



COLBY FREE PRESS

Two sections
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Blood drive is planned

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Thomas County American Red Cross is planning a blood drive on Wednesday, April 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Colby High School gymnasium.

Officials are hoping for another successful drive noting that the last event exceeded expectations, said Jackie Stephens, co-coordinator.

"Our goal at the January blood drive was 130 units," she said, "and we had 147 productive units of blood."

Of that number, 15 were first-time donors with more than 170 volunteering to give. Prior to the January drive, organizers were disappointed with the turn out that saw a total of 148 donors and only 136 eligible donors.

Consequently, both Stephens and Jo Frahm, the other coordinator, hope to see at least the same number or more during the April drive.

Donors wanting to schedule an appointment are encouraged to call 1-800-GIVE LIFE, Stephens said. As with most drives, all blood types are needed and especially the O-positive and O-negative.

Stephens also offered a few tips and eligibility guidelines as to why people can or cannot give blood. For example, health history plays a major factor in whether or not someone can be a donor.

Other requirements include that a person be 17 years or older, weight at least 110 lbs., and be in generally good health.

Most medications are not a cause for deferral, and those with diabetes or high blood pressure may donate as long as their condition is controlled by medication and they are feeling well on the day of the drive.

Potential donors are also reminded to drink plenty of water prior to their donation, Stephens said.

For questions, Stephens or Frahm can be reached at 462-8122 or 462-

Night of poetry, music, skits



Alisha Talsma, left, and Regina Heier performed a skit during Eagle Street Bistro Night at the Colby High School library Tuesday. The event was a chance for students and others to show off their talents by reading poetry, performing music or skits and displaying art work. The event was sponsored by the high school librarians.

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

School expands program

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Kindergarten in Colby will be expanding to five days a week all this fall.

The school board approved a change in the district's kindergarten program at its meeting Monday. There will now be two five-day, all-day kindergarten classes and one three-day, all-day class.

Grade school principal Terrell Harrison said she did a parent survey to get feedback on what parents want. Thirty-seven parents wanted the five-day, all-day kindergarten and eight wanted to continue with three full days a week.

She said Colby is one of only 15 schools in the state that still has three-day a week kindergarten. Of the other school in the state, Harrison said 315 have five-day programs and 423 have half-day kindergarten. She recommended to the board two all-day, five-day classes and one three-day class to meet the needs of all parents.

Harrison said students in the three-day class will have some catching up to do when they enter first grade but it's not much of a problem because of the wide range of students coming in anyway.

School board president Stan Molstad asked why all the parents don't want to put their kids in the all week kindergarten. Harrison said some parents want their kids home during the week.

"I think if we're going to do it we need to do it all," said board member Tracy Rogers.

Board member Kevan Taylor said they should give the three-day class another year and see how everything goes before making a decision.

"I think it would be fine for a year," said Superintendent Kirk Nielsen, adding people have had no warning about a possible change. He said it would be better to give them some warning before eliminating the three-day a week class.

School board approves track resurfacing

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The track at Dennen Field will be getting a new surface after track season. The Colby School Board approved a bid of \$53,386 from Fisher Track of Boone, Iowa for the project at its Monday meeting.

The bid was for a 3/8-inch latex surface and repair of the base underneath, if needed.

However, the board will wait to see if they get a grant from Nike. If the district does receive the grant, they will upgrade the track surface.

The motion was approved 6-1 with board member Kevan Taylor voting against.

"We need to think about saving some money for a rainy day," Taylor said. "That's the only problem I have with the project."

The board received two bids at its March 1 meeting, one from Fisher Track and a bid for \$55,790 from Vibra-Whirl in Panhandle, Texas. A decision on the bids was postponed because the board wanted to find out about the possibility of doing a lease-purchase on the project.

However, Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said it's not an option because it's a remodeling project, not anything new. Taylor asked about the possibility in 10 years of building a new field and track closer to

the high school.

"A move like that wouldn't come from me," Nielsen said, adding he didn't see any problems with the stadium where it is now except distance, which he said "doesn't seem to be a problem."

Joel Powell wanted to know what would happen if they approved the bid and the Nike grant the district has put in for comes through. Nielsen said once the bid is approved, they can't back away.

In other business, there was a public hearing for the republishing of the 2003-2004 school budget. District business officer Jo DeYoung said the district will get

\$32,000 more this year from the state because enrollment numbers are up. She said the district is assured the same money it received this year for the next two.

The board also approved supplemental contracts for coaches for the spring season. The board approved five middle school track coaches, and an assistant coach each for tennis and baseball. Jeff Quenzer, athletic director, said high school track numbers are down but more than 100 students are out for track at Colby Middle School.

He said there are five high school coaches and will recommend they help out with the middle school.

Argument threatens speed limit bill

TOPEKA (AP) — A disagreement between the House and Senate over one provision threatens passage of a bill allowing the state to increase the speed limit to 75 mph on some of its highways.

The bill would authorize the 75 mph limit on four-lane divided highways where motorists currently may drive 70 mph.

Officials of the Kansas Department of Transportation have said they would probably post a 75 mph limit only on rural sections of inter-

state highways.

Roads lacking medians or barriers would not qualify.

The House approved the bill Tuesday, 64-61.

The Senate approved its version last month, but the two chambers are at odds over language on the effects of speeding tickets.

Supporters of the bill say some drivers now detour around Kansas so they can drive 75 mph in some other state — for example, on Interstate 80 across Nebraska.

But the vote was close in the House because some members worried that a higher speed limit would lead to more traffic deaths.

Speeding violations — which affect auto insurance rates — currently are noted on a driver's record only if he or she were going at least 10 mph above a posted limit of 55 mph or more.

The House bill would keep the 10 mph buffer intact, but the Senate's version narrows the buffer to just 5 mph in 75 mph zones.

Today's special bonus section

BETTER HOME & Living Show



Bring the Family!!!!
MARCH 26, 27 & 28
Colby Community Building • Free Admission
Supplement to the Colby Free Press • March 24, 2003

Briefly

Guard to hold open house

The Colby Army National Guard unit is hosting an open house at 7 p.m., Friday, April 2, for family or anyone interested in the Kansas Army National Guard. "We would like to educate families and others on the educational benefits the Guard has to offer," said Sgt. Billy Jones, public relations officer. "Those that would most benefit the open house are juniors and seniors in high school and parents," he said. The National Guard Armory in Colby is located at 475 S. Range.

Heartland Shares available

Heartland Shares are still available for \$17.50. They will be delivered at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the gym at Sacred Heart School in Colby. For information, call (785) 462-7525 or (785) 460-3579.

Dance team award potluck

An awards potluck for the Colby High School dance team has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday in the high school commons. Members of the team and their families are invited and asked to bring a food dish and table service. Drinks will be provided.

FFA plans auction, supper

The Colby FFA will hold a mountain oyster fry, work auction and silent auction, Friday, at the Thomas County 4-H Building in Colby. Serving will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the work auction at 7 p.m. and silent auction ending at 7:30 p.m. The menu will include a variety of soups, baked potato bar, and homemade desserts. The FFA members will be sold at the work auction and required to do eight hours of work for

the highest bidder. For questions, call 460-5300.

Childbirth classes scheduled

Colby Childbirth Education will begin another series of Childbirth Education classes in April. Classes will be held Thursday, April 1, 8, 15, and 29 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Health Sciences Building at Colby Community College. The next class will be a weekend retreat July 9 and 10. To preregister, call Jeanene Brown at 785-460-4850 or evenings at 785-462-7105.

Discounted park permits continue

The Thomas County Clerk's office is reminding everyone that vehicle park permits will be discounted until Thursday, April 1. After that date, said Tracey Perkins, county clerk, the annual costs will go to \$44.50; second to \$24.50; senior and disabled rates, \$22.25 and second at \$12.25. Spring turkey tags are also available, she said. For questions, call 462-4500.

Girl Scouts plan fundraiser

The Colby Girl Scouts will be selling concessions and girl scout cookies during the Better Home and Living Show at the Colby Community Building this weekend. All proceeds from the event will benefit the girl scouts with a variety of local activities. The show will be held Friday from 4 to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Free sports physicals offered in May

Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range, will offer free physical examinations for students in Colby,

Rexford and Brewster for the 2004-05 school years. All physicals will be given on Tuesday, May 11 with students from Colby Middle School arriving by 5:30 p.m.; Colby High School by 6:15 p.m., and for Golden Plains and Brewster students, 7 p.m. This is a free service for area students who plan to participate in athletic events next year. Any student planning to participate in the physical examination is asked to bring the forms with them, which are available at the schools. For questions, call (785) 462-3332.

School banquet scheduled

Heartland Christian School will hold its "Partners for the Future" endowment banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 2 at the Colby Community College Student Union. Tickets are \$10 each and the deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, April 1. Tickets may be purchased from any Heartland Christian School family or by calling the school office at 460-6419.

Program planned at grade school

First grade students at Colby Elementary School are planning a program entitled, *From the Inside Out*, at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Thursday, April 1, in the grade school auditorium. The event is free and open to everyone.

Endowment auction planned

The Colby Community College Endowment Association is sponsoring its annual dinner and auction, beginning at 4:45 p.m., Saturday, April 3. This year's event entitled, "Hollywood," will be held at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby. Tickets for the benefit dinner and auction can be made by calling (785) 462-4684.



Just plain warm

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 5 to 10 mph. Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the north around 10 mph in the afternoon. Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. Friday...Partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the lower 80s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph increasing to 15 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Friday night...Partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows around 50. Saturday...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Breezy. Highs in the lower 80s.

The numbers

Tuesday's high, 72

Low this morning, 37

Records for March 24, 85 in 1907 and -2 in 1974

Year ago today, 59 and 38

Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00

March total, 0.74

March snowfall, 1 inch

Soil temperature, 54

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

