



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Spiked seniors



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Donald Segfer (left), Glenn Hammond (center) and Glenn Weber, were among about 30 people who got into the spirit of Spiked Hair Day at the Senior Progress Center in Colby Tuesday. Center Director Donna Schielke said it was the first time the center

has done that particular activity and was surprised so many chose to participate. She said many who didn't have their hair spiked decided to have it done when they saw the others. Next week's event is "wear something you wouldn't normally wear."

County to rebid landfill project

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Rebidding the landfill excavation project and the county's five-year road plan were on the agenda at this morning's Thomas County Commissioners meeting at the courthouse.



Ron Evans

The commissioners received only one bid for the landfill excavation project earlier this month and it was from Sporer Land Development in Oakley.

However, Commissioner Ron Evans said the bid was rejected because it didn't meet specifications.

He said the project will be rebid and the deadline for submitting bids will be May 3, when they will be opened. They would like the work on the project finished by November.

In other business, the commissioners heard from Clair Schrock, supervisor of the county road department.

Schrock wanted to talk about the priorities for the county's five-year road plan.

He wanted to know if they could

make Horton Avenue, which runs in front of the Oasis Travel Plaza, a priority if the county receives money from the state and instead put off a project involving two miles of road north of Levant.

Schrock said that project isn't due until 2008 but said they could find out about the money for the Horton Avenue project soon.

"I filed for it a year ago," he said. "They haven't let anything out yet."

If they receive the money, Schrock said it will be used to finish laying concrete or asphalt from Horton Avenue east to the I-70 interchange.

"That's something for us to think about," Evans said.

In other business, Ron Redick from Hi Plains Mental Health introduced himself to the commissioners.

He is the new branch manager of the Colby High Plains Mental Health branch office. He told the group he wanted to address any concerns or comments they had on the services the organization offers Thomas County.

Redick said the office employs 19 people in the county, including himself.

Commissioner Glen Kersensbrock said the commissioners appreciate what High Plains is doing.

Rodeo costs prompt special meeting

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Rodeo fees were on the agenda at a special Thomas County Fair Board meeting Tuesday night.

The board discussed a lease for the Colby Community College rodeo team and also application fees for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and the Women's Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Board treasurer Audrey Hines said the lease is for the rodeo team

to use the fairground arena for workouts during the school year. "That contract will be for the next year," Hines said, adding it will run from September 2004 to May 2005. The board will take action on the lease at its regular meeting on April 8.

Fair board member Gary Garrett told the board the application fees to the rodeo associations have been paid in the amount of \$575. He said getting the fees in 120 days before

the rodeo would save the fair board \$100-\$150.

In other business, president Stan Strange said electrical work will begin soon at the fairgrounds. He said more electrical outlets will be installed along with several lights.

Seven of the outlets will be put in the poultry/cattle barn and three more installed inside the horse barn. Strange said they're also checking to see if the fairgrounds needs another transformer.

"Hopefully we'll have some prices before the regular meeting," he said.

They also touched briefly on the siding work being completed on the barns. Strange said the work is progressing well.

"I'm very happy with the way it's shaping up over there," he said.

The board also went into executive session to discuss personnel issues. No action was taken when they returned to open meeting.

Contest is a first for Colby seniors

Trip to Nebraska will test knowledge of local delegation

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Five Colby High School seniors will be taking part in an academic competition Friday at Chadron (Neb.) State College.

Students attending are Collin Bielser, Erika Erickson, Theo Kleinsorge, Taylor Miller and Jessica Morton.

What makes this contest special to Colby students, said Andy Boell, high school math teacher, is this is the first time the school has competed at Chadron State and is also the only school representing Kansas to be there.

Colby's involvement with this competition was initially prompted by students who were unable to attend an earlier competition at Fort

Hays State University due to conflicts in November.

"It was for that reason that some of the students were interested in another academic competition that would be offered in the spring," he said.

"Having attended Chadron State, I remembered this event was in March."

Colby will be in the second highest division competing against high schools in Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Colorado.

Although the testing is free, students must pay for travel and other expenses, he said, which is why the Colby High School Science and Math clubs are sponsoring the trip.

There are 48 tests available and students may take up to three tests, Boell said.

Chadron State officials added that plaques are awarded to the schools scoring the most points in each of the five divisions. Medals

are awarded to the top three people in each test and seniors who place first in a test will get a scholastic achievement award covering tuition.

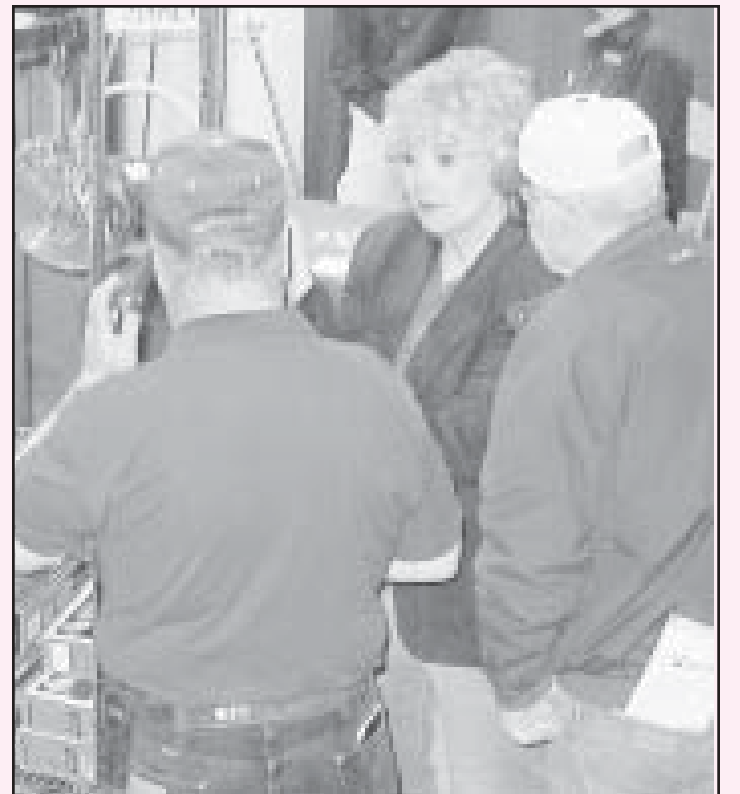
There is a total of 59 high schools entered in the inter-high school scholastic contest with more than 1,800 students planning to participate.

The students will leave Colby on Thursday so they can be ready for testing early Friday morning, Boell said.

Boell wanted to recognize Liz Strand, another math teacher at Colby High School, who will accompany the students to Chadron and to Roni Dietz, science club advisor, for her help and time in making the trip possible.

The contest, Chadron officials said, is believed to be the oldest and largest in the High Plains region with testing over nearly every aspect of the high school curriculum.

I deas for spring



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Hundreds of people attend last weekend's Better Home and Living Show at the Colby Community Building. More than 40 exhibitors offered ideas on how to spruce up the interior and exterior of a home. The show had displays to include financing, landscaping, campers, boats and more.



70 for Thursday

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area

Tonight...Clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs around 70. South winds 10 to 20 mph.
Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the east 5 to 10 mph after midnight.
Friday...Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain showers. Cooler. Highs in the mid 50s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the north 10 to 20 mph in the afternoon.
Friday night through Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the 50s and 60s. Lows in the 30s and 40s.

The numbers

- Tuesday's high, 68
- Low this morning, 25
- Records for March 31, 91 in 1946 and 0 in 1901
- Year ago today, 78 and 32
- Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00
- March total, 0.74
- March snowfall, 1 inch
- Soil temperature, 53

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.

Briefly

Career day planned next week

The Colby Grade School Site Council members are planning a career day for students on Thursday, April 8. Students in fifth grade will be shadowing a person in the community as he or she goes through a normal morning on the job. In the afternoon, student in grades K through fifth will participate in a "Career on Wheels" project at the school, said Terrel Harrison, principal. Students will learn about professional who use wheeled vehicles in their work.

Vendors wanted for Chautauqua

Food vendors are needed in June during Chautauqua, said Leilani Thomas, one of the committee members. Any groups or organizations looking for a fundraising event might want to consider this opportunity during the week of June 11 through June 15. Food service is needed each evening from 5 to 7 p.m. with beverages and sandwiches offered. Some suggestions for a food booth might include sloppy joes, hamburgers, polish sausages, bierock or casserole items. Dessert items such as pie, brownies or cookies can also be served. Groups interested in being a Chautauqua vendor are asked to call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643 or write to 350 S. Range #10.

Corn growers meeting next week

The Northwest Kansas Corn Growers Association will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 6, in the Gem Community Building, Gem. Featured speaker at the event is Mary Knapp, state climatologist, a Kansas corn grower update and scholarship award. For questions, call Julie Saddler at (785) 462-2237 or Steve Friesen at 462-6343.

Class reunion scheduled

The Colby High School Class of 1984 has scheduled its 20th reunion for July 2, 3, and 4, coordinators of the event said. In an effort to communicate with others in that class, a website has been set up for registration and other information. The address is: www.colbyhigh-1984.com

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.

Coaches needed for swim club

The Colby Swim Club is now taking applications for coaches for summer swim. Any persons interested in coaching are asked to call Mark and Angie Goudy, Brewster, at 694-2599 or Tracy and Robyn Rogers, Colby, at 462-3128.

Heartland SHARE sign-up

Heartland SHARE sign-up is April 5-9 at State Farm Insurance with delivery at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25 at the Sacred Heart School gym. A food share is \$17.50 plus two hours volunteer service. For information, call 460-3579.

Aviation safety seminar planned

There will be an aviation safety education seminar, Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Colby Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park. The seminar is a national program developed by the Federal Aviation Administration Central Region, said Mark Ostmeyer, manager of the Colby Municipal Airport. The program is designed to make using all types of airports, airways and other situations safe and fun. For questions, call Bruce Allred, (316) 941-1208 or Ostmeyer at (785) 462-4438.

Puddle Duck enrollment continues

Pre-enrollment for Puddle Duck Preschool, which started today, will continue Thursday from 4-6 p.m., at 520 W. 5th, Colby. The preschool is non-denominational and open to children 3, 4, and 5 years of age. For information or questions, call Amy Jennings, director, at 460-2603 or 460-8388.

Performance planned in Oakley

Red, Hot & Blue! will perform in the Oakley High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. The group has been enjoying a five-year run in Branson, Mo. and reminisces about the "good old days," said Vicky Waldschmidt, media correspondent with Western Plains Arts Association. Admission at the door \$15 for adults, \$8 for students or by WPAA season passes.

This presentation is supported by the Heartland Arts Fund, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from the Kansas Arts Commission, and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

