



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Pheasant banquet Saturday

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The biggest event for the Kansas Pioneer Chapter of Pheasants Forever is this Saturday. The group is holding its 22nd annual banquet at City Limits Convention Center.

President Tom Redmond said there will be plenty of activities during the evening, which starts at 5 p.m. with social hour and auction preview.

Dinner is at 6 p.m., followed by the auction, which is the signature event of the evening.

Many items are included in this year's auction, including a bronze, knives, an original painting, pheasant hunts, shooter's bags and wildlife prints.

Five of the framed prints, which feature wildlife such as pheasants, deer, turkeys, and more, are on display at Colby Banks, Redmond said.

They can be seen at First National Bank, Farmers and Merchants Bank, The Bank, and Peoples State Bank.

"We raise money to preserve habitat for pheasants and wildlife in general," Redmond said.

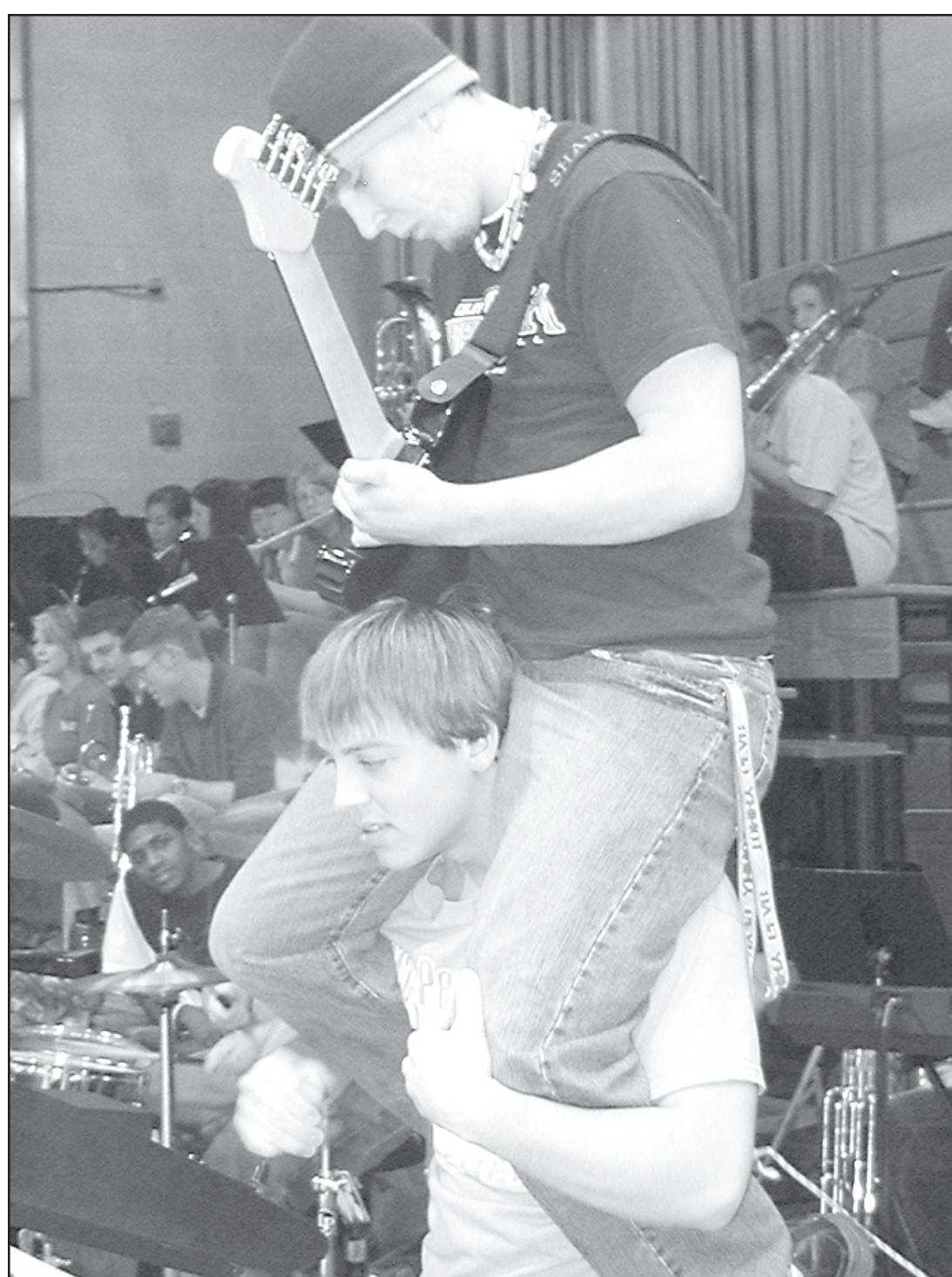
They cost-share on many projects, like planting trees, helping preserve the areas playa lakes and other efforts to protect habitat.

Last year, they put out 30 wildlife waterers that collect rain water and dew for wildlife to drink.

Besides their wildlife efforts, Redmond said they also participate in youth projects, like hunter's safety courses and the annual youth outdoor skills day put on by Kansas Wildlife and Parks.

For information, call Redmond at 462-5803 or Van Horn at 460-2181.

From the top



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Daniel Blake, with guitar, and Shane Carter, keyboard, members of the Colby Community College Rockin' Pep Band, showed their spirit during Tuesday's home basketball game against Pratt Community College at the Colby Community Building. The band plays all home games.

Hixson to leave Colby

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

After almost 10 years as Colby's mayor, Warren Hixson plans to step down from the position in March citing plans to move to Hutchinson.

Filling the unexpired term until the next election, Hixson said Colby City Council chairman Ken Bieber has accepted the job; however, many of the details have yet to be disclosed regarding the transition.

Hixson retired last year as owner and broker of Homeland Real Estate, but continued doing some real estate work.

He said he and his wife, Sharon, made the decision to move to Hutchinson so that they could be closer to their grandchild.

Hixson has been a long-time resident of Colby, having first been elected as mayor in April of 1995. Among his many other accomplishments, he served 12 years as a Colby Community College trustee and was past president of the Kansas League of Municipalities.

Last year, the league chose Hixson to receive the 2003 Excellence in Local Government Award.

Other memberships and offices included the Kansas Humanities Council and his serving as president from 2000-01, along with continuing his association with the council.

About three years ago, former Kansas Gov. Bill Graves selected Hixson to serve on a special advisory group to study the structure and function of local government.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said recently that having worked in local government for 24 years, "Warren is the best" and will be missed.

Armstrong also spoke about how much Hixson has promoted Colby through the arts and other areas to make the city a better place to live.

Specifically, Armstrong said with Hixson's guidance, the city has seen improvements such as air conditioning in the Colby Community Building, new airport runway lighting, infrastructure additions to serve the area south of Interstate-70 at exit 53, technology improvements, new service provider for telephone, internet and cable, the creation and expansion of the regional recycling center and the many street projects using money from the state's department of transportation.

Hixson said that he hasn't made an official announcement to the city council as yet, but noted the news is no secret either.



W. Hixson

Officials help with search

HAYS (AP) — Thomas County officials were alerted of the two people before they were killed in a shootout as they fled from officers on Interstate 70 Wednesday near Hays.

The suspects were wanted for questioning in the shooting death of a decorated World War II veteran in Utah on Jan. 14, authorities said.

Thomas County's involvement

"We were watching for the vehicle the bulletin was out on and we saw some that could have been them but nothing good enough to identify," Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said.

"All law enforcement along Interstate 70 was looking for them." Thomas County Undersheriff Jason Moses said he watched interstate exits at Mingo and the Kansas Highway Patrol "had most of the area I-70 exits covered."

Moses said at about 1 p.m. the suspects were believed to be out of the area. Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said he had officers positioned at the interchange of Kansas Highway 25 and I-70, and west of town on U.S. Highway 24.

"As far as I know they never got in to Colby," Jones said.

According to Ellis County Attorney Tom Drees, as officers approached the suspects' car they were fired on by one of the occupants. Officers returned fire killing Alicia (Wingate) Cardall, 26, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Aaron Millenson, 18, of Englewood, Colo.

The vehicle, which was being driven by Millenson, was registered to his mother. Neither of the officers were injured.

The chase started about 2 p.m. after Kansas Highway Patrol troopers attempted to stop the eastbound car with Colorado registration on Interstate 70. It ended when the car collided with a concrete bridge support about two miles east of Hays, Ellis County Attorney Tom Drees stated in a news release.

As officers from the Highway Patrol and the Ellis County Sher-

riff's Office approached the car, one of the suspects fired on them. The officers returned fire, killing both of the suspects, the release said.

Two Utah detectives traveled to Kansas on Wednesday to see if there is a link between the two people and the Jan. 14 shooting death of Steven Poulos, 80, of Holladay, Utah.

The detectives, from Salt Lake County, already were in Colorado Wednesday trying to locate the pair, said Sgt. Paul S. Jaroscak of the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office. Utah authorities became interested in interviewing the two when one of their cell phone numbers turned up during the investigation of Poulos's death.

Poulos was found shot in the back in the basement of his Holladay home. He was among the Allied troops that stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. He narrowly escaped death in June 1944, when he was shot by a German machine-gunner.

His family and friends were offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of his killer.

When Utah police tried contacting numbers in Poulos' phone records, they reached a woman in Denver. Her answers didn't fit with their information, so they sent two detectives to interview her. She wasn't located in Denver, but additional phone records showed she was moving east, toward Kansas, Jaroscak said. Kansas authorities were given the description of her car and a man she was traveling with, and were asked to stop them, Jaroscak said. A felony warrant was issued for the woman Wednesday for investigation of obstruction of justice.

Colby Free Press contributed to this story.



M. Baughn

Burglary suspect recants testimony

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

An Oakley woman changed her story between the time she pleaded guilty and the judge asked her to say in her own words what she had done.

Goldie Moore, 22, pleaded guilty to one count of burglary Monday, but changed her story and said she did not enter Murray Enterprises, Murray Roofing, JM Tree and Lawn Service and Sundance Spas on Nov. 23.

Moore and Eric Schiltz were

charged with breaking into the building located at 780 E. Fourth and taking two laptop computers and a checkbook. Moore told District Judge Glenn Schiffner she "waited in the car" while Schiltz broke into the building.

"Mrs. Wyrick, I can not accept this plea," Schiffner told Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick. Wyrick was as surprised as Moore's attorney, Doug Spencer of Oakley, after Moore changed her story.

"May I have a five minute recess?" Wyrick asked.

Wyrick headed for law books at

the front of the courtroom to look up what she could charge Moore with after her unexpected testimony.

When back in session, Wyrick asked Schiffner to amend the burglary charge to one count of conspiracy to commit a burglary. Schiffner agreed.

Depending on a presentence investigation, Moore, who is five months pregnant, faces a prison sentence between five and 17 months and a fine up to \$100,000.

As part of a plea agreement, Moore agreed to testify against Schiltz and any other defendants resulting in

the incident.

Spencer asked Moore be released from the Thomas County Jail on a recognizance bond. Wyrick objected calling Moore a "flight risk" since in December she fled Kansas after passing worthless checks in Ellis County. She was located in Oklahoma and brought back to Colby.

After telling Schiffner she has no contact with her immediate family, Moore was ordered back to jail until she can come up with a plan for living arrangements until she's sentenced in March.

Native wealth

Morgan Morris, Brooks Curry and Courtney Van Eaton, first graders at Sacred Heart School, picked out Kansas quarters today. In honor of Kansas Day this weekend, Denny and Fritz Ryan of Colby gave each student at the school two Kansas quarters — one each from the Denver, Colo., and Philadelphia, Pa., mints. Kansas became a state on Jan. 29, 1861. The students are in Kim Taylor's first-grade class.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press