



## Howdy all you wrestlers and fans from: Andale, Buhler, Hugoton, Larned, Lindsborg, Nickerson, Clearwater, Goodland, Haven, Pratt, Russell, Scott City, Ulysses and Colby!

## Council to rebid project

By Patty Decker

*Free Press Editor*

Three bids received for the Colby Municipal Airport project were rejected during the council meeting earlier this week.

All three bids were over the engineer's estimates and one of the bids came in three minutes late, which disqualified it from consideration, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

The three bids received for the airport apron/taxilane project included APAC-Kansas, Sporer Land Development in Oakley and Tarbet Construction, Colby. The base bids, Armstrong said, ranged from a low of \$490,000 from APAC to a high of \$513,513 from Tarbet.

Estimates were expected to come in at \$453,900. In addition to the airport project, bids on an alternate with approaches to private hangars ranged from lows of \$63,434 from APAC to a high of \$79,920 from Sporer, but again the estimates were targeted to come in at or around \$49,250.

The one bid that came in late, she said, was not opened.

According to the Kansas statutes regarding this type of situation, Armstrong said the council cannot enter into a contract for any work or improvement when the price exceeds the engineer's estimate.

"As a council," she said, "you can choose to reject all the bids and rebid the project or reject all bids and negotiate with the lowest bidder to a price under the engineer's estimate."

After some discussion, the council decided to reject the bids and took the next step by directing the city manager to get with HWS Consulting in Manhattan and look at changes in the scope or quantities of work. Armstrong said the consulting firm would review the project document and rebid it at no additional cost to the city. In making these types of changes, Armstrong said she is "very, very hopeful" to have good bids next time.

Timelines for the bid opening date is anticipated in late March with contract approval either at the council meeting on April 5 or April 19.

"This should not result in a major delay on the project," she said.

## Pleasing poets



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Grade School students Matthew Minchow and Hayden Miller read a poem and showed the poster they drew to go along with it during a combined first and second grade project this morning at the school. The activity was part of a peer reading project put together by Title Reading teachers Sally Toth and Jamie McClure.

## Colby bank, postmaster warn of scam

By Jan Katz Ackerman

*Colby Free Press*

An alert bank teller helped prevent a Colby man from being scammed for nearly \$4,000 on Thursday.

Brenda Wagoner, Peoples State Bank, thought something "just wasn't right" when a young man presented four money orders each valued at \$950 and wanted her to cash them.

"He said he'd been in a MSN Hotmail chat room with someone who wanted to know how to get money for an airline ticket to the United States.

"The woman on the Internet told the man she'd send him four money orders to cash and he was to send the money to two different addresses," Wagoner said.

Scams such as the one Wagoner described are part of an ongoing money laundering system based out of the country of Nigeria.

Wagoner, as well as Colby Postmaster Kenton Krehbiel, cautions the public to be aware of the severity of trying to cash such fraudulent money orders.

Krehbiel said this morning if a person uses the United States Postal Service for such transactions it's considered mail fraud, which is a federal crime.

Both Wagoner and Krehbiel said should one of the fraudulent money orders be cashed, it would be returned to the institution which cashed it and the customer would be responsible for returning the money.

"The fraudulent money orders we've had have all been for \$950. If anyone finds one, bring it to me," Krehbiel said.

Krehbiel said there are two very distinct ways to identify whether a money order is genuine.

"The main thing is that clear to the left is a watermark and in it, if you hold it up to the light, you should see a picture of Benjamin Franklin looking right at you.

"Also, to the right of the watermark is a thread that runs all the way through the money order, and you should see the letters USPS," Krehbiel said.

The money orders presented to Peoples State Bank did not arrive through the post office, so mail fraud is not involved.

Krehbiel said when carriers such as FedEx or United Parcel Service are used for sending fraudulent money orders; it does not come under federal post office laws.

However, Krehbiel said local law enforcement was contacted about the incident. And, he has informed the United States Postal Service of it and postal inspectors will try and track down the woman who sent the money orders to the United States.

"I've sent these money orders and the packaging they came in to the postal inspectors. They take care of it from there," Krehbiel said.

He said people involved in the Nigerian Scam are hard to catch, and encourages people not to become involved with anyone wanting them to cash money orders in the United States for them.

## Bloodshed continues in Iraq with another dozen dead

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Twin explosions during Friday prayers outside two Shiite mosques in Baghdad killed more than a dozen people, officials said, attacks during a Shiite religious festival that mirrored deadly explosions a year ago.

The first blast occurred in Baghdad's southern Dora neighborhood near the al-Khadimain mosque, Iraqi National Guard 1st Lt. Ahmad Ali said. The mosque's imam, he

said, was making appeals for blood donations.

That explosion, Ahmad said, was apparently the work of a suicide bomber wearing a vest packed with explosives.

He said about 30 people were killed, though a hospital doctor, Ahmed Zaher, said 14 dead and 42 injured had been brought in from the blast.

A police official, Capt. Falah al-

Mahdawi, said 15 people were killed and 20 were injured.

Zaher said cars and pickup trucks were arriving at Baghdad's al Yarmuk hospital with more injuries. Shocked relatives were rushing through the hospital looking for relatives, he said.

A second blast, apparently caused by a mortar attack, occurred outside the Al Qura mosque in a predominantly Shiite neighbor-

hood of western Baghdad, Lt. Col. Jalal Sabry of the local police station said. He said the injured were also taken to al Yarmuk, where a doctor said at least one person was killed and four were injured.

Both blasts came just as prayers were finishing and the faithful were preparing to observe the holy day of Ashoura on Saturday.

Shiites are marking the Islamic holy month of Muharram, and

Ashoura, the 10th day of Muharram, is the holiest day of the year for them. The day marks the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad, in a seventh century battle for leadership of the Islamic world.

Last year during Ashoura, twin blasts ripped through crowds of worshippers at Shiite Muslim shrines in Baghdad and Karbala, killing at least 181 people.

## Few details released on shooting death in Colby

By Jan Katz Ackerman

*Colby Free Press*

Authorities are investigating an early morning shooting death of a Colby man and few details are being released at this time.

Colby Police Investigator Gary

Shull said a call came into the 911 dispatch center at 2:22 a.m., about a shooting that had occurred in the 200 block of North Country Club Drive.

"The Colby Police Department and the Kansas Bureau of Investi-

gation are investigating the death of a 64-year-old male at that location.

"Other males were present at the scene, and an autopsy was requested and is being performed in Hays this morning," Shull said.

Shull said alcohol is suspected as

a contributing factor in the death, but names of those present when the shooting occurred are not being released at this time. In addition, the name of the deceased is not being released yet because not all of his family members have been notified.

## Briefly

### Gaither Video Concert Sunday

There will be a Gaither Video Concert at the Colby Wesleyan Church, Sunday, starting at 6 p.m. The featured video is "Church in the Wildwood," and the concert is open to the public and free of charge.

### Legislative town hall meeting Saturday

Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby, and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, R-Grinnell, are holding a town hall meeting from 9:45-10:45 a.m., Saturday, at the Quality Inn in Colby. They will be giving a legislative update.

### College board to meet

The Colby Community College board of trustees will meet at 4 p.m. Monday at the board room of the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include a marketing report, audit approval, a resignation, food service contract, approval of contracts and agreements, Internet auction agreement, Higher Learning Commission progress, payment of claims and negotiations. The meeting is open to the public.

### Commissioners to meet Tuesday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include a presentation with Colby city manager Carolyn Armstrong on improving Willow, Franklin and Country Club; presentations on the weed department, economic development and sheriff's office and Ron Redick of Hi Plains Mental Health.

### Some places to close Monday

Monday is Presidents Day and there will be some businesses closed. You might want to make a few phone calls before setting out on your rounds Monday morning. "The *Colby Free Press*, although we love and respect our past presidents, will keep the doors open and the lights on and turn out an edition for you to enjoy that evening," said Tom Dreiling, publisher.

### County offices closed Monday

The Thomas County Courthouse to include the federal courts, along with the Thomas County landfill and health department will all be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of President's Day.

Colby  
Hoxie  
Oakley



## Bit breezy, but not bad

**Tonight...**Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Areas of fog. Lows in the mid 30s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. **Saturday...**Decreasing clouds. Areas of fog in the morning. A 20 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 30 mph. **Saturday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers in the evening...Then mostly cloudy after midnight. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows in the mid 30s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. **Sunday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 30 mph. **Presidents Day...**Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s.

### The numbers

Thursday's high, 54  
Low this morning, 16  
Year ago today, 75 and 26  
Records for this date, 81 in 1970 and -10 in 1978  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
Precipitation for month to date: 0.34  
Snowfall for month to date: 3.7 inches  
Soil temperature, 37

### 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.

