

Vendors sought for fall festival

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce is seeking vendors for the "Celebration on the High Plains Fall Festival," scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, at Southwind Plaza in Colby. All types of booths are welcome to include food booths, various types of exhibitors, along with those wanting to do demonstrations or sell crafts and other items. For questions or details on booth prices for this event, call Jada Johnson, executive secretary at the Chamber office, 462-3401. The deadline for vendors plan-

ning to participate is Friday, Aug. 30.

Farm meeting planned next week

A farm program training and informational meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 26, at 1 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus. The meeting is sponsored by the Thomas County Farm Service Agency and everyone is invited to attend. For questions, call 462-7671.

Crafters needed for fall event

Plans for the annual Colby Girl Scout Craft Sale are now underway, said Jan Barnum, coordinator. As in year's past, Barnum said crafters are needed for the event, which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Colby Community Colby. For questions or information on how to arrange for a booth at the 'Craft-a-Ganza,' call her at 462-6503.

