



COLBY FREE PRESS

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College rodeo boasts records in entries, crowd

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press
The seventh annual Colby Community College National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association rodeo came off mostly without a hitch.

Colby college rodeo coach Allen Russell said the event was a success.

More than 700 entries from 22 schools showed up to compete.

Attendance was up and Russell said Friday's attendance matched the combined attendance for all three performances last year.

"I was especially pleased with that especially since we were competing with homecoming," he said. "I was surprised. I was real impressed with Friday. That sure was nice to see."

Russell said there was a slight "snafu" Saturday which was a good indicator of the number of people attending the rodeo. He said the college horse show team was running the concession stand during the rodeo and ran out of supplies Saturday night.

Attendance numbers weren't the only increase. The rodeo had

a record 714 entries and the quality of those contestants was also something he noted.

"The quality along with the numbers has been up dramatically," Russell said.

One of the top competitors at the rodeo was Stephen Reagor, a calf roper from Bacone College, outside Muskogee, Okla.

Russell said Reagor won the calf roping and is the current national college champion calf roper.

Also, he said four members of the Colby rodeo team made it to Sunday's finals.

Jamie Dunn from St. Francis won the goat tying, Kelli Hamernik from Nebraska won the first round of barrel racing and Vincent Hofstetter and Brent Reichmuth took fifth place in the team roping.

Russell said even though the school's own rodeo is over, there's still plenty ahead.

The team will be leaving Wednesday for Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in Miami, Okla. for a rodeo.

He said the blowing wind Friday and Saturday caused some visibility problems, kicking up dust from



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

A barrel racer from Southwest Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla. made her run during the rodeo slack at E.L. Garrett Arena on the Thomas County Fairgrounds Friday. More than 700 rodeo competitors were in town for the seventh annual Colby Community College National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association rodeo Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Four Colby college team members made it to Sunday's finals.

the racetrack infield.

He said there was no problem with dust from the rodeo arena itself

but the weather did get better for the finals on Sunday. "That was beautiful for yesterday," Russell said.

He also received compliments on the stock and he said the quality good this year.

Child endangerment task force, SADD group gets funding

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press
The Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center is just one of the entities involved with the Drug Endangered Children's Task Force.

The group met Thursday at Colby Community College and it meets every four to six weeks.

Brette Pfeifer, community prevention consultant with the prevention center, said the task force was started in May.

"It was born out of necessity in the area," she said.

There have been several methamphetamine busts involving children and Pfeifer said the group was founded to help put into place protocols to deal with and address the needs of such children.

She said the local law enforcement, attorneys, Colby schools, prevention center staff, Social and Rehabilitative Services, substance abuse counseling, and mental

health professionals are involved.

"It's anyone that would come in contact with children that are in this situation," Pfeifer said.

Kids Port, a local day care, is also involved.

She said it's where children involved in a meth bust will be taken.

Pfeifer said the group now has a set of steps to take if there are more children at the scene of a bust.

If there are, she said Kids Port will be contacted as the first step.

"That kind of gets the ball rolling," Pfeifer said. "The children are removed."

Before they are removed, they'll be decontaminated at the scene, which means a fresh change of clothes.

She also said they won't be able to take any of their belongings with them, like clothes or toys.

However, the task force recently received a Drug Endangered Children grant from the Kansas Meth-

amphetamines Project that will be used to build meth kits.

They will include clean clothes, blankets, toys and other things children will need.

It will also be used for training to local organizations in Thomas County and help get other communities involved by starting their own task forces.

Pfeifer is also involved with the Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter at Colby High School.

She is the advisor for the program which recently received a grant from the Kansas Methamphetamine Project to develop a meth awareness program.

Pfeifer said it will help inform kids and educators about the dangers of meth and the behaviors and precursors associated with its use.

She said the kids in the organization last year wrote the grant with the help of Janet Worthy, who submitted the grant.



Colby, Oakley, Hoxie
area

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers. Lows near 40. East wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. **Tuesday...**Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers. Much cooler with highs in the mid 50s. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph decreasing late to 5 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Wednesday...Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. **Wednesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

By the numbers
Sunday's high, 74
Low this morning, 41
Records for the date, 95 in 1931 and 25 in 1895
Year ago today, 84 and 41
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 0.02
Year's precipitation to date, 14.02
2002's precipitation to date, 10.01

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

Lobbyists hope to push concealed weapons bill

TOPEKA (AP)— Supporters of concealed weapons have set their sites on Kansas and plan to ask lawmakers to consider a gun bill next year, said Phil Journey, president of the Kansas State Rifle Association.

Supporters have drawn strength from the Missouri General Assembly's recent passage of a concealed-gun law over the veto of Gov. Bob Holden, Journey said.

"I think it will help me tremendously with our grassroots efforts," said Journey, of Wichita.

In 1997 lawmakers in Topeka passed a concealed-gun bill. Then Gov. Bill Graves killed the measure with a veto. Nothing much happened afterward.

Last year, as gun restrictions eased in state after state and some people worried about personal vulnerability after terrorist attacks, the issue emerged from slumber. Next year the Kansas Legislature could see its own debate.

"There's more legislative support for conceal-carry, and more constituent support; the president favors it, and now with Missouri, that puts a lot of pressure on," said Kansas Sen. Tim Huelskamp of Fowler, a leading supporter of the issue.

As governor of Texas, President Bush had signed a concealed gun proposal into law.

In Kansas much depends on the veto pen of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

For now Sebelius will not reveal if she would veto the bill.

"I supported the bill that would have allowed retired law enforcement officers to carry a weapon, but nothing beyond that," Sebelius said. "But I don't know what will be introduced or what they will do with it." In the past there has been considerable opposition to concealed guns in Kansas. Polls taken in the 1990s showed a majority of the state then did not favor carrying concealed weapons.

Briefly

Tree/shrub trimming starts today

The City of Colby Street Department will be trimming any sight-restricting or passage-restricting trees or shrubbery around street and signs or walkways starting today. Anyone with ornamental tree or specimen plants that could cause a street sign to be obscured or a sidewalk to be impassable that the resident would rather trim themselves, were asked to do so before this morning. "We want to thank everyone for keeping our City of Colby streets safe by clearing our walkways and street signs of obstructions," said Gerry Bieker, director of public utilities. For questions call, 462-4420.

Last chance to get premium checks

Premium checks for this year's Thomas County Fair need to be picked up at the Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range, Colby, before Tuesday. Anyone entitled to receive a check and haven't done so yet are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Red Cross to offer first aid class

The Thomas County American Red Cross is offering a first aid class at 6 p.m., Monday and an adult infant and child CPR calls at 6 p.m., Monday, Oct. 6. Both sessions will be held at the Thomas County Office Complex conference room, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby. For questions or to register, call 462-7161.

College sets special meeting

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. today in the board room of the administration building for the purpose of a board retreat. The agenda includes the board retreat. The meeting is open to the public.

Retirement coffee planned

There will be a retirement coffee for Irvin Schwarz, who is retiring as a maintenance worker for the City of Colby. The event is planned for Friday, Oct. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. in council

chambers. Schwarz began working for the city on April 15, 1971. The public is invited to attend. For questions, call 462-4410.

County commissioners to meet

The Thomas County commissioners will have their end of month meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Courthouse. Items on the agenda include township road work, the county landfill and standards at the county jail. The meeting is open to the public.

Popcorn fund raiser underway

Colby area Cub and Boy Scouts are selling Trails End Gourmet Popcorn again as part of their annual fund raiser. Orders will be taken in October and money is collected when the popcorn is delivered in mid-November. Contact Mark Goudy at 694-2599, or Alan and Tonya Sager at 462-7361 or 460-8088.

Sophomore spirit



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The sophomore float at Colby High School took first place in the homecoming parade on Friday afternoon for most spirit. The parade was one of many activities during the Eagle's special week. This year's route went from Fike Park south to Franklin Ave. to Fifth St. From Fifth Street, the parade went west to Mission and then south on Mission to Third St. and from there west on Third to Range Ave.

