



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Patriotic 'gift' inserted in today's Colby Free Press

Equipment check

Big weekend scheduled for Colby

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Colby will celebrate this weekend with the Cruise to the Past Rod Run, Prairie Heritage Daze and the Chautauqua.

Bev Biel with the Colby Chamber of Commerce said the events will be held at the same time again this year.

"That was combined with the car show two years ago to make prairie days a better event," she said.

The car show, in its eleventh year, starts Friday night with the cruise-in from 5-9 p.m. at Sonic Drive-In and Montana Mike's. Biel said more than 200 classic cars are expected for the event.

She said classics from Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska are just some of the cars people have to look forward to.

Saturday morning the festivities kick off at 8:30 a.m. with the Rod Run Show and Shine and Prairie

Heritage will run all day at Fike Park.

She said that event will feature children's activities, air rides sponsored by the Thomas County Amusement Association and activities with performers from the Kansas Chautauqua going on at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

Food and craft vendors will be part of the fun, along with a free watermelon feed at 3 p.m. at the park, sponsored by Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Biel said there's no cost to attend any of the activities, but she did say parents will be asked to keep an eye on their kids at the car show. She said they will need to keep them from climbing on or touching the vehicles on display.

Biel also said no bikes or rollerblades will be allowed around the cars.

If anyone brings one, they will be asked to put it in a designated area.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Sgt. John Kompus of Herndon and Staff Sgt. Donald Frecks, a recruiter with the Kansas Army National Guard in Colby, checked out the troop compartment of a Bradley fighting vehicle Wednesday

at Fort Riley. The two, along with a group of western Kansans, toured the National Guard facilities at the Army base where members work on everything from radios to repairing engines.

Colby resident named 'Man of the Year'

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A Colby man was recently named as "Man of the Year" for 2003 by an organization which recognizes people who go out of their way to help others.

Gary Parker, who serves as program director on the Kansas Consumer Advisory Council for Adult Mental Health, said he was humbled to have been nominated for the award.

"I never imagined I would ever be placed in a situation like this," he said.

As for his nomination, Parker

said he has no idea what agency or persons might have submitted his name to the American Biographical Institute, which sponsored the award.

Adding to the excitement of being chosen "Man of the Year," Parker said he also had an all-expense paid trip to Cambridge, England earlier in the year to accept the plaque and receive the American Medal of Honor.



G. Parker

"I was surprised and excited to be named," he said. "I enjoy the work I do and to know others appreciate what I do as well is a very humbling experience."

As part of his regular job with the advisory council, Parker said he answers to 24 board members in the Kansas City-Wichita area.

"We are a consumer-run organization," he said.

Wings Upon the Prairie in Colby is also affiliated with the council, he said, and there are 20 such types of facilities across the state.

The council advocates for people with mental illnesses by sponsoring

a state leadership academy for them.

The purpose being to teach skills that will help those with mental illness to get back in the work force, he said.

"These people learn everyday life situations and our membership totals about 600," Parker said.

The council is in its third year of federal funding and is in partnership with the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council and Social Rehabilitation Services, along with visiting High Plains Mental Health and other consumer-run organizations.

Chautauqua schedule

Friday, June 11 — Adult workshop from 10-11 a.m. with Frederick A. Krebs on the Kansas-Nebraska Act at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Children's workshop from 1-2 p.m. at Pioneer Memorial Library with Charles Everett Pace presenting "Folktales of African Peoples in America." Geared for school-age children. Youth Chautauqua camp from 2-5 p.m. at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, with a program on "Ride Into History" with Ann Birney and Joyce Thierer. Family activities at the Kid-Tauqua Tent from 5-6:45 p.m. The evening's program starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Chautauqua tent featuring Frederick Douglass.

Saturday, June 12 — Breakfast with Charles Everett Pace who portrays Frederick Douglass will be at 7:30 a.m. at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth. Join the Chautauquans for a discussion on how they research characters, prepare portrayals and more. An adult workshop with Charles Everett Pace on "My Bondage and My Freedom" will be from 10-11 a.m. at the library. "Important Places and Faces," David Dickerson, 11 a.m. to noon at the Senior Progress.

Colby High Eagle wrestlers going to Dallas next season

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

An out of district athletic trip for the coming school year was on the agenda at Monday's Colby school board meeting.

Mitch Beims, Colby High School wrestling coach, approached the board about taking members of the team to a tournament in Dallas in January.

He said the dual tournament will take place at the same time as a college tourney, which would give his wrestlers the chance to wrestle and watch college athletes compete.

"It's a really big tournament," Beims said, adding 24 high school teams will compete.

The board gave its consensus for the trip, with Joel Powell, John Cranston, Tracy Rogers and Dewey

Augustine saying yes and Stan Molstad and Gerry Fulwider abstaining.

He said it would be beneficial for the students because they "rarely" get to see college wrestling and would also help expose them to schools that normally wouldn't recruit. Beims said it would also be a chance to see more of the world than just northwest Kansas.

He said the Dallas tournament would replace the Liberal tournament on the schedule and suggested the school give the team the amount it usually receives for the Liberal trip and then they would raise the rest of the money themselves.

Beims estimated 20 kids going and said the team usually gets \$300 from the district for meals, \$400 to cover a hotel stay and transportation

to the Liberal tournament.

He said it would require missing an extra day of school so students would be gone on Thursday and Friday, also two more hotel nights, but he said the team will raise the money to cover extra costs.

Beims said he's talked to the Garden City High School wrestling coach and their team is also going to the Dallas tournament and has offered to let the Colby team ride to Texas with them on their bus.

He said all they need is the \$700 for meals and hotel and three Suburbans from the district.

"We're in pretty good shape," Beims said. He also said it could be used as a chance to get more schools to come to tournaments in Colby.

Board member Joel Powell said because the trip wouldn't cost the

district anymore money, he didn't see a problem with it.

Gerry Fulwider, board member, said he wanted to see a written proposal but Beims said he already submitted his request in writing to Superintendent Kirk Nielsen more than a month before.

"I don't think money is a factor here," Rogers said.

He said it's the first time one of the athletic teams has approached the board about an out of state event and said other school entities already go beyond the state's borders.

Activities director Jeff Quenzer said the trip is a "great opportunity" for the team but said the district will have to treat all similar trip requests the same way.

"That's something we need to think about," he said.

Nielsen said he agreed with Quenzer and added people are always asking why the school's teams go so far for games and other events.

"I think this is taking us into a new realm," he said.

Molstad said the board needs to set up guidelines because they can't do them case by case.

Beims said he thinks all kids deserve to take advantage of opportunities when they're offered, especially when those chances will benefit the students and give them the chance to venture out of northwest Kansas. Fulwider said he didn't disagree kids need opportunities and said the only difference he saw between the two trips was mileage, but they also have to consider the cost of missing school and substitutes for the classroom.

Briefly

County offices closed Friday

The Colby Post Office and all Thomas County offices will be closed either part or all day Friday to honor the memory of former President Ronald Reagan. There will be no regular mail delivery or counter sales. Normal hours will resume Saturday. The county offices and courts will close at noon and the treasurer's office will close at 11 a.m. District court offices will be closed all day and the county landfill will close at noon.

Share sign up continues

Heartland share sign up continues from now until Friday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. 4th St., with delivery on Saturday, June 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Donations sought for fireworks

The Colby Kiwanis Club is reminding all businesses that it's once again looking for "shell" sponsors to defray costs

on this year's fireworks display. All \$20 shell donations will go toward the celebration. If interested, call the Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401.

Water garden tour planned

The Northwest Kansas Transition Council will have a water garden tour in the Colby area on July 10. Tickets will be available June 23 with purchase locations announced later. The event will raise funds for projects for the 2004-2005 school year. The projects will assist at-risk students and disabled northwest Kansas students in preparing for post-secondary training, employment and independent living.

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.

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 call 462-4596.

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. For questions, call 460-2161.

80s and 50s

Colby-Oakley-Hoxie
Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Breezy...Cooler. Some thunderstorms may be severe. Lows in the 50s. South winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph shifting to the west 10 to 15 mph after midnight. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. West winds 10 to 20 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the 50s. Southeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the northeast 5 to 10 mph after midnight. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Northeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon. **Saturday night and Sunday...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the 80s. Lows in the mid 50s.

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 87; Low this morning, 63; Records for June 10, 105 in 1902 and 41 in 1979; Year ago today, 94 and 56; Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.05; June total, 0.68; Soil temperature, 80

Water use
• The water production for Tuesday was 2.906 million gallons.
• The water production for Wednesday was 3.308 million gallons.

