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PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Fun day!

The fourth annual *Celebration on the High Plains*, sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce saw a variety of events Saturday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, said Mary Ann Downing, coordinating the event. **ABOVE:** Zach Harlow, 13, and Alyssa Goodheart, 10, both members of the Thomas County Charter School Academy, were involved in skits and games with one of those being a shoot-out, said Kristin Eberle, head teacher at the charter school. **RIGHT:** Karly Kriss, 10, (left) and Alexi Regier, 11, were among the many chili cookers during the cook-off later in the day. Other highlights included band performances by Aces and Eights, Lip Riddle, No Parking, and the headlining act Heather Shelley.



Man recalls time spent with judge

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press
PHOENIX, AZ — Hoxie native

Bob Schaffer served not only as pallbearer at Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist's private funeral last week in Washington, D.C., he served as his clerk for one year.



B. Schaffer

Schaffer, on Saturday during a telephone interview, reminisced about clerking for Chief Justice Rehnquist from July 1998 to June 1999.

"It was a wonderful experience," Schaffer said. "It was great to be at the top of the court system. As I've thought back the past couple days, I'm reminded he was a creature of habit."

Meetings which started each morning at 9:30 a.m., Schaffer said the Chief Justice would usually take a few moments to chat with his three clerks.

"He would usually talk about the weather, sports or trivia, and he'd try to stump his clerks or we'd try and stump him," Schaffer said.

A 1989 graduate of Hoxie High School, Schaffer said he was encouraged to apply for a clerk's position with the United States Supreme Court by Chief Judge Deanell Reece Tacha of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. Schaffer worked for Tacha in her Lawrence office.

Schaffer earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas, and his law degree at Duke University. He said his start at Hoxie High School gave him the chance to work for the nation's top lawyer. He said it was his education at Hoxie High School which has led to his life's experiences.

"I really had a good high school experience."

"I had a great education at Hoxie High School, and at the Chief's funeral, his granddaughter, Natalie Rehnquist Lynch, spoke and you could tell she too had a good educational background."

Like me, she's taken debate and she is very well spoken," Schaffer said.

Schaffer said his most challenging aspect for clerking for Rehnquist was the Chief Justice's high expectation of his clerks.

"The Chief would give his clerk's only 10 days to write a first draft of an opinion. I think he wanted his clerks to write a very concise opinion and not ramble on. He wanted them to be clear, readable and easy to understand," Schaffer said.

Like his boss, Schaffer is an avid tennis player; Rehnquist's partner in fact.

"He was very competitive and he loved playing games. Most Justices hired four clerks, but the Chief only hired three so he could play doubles," Schaffer said remembering Thursday morning matches.

Schaffer said the best part of being a clerk for Chief Justice Rehnquist was "getting to know him."

"It was getting to know him, and getting to know his quirks, likes and dislikes."

"The single best occasion I can remember was his tradition of inviting his clerks and their spouses out to dinner, and after dinner we'd go back to his house and play charades."

"I'll never forget the Chief acting out Birth of a Nation. Imagine the Chief laying on his back in his living room acting out Birth of a Nation," Schaffer said.

Schaffer, who had an office next to Rehnquist's, was known as the office candy keeper for the Chief Justice.

"He enjoyed candy so the law clerk next to his office was in charge of making sure he had a full candy dish. I remember once the Chief came into my office, stuck his finger in the candy and gave me a look of dissatisfaction."

"I guess he didn't like the candy in my dish," he joked recalling the Chief's favorite candy being Jolly Ranchers.

Schaffer, the son of Hoxie residents Gerald and Darlene Schaffer, is in private practice in Phoenix. His firm specializes in commercial litigation with an emphasis on lender liability and anti-trust cases, as well as appellate court work.

Commissioners get \$16,956 in bioterrorism funds

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners found out how much the county health department will be getting for its first installment of bioterrorism funds of the year at their meeting this morning.

The county's health department administrator Juanita Dewey was at the meeting to get the commissioners' signatures, and they also ap-

proved the contract.

Dewey said the county will get \$16,956, followed by three more payments of the same amount over the next year.

The first payment will come after the contract is turned into the state.

Money from last year was used to help make the computers at the health department more secure.

"Internet security is our big thing

this year," Dewey said. "I don't need to beef up anymore."

This year, she said, some of the money might be used to purchase a video camera for the department as well as a photo printer dock for its digital camera as well as add to supplies.

Dewey also said to help with fuel conservation efforts, she has postponed out of town blood pressure checks until gas prices go down.

Another contract was also on the commissioner's agenda today. Clair Schrock, county road department supervisor, brought a contract on the Willow project. The commissioners approved the contract, making it part of the county's five-year road plan.

Now that the contract has been signed, Schrock said he can send it into the state and it will be assigned a project number. He said the

county will have to pay 20 percent of the project, or \$70,000.

Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, and Lynette Koon with the Thomas County Conservation District were also at the meeting to talk about a grass seeding project at the landfill.

Koon said Jumper approached her about doing some grass planning for the landfill and they got the idea for the county to do a cost share on the project. Then, she suggested,

the county could give the amount back to the district to help pay for its new grass drill.

The amount was originally \$480, which the commissioners approved, but after looking at a map of the landfill, they realized there are more acres that can be included.

Chairman Ron Evans told Koon to come back at the Monday, Sept. 19 meeting so they could talk more about it.

Workforce Center up and going

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

The Colby Workforce Center has settled into its brand new building on the east side of town at 1135 S. Country Club Dr.

"The move has provided the center with a top notch 1,000 square feet of space in order to help continue its mission of helping Kansas workers improve their skills and connect with state employers," said Caleb Asher, communications director.

Both the center and Social and Rehabilitation Services, also known as SRS, were relocated to the new site from 485 N. Chickamauga Ave., with each located in separate areas of the building.

Colby houses one of the 26 workforce centers in the state, which compose the Kansas 1st Network by

offering a variety of services to employers and job seekers.

"Kansas 1st Network is a workforce development system that connects education, job seekers, and business-directed programs for the propose of providing qualified employees, financial resources and workforce training solutions to existing and new Kansas businesses," Asher said.

In addition to Kansas 1st Network and the SRS office, Ketch Employment is also available to help clients find jobs through vocational-rehabilitation.

For questions about the center, call Linda Groff, (785) 462-6862 or email: lgroff@kansascommerce.com

The regional director, Phyllis LaShell can be reached in Hays at (785) 625-5654.

Evacuees not coming to Kansas

WICHITA {AP} — Some 500 Gulf Coast evacuees expected to arrive in Kansas today have decided to stay south and rebuild their homes instead, state officials said.

Wichita's Century II center was to be made a shelter for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, as well as the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka, and sites outside the state in Missouri and Nevada.

But the Kansas Adjutant General's Department announced Sunday that all but one flight carrying the storm survivors had been called off.

The remaining flight was to head to St. Louis.

"Few people seem to want to relocate, but would rather stay and rebuild," the Adjutant General's Department said in a news release.

"These are not wasted efforts," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, adjutant general and the head of the state's emergency management and homeland security efforts.

"This was excellent practice for these communities for any future disasters. It shows how well we can respond to situations requiring mass care of disaster victims."

State officials say some 800 others affected by Katrina have made their way to Kansas themselves. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius announced

Sunday that President Bush had approved her request for an emergency declaration, which guarantees 100 percent federal reimbursement for the Kansas' costs related to hurricane response and recovery.

The state has dispatched numerous others to help in the aftermath of Katrina, including more than 200 Kansas National Guard troops in Louisiana and Mississippi assisting with logistics, air traffic control, search and rescue, security and other tasks.

Also at work is a 10-member building inspection team in Pascagoula, Miss., and various other city and county officials.

