



COLBY FREE PRESS

School board talks about stadium bids

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Colby School Board is holding a special meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday to send out bids for the Dennen Field stadium project.



T. Rogers

The meeting was the result of a special meeting Thursday to approve the stadium project. Board members learned the project must go to bid after a contractor was already approved.

The Colby Booster Club approved last month CBS Constructors of McCook, Neb., for construction. That has changed because the district must treat money it is getting from the booster club as public funds, hence the reason for bids.

Board president Tracy Rogers said no one knew the money had to be treated as public funds, and that it had to go through the bid process.

"There's never been anybody giving the school money for a certain project," he said.

It was assumed because the booster club raised the money and came to an agreement with a contractor, they would pay for the project.

Rogers said the purpose for the

meeting Thursday was to make sure the district follows proper steps necessary to complete the stadium project.

"We weren't trying to circumvent the system. That wasn't anyone's intention," he said. "We want to make sure we're following all the proper steps. We're lucky we were able to catch it in time."

The specifications for the project still include a 1,033-seat stadium.

He also didn't anticipate any setbacks on the stadium construction, and hopes to have it constructed sometime in the spring.

John Gatz, school district attorney, said it was not long after the last school board meeting he was made aware of the situation.

"It was pointed out the money must go to a tax-exempt entity, such as the city, hospice, or in this case, the school district. The money must also be treated like public funds once in the district's hands," he said.

Insurance and liability is another issue. For example, Gatz said if a contractor is hired to build the stadium, they would have to provide a certificate of insurance. The district already has insurance in place. At the meeting Thursday, Darwin Strutt of F&M Insurance said that could be taken care of if a district employee oversees the construction process. All meetings are at the administration Building, 600 W. Third St.

One lump or two?



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Tina Hansen, standing left, and Teri Cloe, standing right, poured refreshments during a formal tea Sunday for Girl Scout mothers and daughters at the Quality Inn. Also pictured are Mara Hansen, seated left, and Randi Cloe, seated right.

Drought, summer wind damage shows up in fall harvest

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

After a sporadic start, the fall harvest is finally in motion and winding down in some places.

Nate Reid, manager of the Rexford Grain Company, said the elevator took in about 35,000 bushels of corn Tuesday.

"We probably took half of that in milo," Reid said.

Reid said of the farmers who have commented about their yields, dryland milo is making between 30 and 80 bushels per acre and irrigated corn is making between 160 and 220 bushels per acre. Besides the drought, tornadic winds which hit parts of

"Almost every bushel of corn brought in goes through a grain dryer. . . We are drying every bushel that comes in because feedlots won't take it above 17 percent."

Eric Sperber, Cornerstone Ag

Thomas, Logan and Sheridan Counties in June 16 are being blamed for crop damage.

"There is some corn going down in spots in isolated areas, I'd say about 10 percent of it," Reid said. "But overall, corn harvest is looking good."

Eric Sperber of Cornerstone Ag in Colby

said the harvest is "finally going."

Rain delayed farmers and Sperber said moisture continues to hinder the harvest.

"We are fighting some moisture in corn, but it's coming down," he said.

Sperber said Cornerstone is taking in corn with 18 percent moisture content,

while dry corn is considered having 15.5 percent moisture content.

"Almost every bushel of corn brought in goes through a grain dryer," Sperber said. "We are drying every bushel that comes in because feedlots won't take it above 17 percent."

Sperber said he has been told yields on dryland corn are very poor and a lot of acres were abandoned or chopped for silage.

"Irrigated corn is average, depending on water and soil conditions, and seems to be running between 190 and 230 bushels per acre," Sperber said.

Ed Conard, owner of First Insurance Agency in Hoxie, said the June 16 winds took out more than 50 irrigation systems

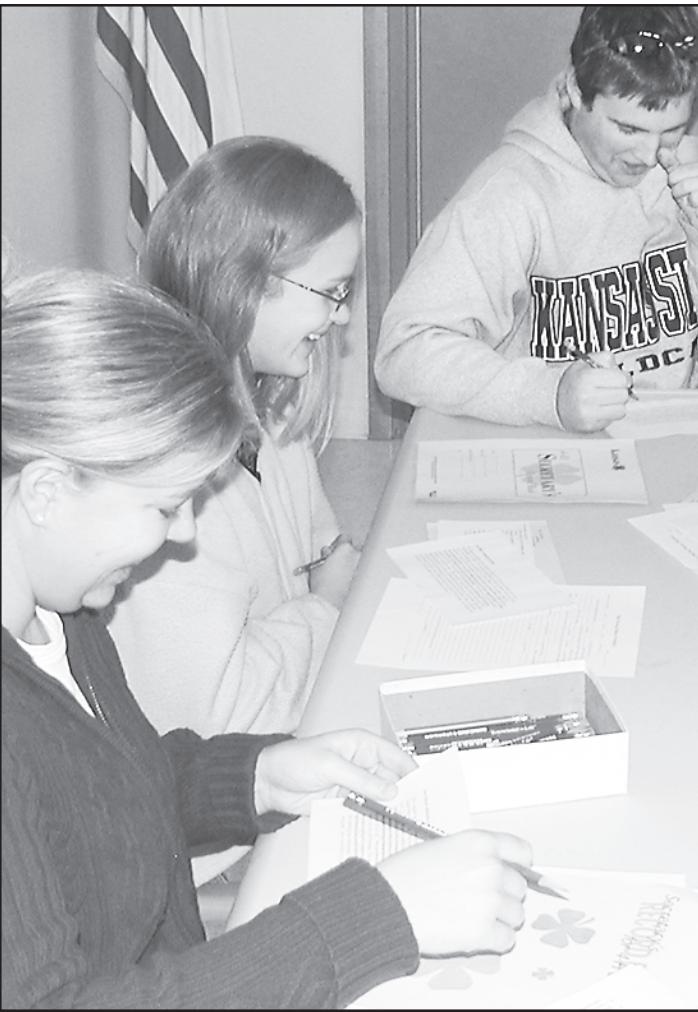
was minimal because of the fact irrigators got their systems up and running quickly.

Micheale Dewey, county executive director for the Farm Service Agency in Hoxie, said state officials will not allow her or other agency staff members to release dollar amounts of the damage from that storm.

She said because Sheridan County, along with other counties in the service area including Thomas and Logan Counties which were declared disaster areas, figures are not being released in dollar amounts.

Dewey said she is hearing reports the corn harvest is down from last year, but the milo harvest, while early on yet, "looks better."

Training Day



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Thomas County 4-H members went through officer training Friday at the 4-H Building. The officers learned what their duties will be, and how to do them over the next year.

Colby Trojan runner wins nationals

Colby's Betty Rotich, a Kenya freshman, capped of a tremendous cross-country season by finishing first overall at the National Junior College Athletic Association cross-country championships Saturday in El Paso, Texas.

Rotich finished in 17:03, a new school record.

As a team, the Lady Trojans finished 16th out of 28 teams.

Uganda natives Lillian Badaru and returning 2005 All-American Happy Mary Bacia kept South Plains College in the lead throughout the 5K run, but Rotich gave one last push at the home

stretch Badaru followed at 17:04.52, while Bacia was third at 18:00:03.

"It was nice running with Lillian. I had never run with her before," Rotich said.

"She pushed me throughout the race. That push enabled Rotich to run a personal best, which earned her the goal she'd set for herself - winning the race.

"That's all I would think about all week," she said.

Also finishing for the Lady Trojans were Mary Nyambura (21:31, 87th), Amy Hoff (22:05, 103rd), Tiffany Thomas (22:40, 129th),

Nichole Eckels (23:31, 153rd), Kalie Smith (24:04, 173rd), and Klare Zillinger (25:10, 185th).

On the men's side, Colby's Sandino Nero finished 31st overall and Onesmus Too finished 65th. Nero ran his best time of the year, 25:26, the second fastest time in Colby College history.

"This meet puts an end to a great and successful cross-country season," Colby coach Jeff Becker said. "I would like to thank all of you for your support and interest throughout the season."

El Paso Times contributed to this story.



COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Trojan Betty Rotich, pictured at a meet earlier this year in Colby, came in first at the national meet Saturday.

Colby's New Year's Eve party tickets available

By John Van Nostrand

Colby Free Press

Tickets are going fast for the Rappin' and Rockin' New Year's Eve party Dec. 31 in Colby, less than two months away.

According to J&R Marketing, organizing the event for the second year in a row, about 600 of the 1,000 tickets available have been reserved. Those who purchase a ticket before Nov. 20 will receive a free T-shirt.

Concerts will be performed by Christian band Three Chords Wonder from Denver and Christian rap

Party: 7 p.m., Dec. 31
to 7 a.m., Jan. 1

artist John Reuben. Both will play in the Colby Community Building. Concerts begin at 9 p.m.

After the music and pizza following the shows, participants will be bused across Colby for a variety of activities to be held at Colby Community College, Heartland Christian School and Colby School District buildings. Events include basketball, dodge ball, bowling and a movie.

Participants can also stay in the

Colby Community Building for video games and breakout sessions where kids can talk about issues that relate to them.

"This is such an important night for kids," said Judy Epp, of J&R Marketing. We want to have our area kids have a good time on a fun night of the year — free from drugs and alcohol."

Epp said about 40 students from Baptist Bible College of Springfield, Mo., will assist in running all the events. Baptist Bible College members helped with the 2005 party.

Tickets are available at the His

Shop and Farmers and Merchants Bank's Dillons branch in Colby. J&R Marketing has ticket salespeople across northwest Kansas. In Goodland, contact Ben Coats at Calvary Gospel Church; St. Francis, Kary Zweygardt; Oberlin, Doug Mason; Norton, Trent Richmond and Oakley, Jason Schmidt at the Christian Church.

Tim Morehart at Colby Wesleyan Church also has tickets.

Doors are expected to open at 7 p.m. The event will finish 7 a.m. Jan. 1.

For more information, contact J&R Marketing at 443-1994.