



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Viaduct's replacement



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

A new railroad crossing has been put in where the old viaduct used to be on K-25 just north of Colby. Work continues on the stretch of highway, including laying of concrete. The project is slated to be finished by the beginning of November.

Fever strikes Brewster

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

The homecoming fever has hit. At Brewster. And several activities involving lots of supporters have been announced.

The Brewster High School Student Council is hosting a homecoming parade and pep rally in advance of the big football game vs. Jennings at 7:30 Friday night.

The parade and pep rally will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday on Kansas Avenue. Theme of the parade is, "Trip Down Memory Lane."

All wanting to participate in the parade are welcome to do so, and entry forms are available at the school office, Brewster Grocery, Co-Op and the post office.

Additionally, the Brewster Booster Club will have a homecoming pre-game supper on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The menu: tacos, chips and salsa, Spanish rice and a dessert — all for four dollars.

Proceeds will be used to fund the After-Prom party, as well as other upcoming school activities.

Wheat drilling faces obstacles

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Dry conditions are still hampering farmers.

With the planting of winter wheat looming, the drought is a major concern.

Roger Stockton, soil and crop specialist with the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby, said most producers will probably wait until after Sept. 20 to plant although he has already seen some drilling.

He said there isn't much reserve soil moisture and some producers are considering their options on when to plant. Planting later is another choice, Stockton said.

Producers could wait until around Oct. 1 if there isn't rain by then, plant by drilling their wheat slightly deeper by putting it in at 3/4 or one inch.

"They really should increase the seed rate to more than 100 pounds per acre," he said.

This is Stockton's fifth fall in Colby and he said the conditions right now are what he'd call "average" compared to the other years he's been here.

Planting for next year's crops isn't the only concern. There are still several crops ready for harvest

in the coming months including corn, milo, soybeans and sunflowers.

Stockton said much of the dryland corn is "history" and dryland milo looks to range from zero to 40 acres a bushel when harvested.

Irrigated corn is doing well, considering conditions, he said.

"Most of the corn looks good from the road," he said, but added some ears will have blank spots on the rows because pollination was poor due to the exceptionally hot weather.

That, Stockton said, will cause the corn harvest to be lower than average.

Irrigated soybeans also look good but he said there is a lot of variation on what the harvest could be like.

Sunflowers are also still in decent condition, although irrigated fields are doing better than unirrigated crops.

The outlook for all the crops next year depends on how much rain and snow the area gets this fall and winter, he said.

"It'll be touch and go next spring," Stockton said.

Winter is expected to be colder and wetter than average and he said heavy snows could help break the drought.

Planners meet Thursday

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Mega/super stores and a special permit for cargo containers will highlight the planning commission meeting on Thursday beginning at 9:30 a.m. in council chambers of Colby City Hall.

The emphasis on shipping (cargo) containers will focus on time limits and Roger Voss, manager of the Colby Wal-Mart will attend the meeting to discuss the issue.

The mega/super stores is a dis-

cussion item this month. The meetings are open to the public.

Planning commission members include Charles Schwanke, Ken Frahm, Lana Johnson, Ivan Lee, Hal Kistler and Brent Wiedeman. County appointments on the commission are Al Gerstner, Tylon Mengel and Paul Bailey.

For questions, call 462-4410. The commission meets once a month to discuss zoning and other related items.

Their meetings are open to the public.

Middle East expert opens series Thursday

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Dr. Robert Rook, history department chairman at Fort Hays State University, and a Middle Eastern expert, is the first presenter in this season's Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby Community College.

He will discuss the current geopolitical-military situation of the United States in Iraq. He takes the stage at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the Frahm Theatre in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on campus.

Tom Moorhous, chairman of the

lecture series committee, said there is no charge and cordially invites everyone in the community to attend.

The lecture series is named for longtime and current college professor, Dr. Max Pickerill.

A second speaker is scheduled for Feb. 12, 2004 — Lincoln's birthday. That will be Denver attorney Ed Ramey who, Moorhous said, will address the current state of American Civil Liberties, as a consequence of the passage of the Patriot Act in October of 2001 in response to the World Trade Center terrorist attacks, and recent con-

gressional updates of Patriot Act II.

Ramey is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and regionally known for his controversial commentary critiquing these legislative acts.

A third speaker will be Robert F. Kennedy Jr., widely known environmentalist and son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. He will appear on March 11, 2004.

Speakers for the series are the responsibility of the series' committee: Diane Williams, Alan Taylor, Judith Sears, Dr. Michael Thompson, Debbie Schwanke and Moorhous.

The lecture series has been bringing known figures to the campus since its creation in 1992, thanks to unnamed philanthropists and Dr. Mikel Ary, college president.

Most recent guests were former United States Ambassador to the United Nations Gen. Vernon Walters, Whitewater figure Susan McDougal and David and Julie (Nixon) Eisenhower. Also, last year's gubernatorial campaign brought all five candidates to the Frahm Theatre for a debate. That was notable because that was the first time during the campaign that all candidates appeared together.

Grants, landfill reports given

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Bioterrorism grant spending and the county landfill were two of the items on the agenda for the Thomas County commissioners' Monday meeting.

Kathy Ryan, acting administrator with the Thomas County Health Department, gave a report on how the department's bioterrorism grant was spent.

She said the health department received a \$27,447 bioterrorism grant last year from the Department of Homeland Security. The commissioners wanted a rundown on what the money was used for.

Several cellular phones, a digital camera, hand-held radios and a hand-held computer were purchased with the grant money, Ryan said. Ryan also said the new phones were purchased because they have better reception. She explained that the digital camera can be useful in identifying things like rashes. If

they have an unidentifiable rash or similar condition, someone at the department can take a picture and e-mail it to an epidemiologist to identify it.

She said the money was also used to update the department because health departments have been underfunded the past several years.

It is an ongoing process to be eligible for the grants and she's already started the paperwork for another one, she said. Ryan said the department will receive a \$23,000 grant for 2004.

County health departments were also encouraged to join regional groups.

The commissioners also wanted an update on the hiring process for a new director at the health department. Ryan turned in her resignation as administrator last month and the county is looking for someone to fill the position. She will continue to act as department head until a new administrator is hired.

Landfill boss Larry Jumper also gave his monthly report. He said he's been invited to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's task force meeting to evaluate the landfill siting and permit process in the state. The meeting is in Topeka on Sept. 24.

He said it (the meeting) won't do the county any good right now but should help other counties in the future. Thomas County is in the process of trying to get a permit to open a new landfill because it must close the old one.

Commissioner Ron Evans said they're waiting on the state but they want to get the new landfill finished when they can.

The commissioners also selected a consulting firm for a road project in Levant. The project will be three miles of asphalt overlay running from Interstate 70 to Levant.

The county commissioners approved Penco Engineering for the project.

Briefly

Hazardous waste collection Saturday

The final household hazardous waste collection for this year is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday at the facility, 190 W. 4 Street, Colby. Items that are acceptable at the collection site include latex and oil-based paints, stains, thinners, varnishes, automotive products (except motor oil), pool chemicals, household cleaning products, lawn and garden chemicals, along with batteries. The collection is only open to Thomas County households and not businesses. For questions, call Sandy Swob, director of the facility, (785) 462-4525.

College to offer certification courses

Colby Community College will offer certification courses for social service designees and activity directors starting on Monday, Sept. 22. The courses will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 22, Nov. 3 and 10 in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union. Four college credits and

two certificates will be awarded for attendance at all eight classes. Two college credits and one certificate will be awarded for six classes. To enroll or for more information, call (785) 462-3984, Ext. 286.

Chamber luncheon is Friday

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce will host its noon luncheon on Friday at the Colby Country Club. Kathy O'Brien, of Hospice, will give information on the upcoming banquet and future projects. For information, call (785) 460-3401.

Colby School District notes

- Thursday — 12 noon, Parent Teacher Student Advisory board to meet at the high school.
- Friday — 8:30 a.m., second grade trip to Sternberg Museum/Hays.
- Monday — 7 p.m., School Board to meet at the Admin-

istration Building, 210 S. Range. (Sports-related activities in SportsLine on page 10)

Fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Thomas County 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include: Thomas County extension agent reports; financial report; bills; committee reports on buildings and grounds, carnival, rodeo, ideas for parade improvement and setting the date for the 2004 fair parade; demolition derby; 2004 race dates; fair book changes for 2004; and the wall of support list and total donations.

Center enrollment underway

The Thomas County Learning Center, 305 N. Franklin in Colby, is now taking enrollment applications. One function of the center is to give students a chance to get their high school diploma. For those wanting to enroll or for eligibility information, call 465-7900.



Ready for the 40s?

Tonight... Showers and thunderstorms likely. Breezy. Lows in the 50s. Light west wind becoming north late this evening and increasing to 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph. Chance of rain 60 percent.
Thursday... Partly sunny and cooler. Highs near 70. North wind 10 to 20 mph.
Thursday night... Partly cloudy. Cooler still. Lows in the upper 40s.
Friday... Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. Friday night... Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

By the numbers
Tuesday's high, 86
Low this morning, 60
Records for the date, 102 in 1964 and 32 in 1898
Year ago today, 69 and 55
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.02
Month's precipitation, 0.02
Year's precipitation to date, 14.02
2002's precipitation to date, 9.42
Water Usage/Colby
Sept. 8 — 2.291 million gallons
Sept. 9 — 2.441 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.

