



COLBY FREE PRESS

Buffalo Bill dedication draws many

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

OAKLEY — A slice of the Old West returned to northwest Kansas on Saturday in Oakley with the dedication of a bronze depicting William F. “Buffalo Bill Cody” hunting down a buffalo.

The weekend featured a parade with horses, reenactors, and more and the dedication along with a hot air balloon festival and displays at the Fick Fossil and History Museum.

Lewis Evins, president of Farmer’s State Bank in Oakley, kicked off the dedication with a speech revealing some of Cody’s history and the efforts to bring the statue to the community.

“Cody is a person any county would be proud to claim as an icon,” he said. The bronze features Cody mounted on his favorite horse, Brigham, along with his rifle “Loretta Borgia” running down a buffalo. Evins said Cody was a buffalo hunter for the Kansas Pacific Railroad in 1868, making \$500 a month which was a hefty sum of money for the time.

He said Cody spent much of his time as a hunter in Logan County, where he also took part in a contest that earned him the nickname “Buffalo Bill.” To see who would keep the name, Evins said Cody went up against another hunter named Bill Comstock to see who could kill the most buffalo in one day.

The winner would take away the name. Cody won the contest, bringing down 69 buffalo to Comstock’s 46. Evins explained to the crowd the idea for a statue in Oakley first started back in 1995 after he first found out about the buffalo hunting contest and also a trip to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody,

Wyo. where a bronze was erected in 1924 as a memorial to the man who founded the town of Cody.

He thanked businesses and others who lent their support to the effort and also revealed the Cody statue isn’t the only project in the works. Evins said the Wild West Historical Foundation that was created to bring the statue in Oakley, is working with the museum in Cody, the Buffalo Bill Ranch State Recreation Area in North Platte, Neb. and the Buffalo Bill Cody Museum and Grave in Golden, Colo. to create a heritage trail people can travel to go to all the sites that played a major part in Cody’s life.

Steve Friesen, director of the Golden, Colo. museum, was at the dedication also.

He said the bronze is a seed for the future of Oakley and Logan County. He said the Oakley statue is historically accurate and is more “active” than a statue of the frontiersman and showman in Cody, Wyo., adding it’s the largest statue of Cody in the world.

Friesen said the heritage trail will be a lot of fun for people when it’s completed. He said many people already do something similar on their own but the trail will help educate and encourage people to find out even more about Cody and the history of the American west.

“He was one of America’s favorite sons,” Friesen said. “When you think about the West, you think about Buffalo Bill.”

Artist Charlie Norton and his wife, Pat, of Leoti, were at the ceremony also.

“This started with a dream and this is the end of a long journey,” Charlie said.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: People checked out the monumental statue of William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody dedicated in Oakley Saturday. The statue features the frontiersman famous for his Wild West Show during his days as a buffalo hunter. **BELOW LEFT:** Dennis Kasey, left, Kirk Shapland, middle, who were dressed as young Buffalo Bill

and Medicine Bill Comstock, and Farmers State Bank President Lewis Evins traveled the parade route on horseback Saturday. **BELOW RIGHT:** Leoti artist Charlie Norton and his wife Pat rode along in the parade. Norton designed and sculpted the bronze that was dedicated.



Career symposium class talks about recreational facility

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A handful of Colby High School students visited last week’s city council meeting to talk about a project that, if accepted sometime in the future, it would benefit area youth for generations to come.

The idea was presented by the school’s career symposium class with Cheryl Baird,

instructor. Others involved in the project were Jesse Brottem, Travis Fromholtz, Brianne Swob, Sarah Bare and Mike Egner.

In discussing the possibility of a youth recreational facility, named “Chillers Fun For All,” the students mentioned that either Wal-Mart, the YMCA or other larger corporations could serve as major sponsors.

Using an existing facility somewhere in the city, the students considered a variety of activities that would interest students here and in other rural area.

Some of those included rock climbing, pool tables, arcade games, indoor basketball, food court, small children’s corner and a batting cage.

In addition, the student also gathered

survey information from 10 schools: Oakley, Brewster, Goodland, Winona, Atwood, Hoxie, Oberlin, Rexford, Grinnell, and Colby. There were a total of 523 students surveyed from those areas with 94 percent saying they would use the facility; 87 percent of those outside of Colby said they would be willing to driver and 81 percent said they might volunteer to help with

construction.

“We would like to create a smoke-free, alcohol-free atmosphere,” said Egner, one of the students helping with the project.

Baird said the students researched many possibilities to include playground toys for children, various types of games that could be added to the facility and was to begin looking at such a facility in the future.



70s and 80s

Colby-Oakley-Hoxie

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the 70s. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s to around 50. East winds 5 to 15 mph. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Wednesday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s.

The numbers: Sunday’s high, 86; Low this morning, 52; Records for May 24, 98 in 1953 and 34 in 1966; Year ago today, 78 and 58; Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00; May total, 0.67; Soil temperature, 72

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.

Filing tempo in county picking up as deadline nears

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

More Thomas County residents have filed to run for office as of this week, said County Clerk Tracey Perkins. The deadline to file for the Aug. 3 primary is noon on June 10. The District 2 County Commis-

sioners seat held by Glen Kersenbrock, who has yet to decide if he will run again, has two candidates — Democrats Jim Cousins and Richard Stefan.

Republicans Bert Stramel, Ken Christiansen and Bill Miller, Jr. have filed for the District 3 seat held

by Republican Duane Dawes, who said earlier he won’t seek reelection.

Incumbent County Clerk Perkins, a Democrat, has filed for reelection and Republican Shelly Harms is also seeking the office.

Another new filing is Republican

Kevin Ryan who is running for Kingery Township trustee. Another Kingery position up for grabs is the committeewoman position which Democrat Lois E. Starns is seeking.

Also filing to run is Democrat Pat Embree for committeewoman Ward 1 seat.

Max Embree, a Democrat, has filed to run for committeeman in Ward 1.

State Sen. Stan Clark, who represents the 40th District, is up for reelection this fall. He said he intends to file after the current legislative session is over.

Four soldiers killed in explosion near coalition headquarters

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An explosion destroyed a car near an entrance to the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition Monday, killing four people, the military said. An Iraqi policeman said they were foreigners.

About an hour later, at least two blasts were heard elsewhere in central Baghdad, and smoke rose from the vicinity of the Green Zone, which houses the coalition headquarters. A coalition spokeswoman said by telephone that she heard the

blasts, but had no information on the cause.

In the car explosion, American soldiers tried to pull the men from the shattered vehicle and quickly sealed off the area, said witness Kamel Raji. The blast occurred

about 50 yards from one of the main entrances to the Green Zone.

U.S. Army Col. John Murray said the explosion occurred about 2 p.m. and that the military was trying to identify the nationalities of the victims.

He confirmed four deaths.

Mohammed Naem, a noncommissioned police officer who saw the car explode, said the vehicle was a bulletproof Toyota Land Cruiser that was on its way to the convention center in the Green Zone.

Briefly

Monument reunion Sunday

The Monument Alumni School Reunion will be Sunday with a potluck dinner at 1 p.m. at the Monument School. All graduates and their families, teachers and those who attended Monument School are encouraged to come and renew old friendships, organizer said.

Amusement meeting tonight

The Thomas County Amusement Association meeting is tonight at 8 p.m., in the Thomas County Office Complex.

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. Other volunteers are also needed. To see how to help during this event, call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643 or write to 350 S. Range #10.

Municipal pool opens Saturday

The Colby pool will be open for the first day of the season Saturday to kick of the Memorial Day weekend. The pool hours will be 1-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 2-8 p.m. Sunday. Pool Manager Lane Carpenter said the pool has 10 lifeguards that are preparing the pool for open-

ing day. For information, call the pool at 462-4429.

Soybean referendum requests begin

From now through Friday producers can receive a form requesting a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, said Ross Sloan, Farm Service Agency director. Producers, he said, must certify and provide documentation that shows they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2002 through Dec. 21, 2003. Mail-in requests must be postmarked no later than May 28 and received in the Farm Service Agency office by Monday, June 7. All other requests made by facsimile or in person. For questions, call Sloan at 462-7671, or stop by at 915 E. Walnut, Colby.

