



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby man fed up with... Residential speedway *Takes concerns to the city council*

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

One Colby man is fed up with speeding cars going up and down his neighborhood and asked the city council at its meeting Tuesday night if there was anything they can do.

Tracy Rogers, who lives in the 1800 block of W. 5th Street near where the road turns into Smith Drive, said he's not the only resident frustrated by the cars "flying by."

He told the council that he talked with them about two years ago and brought a signed petition from many of the residents requesting something be done about the problem.

"Since that time, we haven't seen anything changing," Rogers said. "In that one block area, there are about 21 children and two daycare facilities."

Even though, he said, parents teach their children to look both ways before crossing the streets, sometimes while playing a ball will shoot out and young people don't always think before doing.

Rogers said he has lived in that neighborhood for almost seven years and the situation isn't getting better.

He offered suggestions such as putting speed bumps in the roadway, or erecting signs that indicate "children playing," or even having officers increase patrols in that area.

Herb Sunderman, councilman, said he and his neighbors on Brookside Drive have also been fighting the same thing in their area. "This is a serious problem throughout Colby," he said.

Colby Mayor Warren Hixson said he believes putting signs up to indicate children playing would be a good option and at least somewhere to begin.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, also agreed with Rogers and the council that this is a problem. She didn't think speed bumps were a good solution because the first time there's snow in that area and the plows go out, they would rip out the bumps.

Randy Jones, police chief, had an additional option requiring the help of residents, whether in Rogers neighborhood or elsewhere. Jones said that if someone witnesses a car and the driver exceeding the speed limit of 30 mph in residential areas, they can call the police and turn it in.

"The witness would need to get the license number of the car and be able to identify the driver," he said. Once the speeder is identified, Jones said, the witness can call the police department and make a complaint.

Even though the officer didn't see the infraction, Jones said, they can issue a citation. However, if the person who was reportedly speeding wants to take issue with the ticket, they still have the option of fighting it in court.

Rogers thanked the council for their cooperation, and hopes the signage will help. He also said he would be willing to call complaints in to protect children in his neighborhood.

There are drivers in town who aren't paying attention to speed limits and oftentimes children are unsuspecting of the danger while playing, Rogers said. He also said he wasn't alone in his concern about the irresponsible action of some drivers. There are a lot of people in his neighborhood frustrated with the situation.

For questions or to turn in a complaint, Jones urges people to call 462-4460.

Council gives approval

Firemen win hazmat title

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council gave its unanimous approval to allow the fire department to move forward on becoming one of only a few chemical assessment teams in the state.

Bob McLemore, fire chief, told the council during its meeting Tuesday night that the Colby Fire Department was identified by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office as a good location and choice for such a team.

"The hazardous materials response program in Hays started up about five years ago," McLemore said, "but there were no assessment teams in western Kansas to respond to hazmat spills."

Prior to the program, he said, the fire department would handle a spill the best it could. Along with educating Colby's own firefighters, McLemore said, members of the department have also taught hazardous material courses to firefighters in Goodland, Oakley,

Winona, and Atwood.

Hays currently serves as the regional hazardous materials response program for western Kansas and the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office approached Colby's fire department about having a chemical assessment team.

Citing a hypothetical situation, McLemore said, that in the event Scott City, for example, had a chemical spill, their officials would first contact the State Fire Marshal's Office.

After that, the state would call the Colby Fire Department's assessment team to assess the chemical hazard. Once Colby's team has made its assessment, it would then be up to the program to handle the cleanup. The assessment team would not take part in that phase of the spill, he said.

"We have firemen trained to respond in the northwest 15 counties and the agreement with the state would also include \$10,000 in equipment," he said.

The only cost to the city would be for a baseline physical for each team member. Estimating that 11 firefighters would be trained for the team, the cost for the physicals would be about \$270 each or approximately \$3,000.

However, McLemore said he would still be inquiring whether or not the state could pick up the initial cost for those physicals.

This service will be a benefit to Colby, in addition to showing leadership for northwest Kansas, he said.

Along with the leadership and benefits to the city, Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, encouraged recommending the agreement since it is also a "critical service" for the area.

Prior to the council meeting, Joel Kriss, city attorney, did review the state's agreement for Colby becoming a chemical assessment team. As a result of that review, he said he didn't have any concerns with the proposal.

Hutchinson gets salty grant

HUTCHINSON (AP) — The Kansas Underground Salt Museum has received \$283,500 from the federal government, but it still needs to dig deeper.

The grant, announced by Rep. Jerry Moran on Monday, puts the museum just shy of halfway in its \$7.9 million fund-raising campaign. The money did not require local matching and is to be used for construction of the facility, not its operation.

"This will be a one-of-a-kind attraction in Reno County and, once completed, will have a significant impact on the local economy," said Moran.

"With the Kansas Cosmosphere, the state fair and now the first Underground Salt Museum, the city of Hutchinson is a leader in making Kansas a tourist destination," he said.

The salt museum is scheduled to open in 2005.

Briefly

Kindergarten pre-enrollment set

Kindergarten pre-enrollment for the 2003-04 school year at Colby Grade School is from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28 in the conference room at the school. For questions or what paperwork is necessary, call 465-5100.

Sweet Thunder sign-up announced

Sweet Thunder will hold its annual sign-up/informational meeting on Sunday, March 9 in Room 106, Student Union, Colby Community College, at 3 p.m. Players and parents, and others interested, are urged to attend. Call Barb Wieland, Manuel Rubio, Susan Wark, Donna Augustine or Tanya Staats for additional information. Registration forms or additional information is available on their website at www.colbysweetthunder.org.

Childbirth education series to begin

The next Colby Childbirth Education series will start on

Thursday, March 6 will subsequent classes scheduled on March 20 and 27, and April 3. They will be held in the Health Science Building on the Colby Community College Campus. More information is available at 462-6845, ask for Tina Schrick.

Commodities are still available

Commodities are still available for eligible persons who missed the Feb. 17 distribution. Call the RSVP Office at 462-6744 to obtain guidelines and make arrangements for pickup. The next scheduled distribution will be in May.

'Hospital Notes' needs your help

If you have a family member hospitalized here or elsewhere in our reading area — or is being dismissed — and you want his/her name to appear in the *Free Press*, please call us at 462-3963 no later than 10 a.m. each day for inclusion in that day's paper. Most hospitals no longer provide that service.

Power gang at work



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

A crew from Midwest Energy continued installing three-phase electric poles Tuesday just east of Colby on Highway 24. When completed, the power will run the monitoring wells to the east and water treatment facility for the Ace Services Superfund cleanup. The wells and treatment plant are located east of Golden Hardware. Randy Prideaux (above) from Atwood is drilling, with Rich Howland (left), also of Atwood and Dennis Ambrosier, Bird City, making adjustments on one of the poles.

Teachers show board how workshop helped move history into classrooms

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

A workshop conducted this summer, funded by the Kansas Historic Preservation Grant, enabled 13 teachers from the Colby public schools to learn to how incorporate local history into their classrooms.

During Monday night's school board meeting, members heard from Judy Kleinsorge, director of the Prairie Museum of Art and History and Colby teachers Diana Hanzlick and Robin Schwanke.

Kleinsorge said each teacher was asked to develop either four worksheets involving the history of Colby or a complete teaching unit. She has been working towards a project such as this for several years and was pleased with the outcome.

Hanzlick is a teacher at the middle school and showed some of the ways she has put the workshop

information to use. She said using the history of the Thomas County Fairgrounds during UGLY day, a problem solving day, she had her students learn about the history of the tabernacle.

Also her the seventh grade language classes are doing their research projects this year about different buildings in Colby.

Schwanke said her third grade students are learning about western expansion and she has incorporated the history of Colby into her lessons. She said talking about the railroads, pioneers and why the community was settled and intrigued her students.

Kleinsorge says she plans to hold another workshop this summer and hopefully include other communities in the county.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the consent agenda

including payment of the bills and approval of the minutes from the Feb. 3 meeting.

- Decided to not hold a meeting on April 7, as Superintendent Kirk Nielsen will be out of town.

- Approved an out of district field trip request for high school students to attend a Lodging/Management Competition in Topeka.

The trip is paid for by a grant and one high school will be competing in the contest while two to three others will be attending to observe.

- Approved Kelly Cowan to be an out of district student.

Cowan is from Oakley and will be attending the grade school.

- Accepted the resignation of Jeannie Hopkins, a janitor at the middle school.

- Approved three supplemental contracts for three middle school track coaches.

'Weathering tough times' meeting set

The Citizens Foundation and Citizens Medical Center Inc., will be sponsoring a timely conference to which the public is invited on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

"Weathering Tough Times in Agriculture—helping others, helping ourselves," will be the topic at the City Limits Convention Center, just south of the I-70/K-25 interchange.

Two sessions will be held, the

morning session from 9-11 a.m. and the afternoon session from 1-3 p.m.

There is no charge for this important and informative meeting, said Tama Unger, of the Citizens Foundation.

She asks that interested persons call the Foundation at 462-1214 or Citizens Medical Center at 462-7511 for more information or to RSVP.

Sacred Heart carnival Sunday

Sacred Heart School's annual carnival begins at 11 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m., this coming Sunday. The event will feature lunch with bierocks and sloppy Joes, along with games and other prizes. For questions, call 462-2813.

Red Cross classes planned

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross announces the following classes: shelter operations class from 8:30 a.m. until noon, Saturday; a first aid course from 6 to 10 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27; and a two-day instructor training course on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11 and 12, with times to be announced. Classes will also be offered by arrangement for a "Ready, Set, Roll" class to train drivers in the emergency response vehicle drivers and an introductory class to disaster services.

To enroll, call the Red Cross office at (785) 462-7161. Courses will be held at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range.



Brisk winds in the works

Tonight...mostly cloudy and brisk. Lows in the upper 20s. Southwest wind 15 to 25 mph, gusting to 35 mph from late evening on. Thursday...mostly cloudy and breezy. Highs near 50. Southwest wind 15 to 25 mph, gusting to 35 mph. Thursday night...partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Friday...mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Friday night...mostly cloudy and breezy. Lows in the lower 20s.

The numbers

Monday's high, 52
Low this morning, 20
Soil temperature, 36
Year ago, 54 and 27
Month's precipitation, 0.26
Month's snowfall, 2 inches
Records, 77 in 1930 and -1 in 1894

