



COLBY FREE PRESS

Free falling



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Copelan Justice sailed off the high dive at the Colby swimming pool Wednesday afternoon. Copelan was one of many youngsters enjoying the pool during it's first week of summer operation. The pool's hours are 1-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 2-8 p.m. on Sunday.

Mini-motorcycle craze concerns city

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The Colby city manager and chief of police told council members at Tuesday's meeting that the recent influx of mini-motorcycles has prompted a need for discussion.

"Someone is going to get seriously hurt or worse on these," said Randy Jones, chief of police.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, agreed, adding that she wanted to make the council aware of this problem.

Jones said the mini-motorcycles are classified as a "toy" and they have a gas-powered engine capable of 20 to 30 mph speeds.

"People can't take toys on the streets," he said. "They are not street legal."

Citing reasons why the mini-motorcycles aren't street legal,



The mini-motorcycle is prompting concern by city officials.

Jones said, motorists and residents need to be aware that there is an ordinance to address these types of vehicles.

He also said that it is important for people to understand that these vehicles have limitations as far as where they can be ridden.

"Some parents or others using the vehicles might not be aware of

the ordinance," Jones said.

In addition, without a vehicle identification number, these mini-motorcycles cannot be licensed or tagged.

For those unfamiliar with the Standard Traffic Ordinance, Armstrong said today that it is a regulation which reads in part that no person on roller skates or riding in or by means of any coaster, toy vehicle or similar device, shall go on any roadway except while crossing a street at the sidewalk and except on streets set aside as play streets. Since the city has no play streets available, she said, these vehicles are illegal on any city streets.

For questions about the traffic ordinance or where these types of mini-motorcycles can be used, call the police department at (785) 462-4460.

More filings reported as June 10 deadline approaches

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

Time is running out for those planning to run in the Aug. 3 primary election.

Thomas County Clerk Tracey Perkins said the deadline is noon on June 10.

A few additional filings have taken place since the last report in

the *Free Press*.

They are:

• Max Embree, Democrat, committeeman Ward 1.

• Judy Kistler, Peg Tole and Kenneth Frahm, Republicans, committeewomen/man Ward 2.

• Karen K. Koenig and Alvin Koenig, Republicans, committeewoman/man Ward 3.

• Paul M. Steele, Republican committeeman Ward 4.

Others include:

Democrat Lois Starns, Kingery committeewoman; Republican Lon R. Frahm, West Morgan committeeman; Republican Ruth Clark, South Randall committeewoman; and Republican Darrel K. Dible, Wendell Township treasurer.



Continued warm

Colby-Oakley-Hoxie

Tonight...Partly cloudy. 30 percent chance for thunderstorms. Low around 60. Southerly winds 15-25 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance for thunderstorms. High in the 80s. South winds 15-20 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance for thunderstorms. Lows around 60. South winds 10-20 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance for thunderstorms. High in the 80s. West winds 10-15 mph, switching to the northeast around 15 mph.

Saturday night and Sunday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s and highs in the 80s.

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 79

Low this morning, 47

Records for June 3, 97 in 1953 and 36 in 1951

Year ago today, 74 and 51

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00

June total, trace

Soil temperature, 74

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.

Water use

• Wednesday, June 3 — 3.479 million gallons.

Water advisories

• Water **Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

• Water **Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

• Water **Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

Thomas County fair board approves new mower

TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Fairgrounds will be getting a new mower.

The fair board went over bids at a special meeting Tuesday and approved the low bid for a John Deere 757 Z-Trak midmount mower for \$6,750 from Colby Implement.

Lang Diesel, also of Colby submitted a bid of \$6,888.75 for a Grasshopper mower. Tom Schertz of Winona submitted the high bid of \$8,000 for a Skag mower. Cochran Farm Supply in Goodland submitted bids of \$7,212, \$7,407, \$7,290

and \$7,524 for a Z-Series Hustler and \$7,407, \$7,641, \$7,485 and \$7,719 for a Super Z-Series mower.

Board president Stan Strange said representatives from the companies that submitted bids brought mowers to the fairgrounds last week and demonstrated their capabilities.

Board member Darrell Dible said the mowers were used on several types of vegetation and terrain at the fairgrounds.

"It gave us a real good picture of how the mowers handled," he said.

Stability, horse power and ease of operation were some of the con-

cerns about the different models. Another issue of concern was paying for the mower.

Strange wanted to know if any of them were available on a lease-purchase agreement.

"I feel that's the only way it's going to be affordable to do this," he said.

Dible said the Deere and Grasshopper were available through that kind of agreement.

Strange said he liked the idea of paying up front for the mower but the fact the fair is coming up soon was an issue. He wanted to make

sure there is enough money in the board's account to cover all of the expenses and have money left over.

Board member Mark Anderson made a motion to finance the mower for two years but the motion failed.

Nancy Rundel, board member, later made a motion to pay for the mower upon delivery, which was approved.

The board also briefly discussed insurance for the home-owned carnival.

Dible said it was talked about at the last Thomas County Amusement Association meeting and the problem is that the insurance pro-

vider doesn't want to supply liability insurance during the entire year.

He said getting insurance for the week of the fair isn't a problem.

Board member Marty Crampton suggested storing the carnival rides for the duration of the year, which would eliminate the need for liability insurance.

Dible said they haven't done anything yet and are still looking at other carriers.

He said if they had more of a track record, like five or 10 years of operation without problems, there are plenty of carriers.

Storms stall winter wheat harvest; quality varies in areas

WICHITA (AP) — Thunderstorms across southern Kansas on Wednesday stalled the fledgling 2004 winter wheat harvest as combines were ready to roll.

Before the rains arrived, the OK Co-op Grain Co. had gotten 600,000 bushels of wheat at its seven elevators in Kiowa, Hardtner, Hazelton and Corwin in south-central Kansas, the company said.

"I am real pleased with the quality. I just hope the bushels are there," said manager Alan Meyers.

The Kiowa area was spared the late spring freezes that damaged crops further north, but it still had

its share of heat and drought, he said. Kiowa — typically the first area where wheat is cut in Kansas — began harvesting its first loads Saturday.

Wheat in Kansas has ripened unseasonably early, making it ready to harvest at the same time as wheat in northern Texas and Oklahoma. Partly because of an unusually large crop in Texas, there are not enough custom harvesters in Kiowa to cut all the wheat that is ready, Meyers said.

Brett Myers, executive vice president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, said wheat qual-

ity will be spotty across the state as the harvest gears up.

"It is pretty early to tell," Myers said.

"We knew some of the best wheat was going to be around south-central Kansas, and from what we are seeing the early wheat is quite a bit better.

"We expect it to get a lot worse as we go to the north and northwest," he said.

Drought, disease and late frosts have all taken a toll.

The majority of the Kansas wheat crop is now listed in poor to very poor condition, according to the

Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service. It ranked wheat condition Tuesday as 26 percent very poor, 27 percent poor and 24 percent fair. Just 21 percent was in good condition, with 2 percent listed as excellent.

The agency said about 3 percent of the wheat is ripe in Kansas.

Elsewhere in the state, little wheat has been harvested, with rain Wednesday further delaying cutting.

Farmers in Sumner County — the state's biggest wheat producing area — brought their first 7,000 bushels into the Farmers Co-op

Grain Association elevator Tuesday, said manager Ken Fitzpatrick.

Those first loads are of average quality, running test weights of between 56 and 60 pounds per bushel, he said. Some showed disease damage.

It is too early to tell what quality or quantity the county will ultimately harvest, but Fitzpatrick expects it to be a below-average crop. A wet fall delayed planting and the area had a lot of disease damage in the spring, he said.

"We are going to take what we can get, but it is not going to be great," he said.

Briefly

Commodity distribution scheduled

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office at the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park, Colby. For information, call 462-6744.

Change in billing software

The City of Colby has switched utility billing software. The bills will be mailed out on June 1, 2004, and are now in letter form, not on postcards. Please look them over carefully and call 462-4410 if you have any questions.

Cemetery items can be retrieved

Paul Baird, the caretaker at Beulah Cemetery, said he has gathered most, if not all, the flowers and wreaths laid on the graves of loved ones following strong winds this past weekend. Anyone suspecting their arrangements might have blown away during the high winds is asked to stop by the shop

building on the southwest corner of the cemetery and check for items that are in the pickup truck parked near the building. All flowers and wreaths that were blown from their locations will be available for retrieval until noon on Friday.

Quilters Guild opens meeting to all

Dr. Bryan Grove, art instructor at Emporia State University, will be speaking at the Colby Community Building (basement) starting at 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 21. The program is one of the regular monthly meetings of the Kansas Prairie Quilters Guild. Grove will talk on the subject of "Kansas Landscape and Design," said Kathy Cayton, one of the coordinators. The public is invited and there will be an administrative charge. For questions, call 460-2161.

Singles dance Friday

The Colby Singles Group will hold its monthly dance on Friday from 8 to midnight at the American Legion in Colby, said Don Birzer, organizer. Entertainment for this month's event will be provided by Off Limits, featuring Dick and

Maybelle Moore and Bill Summers. For questions or other information, call 462-2127.

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 460-7643 or write to 350 S. Range #10.

West Nile tips issued

The Thomas County Health Department is reminding everyone to be aware of the West Nile Virus and mosquito population through prevention efforts. For example, when outdoors officials said to use a repellent with DEET and extra clothing. Off brand bug spray has proven to be the best repellent, said Juanita Dewey, Thomas County Health.

