



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Habitat message conveyed

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

More than 30 bicyclists crossing the country for a good cause were in Colby overnight Friday. They stayed at Colby United Methodist Church.

Mark Hanudel of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., one of the group's leaders, said the bicyclists were traveling from New Haven, Conn. to San Francisco to raise awareness nationally for Habitat for Humanity and also as a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven.

"We're one of three trips," Hanudel said. "We're the southern route. We have a total of 87 riders and this is the 11th year of the challenge."

The group left New Haven on May 29 and should reach San Francisco by the end of the month. He said they're averaging 70-75 miles a day.

The original trip was to San Francisco but as interest grew, so did the number of riders, which lead to the decision to add routes to Seattle and Portland.

Hanudel said the fund-raising portion of the challenge raised more than \$350,000 for the Connecticut chapter, which will help pay for seven new houses in New Haven. Riders had to raise \$4,000 each to go on the cross-country ride.

He said most of the money was raised before they left but some was still trickling in. Carrie Bernstein with the New Haven Habitat chapter said some of the money each rider raises along with corporate sponsorship helps pay for their bike and other necessities along the route.

The bicycling aspect of the effort is to help raise grassroots awareness of what the organization does and spread the word about its programs. Hanudel said some towns they've been through have chapters and others don't but people have been interested in what Habitat for Humanity does, which is build houses for less fortunate families.

He said two-thirds of the riders are from Yale University and the rest are from universities across the country, including Harvard, Princeton, Brown and the Uni-



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Mark Hanudel of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., a student at Yale University, worked on a bike at Colby United Methodist Church Friday.

versity of Colorado at Boulder. Reaching Colby was a breath of fresh air for the cyclists.

"It's nice to stay in a big city," Hanudel said, adding their stop in Colby would give the group a chance to do laundry and pick up bicycle parts. Colby and Emporia were two of the largest Kansas stops

and he said Sylvan Grove was the smallest.

He said they traveled from Hill City to Colby Friday on Highway 24 and were heading to St. Francis and then to Burlington and Strasburg, Colo. before traveling on to Boulder some time this week.

Hanudel said they've been avoid-

ing larger cities because their mission is aimed at smaller communities and also because it's easier to travel. He said all of the people in his group were on their first Kansas trip and were enjoying the scenery and the good weather they had.

"We picked the right week to go through here," Hanudel said.

Nothing has changed but the rates, official says

City manager responds to sewer questions

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Some Colby businesses have questioned the new sewer rates on their city bills, which went into effect in May. In explaining why the amounts are fluctuating, Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, offered the following information.

"Nothing has changed in the way the billing is processed, other than the rates," she said with respect to commercial and residential billing.

In other words, commercial businesses, such as motels, restaurants, and other retail-type stores, are charged for the water used every month.

For example, a motel will use different amounts of water depending on how many guests, which will then result in higher or lower sewer charges for that month.

Residential customers; however, are calculated on an average of the winter months (December, January, and February) and those sewer rates will remain consistent until a yearly evaluation is completed.

Residential customers are not charged extra on their sewer bill for summer yard watering, etc.

The recent increase in sewer charges was approved by the Colby City Council at one of its regular meetings in April of 2004.

The purpose is in raising money for the new treatment plant, which is expected to begin construction in

the beginning of 2005.

The council believes that by the time it applies for the treatment plant loan, there should be about \$2.2 million already saved up.

The total cost for the plant is estimated at \$8.6 million with plans due from the engineers by Dec. 31, 2004, she said. The treatment plant will be built on land the city purchased from Lonnie Wilson at a cost of \$30,000, which includes easements. The plant will sit on 15 acres of land north and east of Wagoner's Salvage Yard or on the east side of the county road and north of U.S. Highway 24, she said.

In reviewing costs, the new sewer rates for commercial businesses will be \$22 for the first 2,000 gallons of water and \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons of water used above the initial cost.

Prior to the increase, commercial businesses had been paying \$9 for the first 3,000 gallons and \$1 for each 1,000 gallons above that.

Residential customers are now paying about triple what they were paying based on new rates using the three-month winter average.

"Sewer rates in Colby have been extremely low for many years," Armstrong said, "and last year the minimum sewer rate was increased from \$4.56 a month to \$9 a month."

However, that slight increase was not enough to help build any case reserves to pay for the new treatment plant, which is "in imminent danger of complete failure."

For questions about sewer charges or other questions, Armstrong encourages businesses or residential customers to call 462-4410.

Fireworks Sunday

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Independence Day fireworks got rained out Sunday and again on Monday night but Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore said the show will go on this Sunday after races at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

McLemore said they're hoping to shoot off the display at about 10:15 p.m. if the races are finished by then. If not, the fireworks will start

as soon as the races are over.

J.L. Ellis, of the Colby Fire Department, said parking shouldn't be a problem because of the races. He said people can park in the fairgrounds parking area or at the Thomas County Office Complex.

He said the best place to view the display is anywhere in the immediate area around the fairgrounds so people have a little more leeway in where they view the show.

Colby 'voice' calls rodeo in Wisconsin

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

A Colby resident got the chance to call a rodeo in a place that's known more for its cheese and football team than its cowboys.

Richard Hahn was the announcer for a two-day rodeo held July 18 and 19 in Stanley, Wis.

"I was invited by the stock contractor," Hahn said, adding Joe Simon of JS Rodeo Company in Minnesota was the person who asked him to call the rodeo.

He said it was the first ever Pro-

fessional Rodeo Cowboys Association-sanctioned rodeo held in the small Wisconsin community.

"There were 4,500 people the first night and over 5,000 the second night," Hahn said, which was impressive because the community has only about 1,500 residents.

Hahn said probably 85 percent of the people there had never seen a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo or even just a rodeo before.

"We had their interest from the start to the finish," Hahn said.

Wisconsin, he said, does have several large rodeos each year, including an event in Medford. The Stanley rodeo did have a decent draw for cowboys, including Bill Huber, a calf roper who has appeared at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

The rodeo also featured Arctic Cat, a tough bull who was unriden during the 2003 Professional Bull Riders event season and who was used at the 2002 National Finals. Several broncs featured at the finals were used at the Stanley rodeo.

Hahn's been announcing rodeos since a no-show in Burlington, Colo. caused him to take up the mike at a Little Britches rodeo many years ago. He says he usually announces six performances a year but some have been high profile, including the annual rodeo at Beef Empire Days in Garden City the past two years and the Little Britches Rodeo National Finals. He also has done the Yuma, Colo. rodeo and has announced with pro rodeo association announcers Mike Mathies and Boyd Polhamus.

Briefly

Voter registration still open

Voters who haven't registered still have time to register to vote in the Aug. 3 primary election. The county voter rolls close at 5 p.m. on July 19 and won't reopen until the day after the election. For information on registering to vote, call the Thomas County Clerk's 462-4500.

Pre-Pickin On the Plains event planned

A pre-festival event in conjunction with *Pickin On the Plains* is scheduled Thursday, July 15 starting at 4 p.m. with registration for the pedal tractor pull open to children ages 4-12. The pedal tractor pull activities begin at 5 p.m. at the Thomas County fairgrounds and is being sponsored free by Farm Bureau Association. Following the pedal tractor pull, organizers said, there will be a potluck and jam session with drinks furnished. For questions on any of these pre-festival activities, call (785) 460-6332.

Water garden tour Saturday

The Northwest Kansas Transition Council will host a Water Garden Tour on Saturday. The tour will be between 2 and 5 p.m. Featured Colby water gardens include the Taylors, 1380 E. 8th; the Harrisons, 1175 Brookside; the Dickmans, 925 E. 5th; the Chances, 130 S. Garfield; the Williams, 360 E. Cherry; the Pabsts, 1945 County Road W.; the

Ackermans, 345 S. Garfield; the Edwards, 425 Arrowhead St.; the Bartons, 1494 K 25; the Browns, 1485 Pioneer Dr.; and the Wancuras, 690 E. 2nd. Tickets will also be available at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center Vocational Department, or call Misty Mildenerger, (785) 672-3125, Marilyn Unger, (785) 460-7659, Jennifer Unger, (785) 475-3680, Wally Severson, (785) 462-6123, and Judy Taylor (785) 460-7976. Proceeds will be used to fund projects that assist the disabled and at-risk students of Northwest Kansas.

Deer, turkey, elk applications available

The Thomas County Clerk's office has received the 2004 deer, turkey and elk applications, along with information booklets. Applications to the Department of Wildlife and Parks must be received or postmarked no later than Friday, July 16. For questions, call (785) 462-4500.

Items still needed for camp

Donations are still needed for Girl Scouts in Colby who will be attending summer camp during mid-July at Camp Hansen, Kirwin Lake, said Brette Pfeifer, coordinating activities. Pillow cases (whites and light pastels); clear fingernail polish; rubber O-rings (for making water bottle holders); clear sealant spray, and bubble gum are needed. Pfeifer said she would be glad to pick these items up by calling her at 460-6006.

Colby Edson Bird City



Highs on the hot side

Tonight...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the mid 60s. East winds 5 to 15 mph.
Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the 90s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.
Friday night...Partly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday...Partly cloudy then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday night...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 60s.
Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s.

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 96
Low this morning, 60
Records for July 8, 106 in 1957 and 46 in 1952
Year ago today, 98 and 62
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
July total, 2.22 inches
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
• July 7= 1,547 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.

