



City receives state's top water award

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Colby recently received the top award for its water quality. The city was recipient of the "Most Improved Water System of the Year" award statewide from the Kansas Rural Water Association.

Elmer Ronnenbaum, with the association in Seneca, said it's given once a year at the organization's annual conference during the last week in March.

He said Colby was chosen from among all the communities in the state for the honor.

"We rely heavily on the Department of Health and Environment for information on this award," Ronnenbaum said, adding they use the information from the state to select who has made the most improvement to their water systems. "It's the only one we give in the state."

He said Colby received the award for a water reclamation project.

Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city got the award for two reasons — installing new water meters and for its project



Gerry Bieker hung up the award the city received from the Kansas Rural Water Association.

to remove chromium from water to make it drinkable again.

She said the city received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency for a treatment plant to remove the chromium and the city runs it. Armstrong said water in a city well has been unusable for more than 17 years because chromium had leaked into it at one point but is now being reclaimed.

She said it's because of a "progressive" city council and excellent employees the city received the award.

Wall of dirt



LON SOWERS/Colby Free Press

Lon Sowers of Gem took this picture of a dirt cloud heading his way Saturday evening. He was at the northwest corner of Gem heading home after putting up some hay when he saw the cloud

and snapped several pictures. The dirt storm caused several accidents on Interstate 70, one which claimed the life of Sen. Stan Clark, 10 miles from his home in Oakley

Friends, family, colleagues say 'good-bye' to Clark

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

OAKLEY — Laughter and tears shared the spotlight while an overflow crowd at the Oakley High School auditorium gathered for the funeral of Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley, Thursday morning.

"Stan was more concerned for our welfare than his own," said Gordon Jamison of the Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church. Jamison told of greeting Clark, tongue-in-cheek, as "Brother Senator" to which Clark would invariably reply, "It's just Stan."

Most of the state legislature was there, along with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Attorney General Phill Kline. Sebelius called Clark "an honest and compassionate man" and Kline said he was a personal friend.

Kline added that Clark was special in that he had, in addition to his integrity and strong values, the abil-

"Stan was more concerned for our welfare than his own."

Gordon Jamison,
Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church

ity to enjoy life.

Kline told of visiting Clark and being introduced to the elaborate train set he and his son Will had set up in their attic.

Kline said watching Clark "giggle like a child" while operating the train set told a lot about the man.

Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, praised Clark's work ethic and told of assigning him oversight of a committee tasked with looking into Medicaid reform.

When Clark said he didn't know anything about Medicaid, Kerr re-

plied, "I know you, and you will take the time to study this most complicated issue."

True to prediction, Clark studied the issue, worked hard with both sides of the aisle and came up with concrete recommendations, Kerr concluded.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Olathe, said while Clark was on the other side of the aisle, "to Stan Clark there was no aisle" praising his willingness to listen to all sides and work with everyone.

"The most important thing we

can do today is make sure Will (Clark's son) has a future," he said, encouraging all to donate to the Will Clark Education Fund.

Rep. Bob Bethell, R-Alden, said, "To Stan there was no rotunda, either," adding that Clark called him late one night for help on the Medicaid committee and was willing to work with the other house for the good of the people.

Clark was also held in high esteem by his friends and neighbors. One young lady told a humorous story of a time when Clark "wasn't so compassionate."

She had gotten a wood splinter in her hand and Clark took it out using a needle.

"He got it out, but after that I went to my mother to get slivers taken out," she said.

All agreed Clark's great faith and religious convictions were a source of strength for him and a source of comfort for his family and friends.

Several people offered condolences to the family.

Clark's widow, Ruth, and son Will, both gave some short remarks. Will thanked his father for his guidance and promised to try to take care of Clark's pride and joy — his antique automobiles.

Ruth said she hoped everyone that was present would give their lives to Jesus as that was what "Stan would have wanted for each of you."

After their remarks, Sen. Les Donovan, R-Wichita, Senate Majority Leader presented a Kansas Flag which had flown over the capital to them.

Donovan, obviously choked up, hugged both of them and encouraged Will, saying, "I'll be watching for you."

After the service, Sen. Clark was borne to his final resting place at Oakley Cemetery in his restored Hudson pickup.

College's proposed wellness center gets \$25,000 grant

The proposed Colby Community College wellness center got another boost — this one from a Texas Foundation in the form of a \$25,000 grant.

After several contacts last spring between college President Dr. Mikel Ary and members of the Garvey family, the Texas Garvey

Trust recently notified the college of the gift.

"The college has benefited greatly in the past from the generosity of the Garvey family," said Ary.

"I am pleased to announce this grant which will enrich and improve the lives of students and community members in the college's

service area.

"We are grateful for this contribution which is to be used at the discretion of the college."

The Garvey family name is familiar to students at Colby Community College.

The Garvey Academic Center was added to the college library sev-

eral years ago owing to financial assistance from the trust.

"The Garvey family has particularly focused on educational endeavors and has assisted many institutions in Kansas and Texas," said Ary.

"The college will be forwarding the grant to the college endowment

foundation to be used for the wellness center project.

"On behalf of the college, I would like to thank the Texas Garvey Foundation for their generosity in extending this money to the college and, in turn, to the community and the students of northwest Kansas," Ary said.

Briefly

Blood drive coming up

The Colby Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive from 12:30-6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16 at the Colby Community Building. Call 1-800-448-3543 to schedule an appointment. Everyone wishing to donate will need to bring a photo ID or Red Cross blood donor card, which is received after one's first donation.

Colby school board to meet

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the board room of the administration building. Items on the agenda include a public hearing on the republished 2003-2004 general fund budget, consent agenda, reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent, approval of the 2003-2004 republished general fund budget, proposed handbook changes for 2004-2005, establish July board meeting date, approval of Head Start 2003-2004 agreements, KSDE Nutrition Services 2005 program agreement and personnel issues if necessary.

College board to meet

The Colby Community College board of trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room in Thomas Hall. Items on the agenda include a higher education commission report,

approval of contracts and agreements, the budget and negotiations. The meeting is open to the public.

Potato bar fund raiser set

First Christian Church, 385 W. Third in Colby, will have a potato bar fund raiser for Greg Heinze at the church from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Everyone is encouraged to attend and help a friend in need. Heinze was injured in a February plane crash in Arkansas.

County commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include Mike Woofter and Roofmasters roofing. The meeting is open to the public.

Super Sitter Class nearing

The Thomas County Health Department Super Sitter class has moved. The class will be held in the 4-H Building directly west of the Thomas County Office Complex. The class will be held Wednesday, June 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and enrollment is not limited. Those planning to attend need to have completed fifth grade. For questions or enrollment fees, call the health department at 462-4596.

Liberian minister visits Colby area

A minister in Liberia will be visiting churches in the Northwest Kansas area today, Saturday and Sunday, said David Hall, pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby. Rev. Amos Bolay, pastor of the Universal House of Prayer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Liberia will be in Oakley for a potluck dinner tonight; Saturday he will offer the worship at Colby Trinity Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m. and again Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Bolay's visit is in conjunction with the Bike Across Kansas fundraiser to help the Children's Christian Concern Society. For questions, call Hall at (785) 462-3497.

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. Call 462-6744.

Change in billing software

The City of Colby has switched utility billing software. The bills were mailed out earlier this week, and are now in letter form, not on postcards. Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, asks that residents look carefully over the bills and call 462-4410 with any questions.



Thunderstorms

Colby-Oakley-Hoxie Tonight...Partly cloudy. 40 percent chance for thunderstorms, some may be severe. Lows in the 50s. Southeast winds 10-20 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance for thunderstorms. Highs in the 80s. Southeast winds 5-15 mph, shifting to the northeast 10-15 mph. **Saturday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms.

Lows in the 50s. East winds 5-15 mph. **Sunday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance for thunderstorms. Highs in the 80s. Southeast winds 15-15 mph, increasing to 15-20 mph later in the day. **Sunday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms. Lows in the 50s. **Monday...**Sunny. Highs in the 90s.

The numbers
Thursday's high, 84
Low this morning, 55
Records for June 4, 98 in 1958 and 38 in 1916

Year ago today, 67 and 54
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.16
June total, 0.16
Soil temperature, 73

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
• Thursday, June 3 — 2.900 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.

