



COLBY FREE PRESS

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All a matter of safety

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Street department workers with the City of Colby have been working all week trimming trees and shrubbery throughout town. Thursday, Wheat Lippleman cut trees along the streets as David Berry, Kyle Brogan and Kevin Helus assisted in either driving the bucket truck or retrieving tree limbs for the chipper machine. The city is trimming shrubbery and trees along sidewalks, streets, alleys and other public ways that are interfering with motorists or pedestrians traveling in those areas. There is an ordinance that prohibits residents from allowing trees, branches and limbs to extend out over sidewalks lower than 8 feet from the surface. On public roadways, trees or other obstructions must not be lower than 13 feet, 8 inches. As for bushes, hedges and other shrubbery, the city's ordinance says that the height of those types of vegetation cannot be more than 30 inches high when measured from the bottom of the gutter or drain of the adjacent street or other public way. For questions, call 462-4420.

Grant will help buy fire house

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Thanks to a little help from the federal government, the Colby Fire Department will be better able to help people learn more about fire safety.

The department received a \$37,521 grant last month from the United States Fire Administration in the area of fire prevention.

Colby fire Chief Bob McLemore said the department will use the grant to help purchase a fire safety house.

"It's like a trailer that has all our multimedia stuff in it," he said. "We won't have it until next year. We have to pay 10 percent of it."

McLemore said the design is based on a camping trailer and will have bench seating for classes.

The fire prevention house will also be set up like a real home, with a kitchen and bedroom so it can be used to help practice escapes and more. "It'll actually have a smoke machine," McLemore said.

The fire prevention house also will have an added feature of a severe weather package which will help teach people about storms, tornadoes and other weather phenomena common to the area.

He said the department is getting a hazard house, a portable education tool they can take into classrooms to give kids a chance to identify hazards in the home.

McLemore said National Fire Safety Week is in October but it takes the department most of the month to get to all the schools they serve. They do fire prevention education for preschool through third grade students in all the Colby schools, including the public schools as well as Sacred Heart and Heartland Christian school.

They also travel to Rexford and Selden, help provide materials for Brewster and also visit Puddle Duck Preschool.

"It's an important program because young people need to learn fire safety, hazard safety," McLemore said. "It helps families get together and talk about some of the safety things they need to do."

He said he was excited to get the grant and the funding helps many fire departments get equipment or training they need but normally couldn't afford without help.

Fire departments have to demonstrate need and McLemore said the grants do help.

Weapon hunter's report draws sharp criticism

WASHINGTON (AP) — The initial report of U.S. weapons hunter David Kay, which says he found no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq but possible evidence of covert programs to make them, drew immediate criticism from those who question whether the war was justified.

Kay insisted he needed another six months to nine months of searching before he would feel confident enough to issue any conclusions about Iraq's weapons pro-

gram. The Bush administration is asking for \$600 million to continue the search, according to congressional officials.

"We have not found at this point actual weapons," Kay said after briefing lawmakers behind closed doors. "It does not mean we've concluded there are no actual weapons."

In a statement to several congressional committees Thursday, he only made one strong finding, that the regime of Iraqi President

Saddam Hussein was actively developing missiles that exceeded range limits imposed by the United Nations.

"In addition to intent, we have found a large body of continuing activities and equipment that were not declared to the U.N. inspectors when they returned in November of last year," Kay said.

Taken together, Kay's findings do not validate most of President Bush's prewar assertions that Saddam had widespread chemical

and biological weapons and programs to make more, and was developing a nuclear weapon.

Kay did not address U.S. assertions about Saddam's ties to terrorist groups, particularly al-Qaida.

Critics have contended that the U.S. intelligence community made serious errors in its analysis of the threat posed by Iraq or the administration exaggerated what intelligence information it did have to persuade a skeptical world to support an invasion.

"Did we misread it, or did they mislead us, or did they simply get it wrong? Whatever the answer is, it's not a good answer," said Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"I'm not pleased by what I heard today," said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and the committee's chairman. "but we should be willing to adopt a wait-and-see attitude — and that's the only alternative we really have."

Briefly

College board to meet

The Colby Community College board of trustees will have a regular meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday in the board room of the administration building on campus. Items on the agenda include paper bids, computer hardware bids, capital outlay, approval of contracts and agreements, and Title III grant applications. The meeting is open to the public.

County commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. on Monday at the Thomas County Courthouse. Items on the agenda include a monthly report on the landfill.

Colby 'fly-in' is Saturday

The Colby Municipal Airport will hold its annual fly-in from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The annual event will feature an all-you-can eat breakfast, along with airplane rides and lots of aircraft on display, said Mark Ostmeyer, airport manager. In addition to the rides and breakfast, there will also be displays of production aircraft, home-built experimental aircraft, antique aircraft and more. All proceeds from the event will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters and the airport.

Sacred Heart to hold book fair

Sacred Heart Catholic School will have a book fair in conjunction with parent-teacher conferences from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7, and from 2 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9. The Scholastic Book Fair will feature new books, said Dave Evert, principal, for children at all grade levels. For questions, call the school at 462-2813.

Parent-teacher conferences planned

Colby Public Schools will hold parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 7 and 9. Parents and guardians were mailed conference cards earlier this week. For those who haven't received notification, building principals are encouraging them to call either the grade school, 460-5100;

middle school, 460-5200; or high school, 460-5300 to receive information.

Genesis seeks names for baskets

Genesis Thomas County is again planning to distribute Christmas baskets and would like to help residents of Thomas County. To submit names for food baskets, send a card to: Genesis Thomas County, P.O. Box 214, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Singles dance scheduled tonight

The Colby Singles Group is sponsoring a dance from 8 to midnight tonight featuring Jim Christensen from Kearney, Neb. providing entertainment. The dance is open to all single people and alumni. For questions or details, call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

Diplomats plan ladies luncheon

The Colby Diplomats are once again sponsoring a ladies luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Colby Country Club. The format for this year's event is somewhat different than in previous years, organizers said, with a "come and go" and a request for a non-perishable food item to help the Genesis Food Bank. Please make reservations by Wednesday, Oct. 8 by calling either Bette Albers, 462-3939, or Jada Tubbs, 460-3401 or make payment by mailing checks to Colby Diplomats, c/o Bette Albers, P.O. Box 506, Colby, Kan. 67701; or Colby Chamber of Commerce, c/o Jada Tubbs, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby, Kan. 67701. The meal will include soup, salads and sandwiches.

College offering certification courses

Colby Community College is offering certification courses for social service designees. The courses will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 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.

Red Cross offering class

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

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.

Popcorn fund raiser scheduled

Colby area Cub and Boy Scouts are selling Trails End Gourmet Popcorn again as part of their annual fund raiser. Orders will be taken this month 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.

Free program offered

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley is sponsoring a presentation geared for parents, childcare providers, preschool staff and kindergarten through third grade teachers. There are two opportunities available with the first from 1 to 4 p.m. and the second from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9. The presentation will be made by Chuck Smith, state specialist in Kansas Research and Extension with the program called, *Raising Children Who Have Courage and Conscience*. To register for either presentation, call the service center at (785) 672-3125, ext. 124 by Monday, Oct. 6. Free childcare is available upon request and there is no cost for the presentations.



Just plain nice

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows around 40. Northwest winds around 5 mph.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds around 5 mph.
Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.
Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. West winds around 5 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.
Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.
Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

By the numbers

Thursday's high, 65
Low this morning, 35
Records for the date, 94 in 1916 and 26 in 1899
Year ago today, 58 and 39
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 0.03
Year's precipitation to date, 14.05
2002's precipitation to date, 10.64
Soil temperature, 63

