



COLBY FREE PRESS

Sign language



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Members of the Colby Booster Club spent quite a few hours last Friday night getting advertising banners displayed around the track at Dennen Field during the football scrimmage. For many years, the club has sold the banners to area businesses as a way of raising money, which in turn buys items to help with school activities. One of the more recent purchases by the Booster Club was a new type of shoulder pads for football players at a cost of about \$800. Among those helping put the banners up last week were: Anita Powell (foreground), Joel Powell, Travis Powell and Wayne Sulzman. Joel said the club has 98 banners up with 5 more either getting repaired or being added. If any business or individual is interested in displaying their "Eagle Pride," Powell said to call any booster club member for information.

Some grumbling over new rules, principal tells board

But all-in-all, things are going okay

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

New handbook rules are causing a little grumbling, Colby High School's principal told the school board at its Tuesday meeting.

The board heard from principal Brian Kraus on the new handbook rules. He said there's been a little grumbling about the rules and regulations regarding piercings.

School board member Kevan Taylor asked what the policy is on earrings or eye rings. "The policy isn't written as well as I like," Kraus said. However, he said that the issue will be handled on an individual basis. He said when there's a new standard put into practice, someone will always have a problem with it. "There really haven't been any significant problems," he said. "It's been fairly smooth."

Kraus said students aren't al-

“There really haven't been any significant problems. It's been fairly smooth.”

Brian Kraus,
Colby High School principal

lowed to have a visible facial piercing, like a pierced lip or eyebrow, but earrings are allowed.

"They're asked to remove them (the facial piercings)," he said. "It's an all or nothing sort of situation."

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said he understands the interpretation of the rules and Kraus is being consistent with it. Grade school Principal Terrel Harrison said the school year has started off well there. Middle school Principal Robb Ross said students are doing 30 minutes of reading a day and that athletics for

his students kick off this week.

In other matters:

- The board approved a bid from A.J. Electric in the amount of \$54,696 for middle school lighting system renovations.

- The board approved emergency substitute teaching licenses, out of district field trips, three special education paraprofessionals and out of district student requests.

The board also went into executive session to discuss personnel issues, but took no action when the meeting reopened to the public.

Fire calls know no holiday

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Labor Day was anything but relaxing for Colby firefighters who were called out twice — once for an attic fan malfunction and later when some type of vehicle hit a gas meter causing gas to spew out in a residential area.

The attic fan fire was reported at about 3:45 p.m., said J.L. Ellis, service officer with the city fire department, after someone called "911" to report seeing flames coming from the top of a house at 540 N. Chick.

Fire officials speculated that something might have gotten caught in the fan blade, such as the screen used to keep birds and other debris from getting inside, resulting in it getting tangled in the blade and causing the fan to overheat scorching the area around the fan and the fan itself.

Firefighters ventilated the attic to remove the smoke and although damage was minor, the attic fan and

some of the roof shingles which melted some of the asphalt will need to be replaced, he said.

Ellis said these type of attic fans are powered by a thermostat that normally will kick on at 90 to 95 degrees. When firefighters arrived at the scene, the first thing they did was shut off all the utilities, which might have also helped to de-energize the fan and limit the damage from being more extensive, he said.

In the second incident, a neighbor in the area of West 7th and Grant St. called to report a "hissing and gas smell" in the alley behind 665 N. Grant. Two firefighters and employees from Midwest Energy responded and discovered that a gas meter was struck by some type of vehicle.

Ellis said firefighters were there to make sure the leaking gas didn't become a hazard to area residents while Midwest officials repaired the problem.

Jail needs some attention, but not many interested

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County jail needs some maintenance. But getting that is not as simple as it might sound.

Undersheriff Mike Baughn was at the commissioners meeting Monday to discuss the issue. He said he solicited proposals from several companies to do maintenance on the county's jail system, such as locks that need to be rebuilt and the access doors that need some work. But the only proposal he received

was from Integrity Steel Works, Colorado Springs, Colo., for approximately \$2,950 for an initial cleaning.

Baughn wanted a five-year maintenance agreement but wasn't sure what the cost would be for the entire five-year period because the company didn't provide it.

County Commissioner Ron Evans told him to find out and also suggested trying out the company for a year to see how things go.

Baughn said they did do a walk-

through and found the locks and doors need some work just to improve things.

"It really needs a complete go-through to get everything up to snuff," he said.

"It does need some maintenance. I think it's important we get on a maintenance schedule."

In other business, the commissioners heard from Mark Ostmeyer, airport manager, regarding a proposed antenna tower. Ostmeyer said National Public Television would

like to put up an antenna in the county but it exceeds Federal Aviation Administration obstruction standards.

The proposed tower would be 1,267 feet tall and the FAA is conducting a study to determine if the tower will affect navigable airspace in the area. "The county really doesn't have any ordinances on this," he said. "The FAA doesn't have a problem with it the way it stands."

Ostmeyer said it could be a con-

cern later on if it is erected because it could have an effect on approaches to the airport.

Also, he said he would like the county to work with the city on the matter and he doesn't want to run anyone out, but only wants to protect the airport.

Evans said he was fine with that and the commissioners would support an ordinance to protect the airport and its future growth.

"We're on the same page," he said.

Death toll climbs to six in drownings

EMPORIA (AP) — The death toll from the raging waters that swept cars off the Kansas Turnpike during the weekend rose to six Tuesday, when searchers recovered the bodies of a Texas man and the mother of four children who also drowned.

The body of Melissa Rogers, 33, of Glenaire, Mo., was found around 7:30 a.m. about 2 miles from the

turnpike in a reservoir pond, Emporia Fire Chief Jack Taylor said.

The body of Al Larsen, 31, of Fort Worth, Texas, was found in the same general area about two hours later.

Larsen and the Rogers family drowned after heavy rain sent a 6-foot wall of water over turnpike late Saturday about 11 miles south of here. Melissa Rogers' husband,

Robert, 37, survived.

Taylor said the bodies were found north of where they were swept off the turnpike, near where Jacob Creek spills into the pond.

The creek, which normally is dry, runs beneath the roadway.

Chase County Fire Chief Mark Davis, who directed search efforts at the pond, said searchers in two boats spotted the bodies near the

surface of the pond.

He said Larsen family members were at the onsite command center, but didn't see the body being removed.

On Sunday, searchers found the bodies of the four Rogers children.

Zachary was 5; Nicholas, 3; Alenah, 1; and Makenah, 8 years of age.

Briefly

Local Democrats to huddle

Pat Murray, state executive director and Joey Bahr, field director of the Kansas Democratic Party will be in Colby to discuss plans for the 2004 election on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon in Room 107 in the Student Union at Colby Community College. All Democrats are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

Art show planned at celebration

The High Plains Art Club will have its first art show during "Celebration on the High Plains," at Southwind Plaza from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Final market of the summer

The Rexford PRIDE will be holding its final Farmers/Flea Market of the summer on Saturday starting at 8 a.m. Vendor space will be \$20 (\$5 refundable deposit and \$5 booth space).

A lunch will be provided. The event will be held at the park. Those interested in participating as a vendor or needing additional information can contact Evelyn Johnson at (785) 687-3925.

Job Service now open at noon

The Colby Work Force office (formerly known as Job Service) at 485 N. Chick is staying open during the lunch hour. Linda Groff, local supervisor, said the change went into effect today and is expected to be a permanent situation. For questions or information about how the Colby Work Force office can help people find jobs, call the office at (785) 462-6862.

Colby School activities noted

Friday — FFA to the Kansas State Fair at Hutchinson. **Saturday** — High school band fund raiser at Luck's Car Wash north of J-J Oil on Range Ave. (Sports briefs are in SportsLine on page 8.)

'Worker Auction' Friday at Brewster

The high school and junior high vocal groups at Brewster will be holding a fund raiser on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the football field. Called "Worker Auction" students will work four hours and the work must be completed by Nov. 1. Call Alice Collett at (785) 694-2236 for additional information.

Childbirth classes start Thursday

Colby Childbirth Education classes will begin on Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m.. This is a four-week series and is held at Colby Community College in the Health Science Building. Call Amy Hutfles at 460-4344.

Red Cross classes are Saturday

The Thomas County Red Cross is offering classes on Saturday at Colby Community College Student Union for childcare providers and others interested parties. First aid begins at 8:30 a.m., and adult, infant, child CPR begins at 12:30 p.m.



Comfortable

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. East winds 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast 5 to 10 mph after midnight. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the mid 80s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph shifting to the south 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. **Thursday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 50s. **Friday...**Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs around 90. Friday evening...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s.

By the numbers

Tuesday's high, 88
Low this morning, 53
Records for the date, 105 in 1947 and 32 in 1974
Year ago today, 89 and 58
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 0.00
Year's precipitation to date, 14.00
2002's precipitation to date, 8.78

Water Usage/Colby

Sept. 2 = 3.025 million gallons

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other figures are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby and the Colby Public Works Department..

