



COLBY FREE PRESS

Little helping hands



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Sacred Heart Preschool students, left to right, Braden Horinek, Jimmy Baldwin, Jadon Siruta, Braden Thummel, Briele Bange, Carissa Brogan and Gracie Sorenson carried in food to the

Genesis Thomas County food bank today at the Thomas County Office Complex. The preschoolers had a food drive as their second community service project of the year.

Dennen Field project a 'go'

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

A new stadium at Dennen Field is now a reality following Monday's Colby School Board meeting approving a bid for the project.

The district received only one bid from CBS Constructors in McCook, Neb. in the amount of \$99,500, which the board approved.

The McCook company was originally selected last month by the Colby High School All-Sports Booster Club to provide a stadium for the football field with a bid of \$1,500 less.

However, after the board gave its consensus for the project, the efforts hit a snag. The district's attorney, John Gatz, told board members the project must go to bid because of the money being donated and how it was to be handled.

The Booster Club had raised money for the project, which is in a trust fund at First National Bank. It was found once the money is turned over to the school district, it must be treated as public money, and the bid process was initiated after a special meeting at the beginning of the month. The board also approved accepting the money from the booster club. About \$65,000 is in the trust fund, which will now be transferred to the school district.

School board member Joel Powell, who is also a member of the booster club, said the club has more money in other accounts, and is waiting on some grants, and that money will be transferred when needed.

Nielsen said the board will have to approve that money as well when it comes up on the agenda.

Powell also said the reserved seats are selling well, and the club is trying to raise money beyond what it currently has for the stadium. That money will be used to provide a sound system for the new press box, and seat covers in the reserved seating section.

One-hundred and sixty seats have been sold so far. Those seats are selling for \$75 each, and will guarantee football fans a seat at a game for five years, but does not include the price of admission to a game.

Board president Tracy Rogers thanked the club for its hard work.

Powell also said they appreciated the work of Glenn Strait of Strait Associates of Colby for his help. Strait helped work up the bid specifications and is the architect for the project.

The new stadium will have 1,033 seats. The new stands will be 121-feet long 15 rows of seating and stairs on each end. A 30x8-foot press box will cap off the stadium.

Sheridan County attorney calls for new commissioner election

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Sheridan County Attorney Mike Haas asked state officials Monday for help to determine who is the next District No. 1 county commissioner. Haas suggested having another election.

"I'm approaching every avenue and researching statutes and all legal authority that's available," Haas said this morning. "I'm giving it my 110 percent."

Haas, in a letter to Brian Caskey, an election official with the secretary of state's office, asked for help resolving an unprecedented situation of two men claiming victory in the Nov. 7 general election. Incumbent Ron Schamberger's vote

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Mike Haas,
Sheridan County attorney

count at close of polls was 220 to Victor Bielser's 214 votes. But after learning some 50 ballots went uncounted, 15 of which were from District No. 1, Bielser asked for a recount.

District No. 1 is made up of the townships of Adell, Bow Creek, East Kenneth, Valley,

East Saline and West Saline. After the recount, Bielser was the winner over Schamberger by seven votes, 227 to 220 votes.

Despite the recount of the ballots, neither Schamberger nor Bielser has officially won because neither of the ballot counts has been certified with the state.

Caskey said Haas' letter is public record. "As I said in my fax to you last week, I think the only thing that can ever appease everyone is to have another election and perhaps just limiting it to the commissioner's race," Haas wrote. "I understand there is no legal precedent on this matter as I have done some research also."

Caskey said the secretary of state's office has never been confronted with the situation in Sheridan County with commissioners refusing to certify an election. He said commissioners by law are charged with the duty of certifying elections and "there is no one else to do it."

Caskey said since state statute does not address the situation, legal work is taking place in Topeka about how to advise Haas

to proceed.

In Haas' letter, he told Caskey the county needs to get the matter taken care of "as soon as possible since it affects someone taking office."

A new commissioner for District No. 1 is scheduled to be sworn in Jan. 9, seven weeks from now.

If the secretary of state's office does not order a new election of District No. 1, Haas is prepared to do so.

"If someone from your office doesn't help, I intend to file a request with the county commissioner to have another election and do this under the general authority of the county commissioners," Haas wrote. "If someone wants us to stop the election that is fine."

Missing two weeks Search continues for Atwood man

Rawlins County Square Deal

The search continues this week for an 81-year-old Rawlins County man who was reported missing from his rural home Nov. 7.

Morris Dale Nelson was reported missing from his home at about 8:30 p.m. Nov. 7, according to the Rawlins County Sheriff's office. He was last seen that afternoon in the southern part of Rawlins County, driving a white 1979 Chevy pickup.

After an extensive search by Rawlins County Sheriff's Depart-

ment, family and friends and neighbors, neither the man nor his pickup was located, Sheriff Bill Finley said, noting the Kansas Highway Patrol joined the ground and air search on Nov. 8.

Nelson's pickup was located Nov. 9 by a Wildlife and Parks officer at the state park near Norton.

The Norton County Sheriff's Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, Wildlife and Parks and Plainville Rescue Squad Inc., Dive Team continued the search but Nelson

was not located and the investigation continues, Sheriff Finley said.

Troy Thompson, Norton County Sheriff, reported "no new developments" in the case Nov. 14. He said searchers planned to begin dragging Sebelius Reservoir the morning of Nov. 15, weather permitting.

The Rawlins County Sheriff's Office said Nelson is a white male, 6-0, 220 pounds, gray hair and blue eyes. Anyone with information should call the office at 785-626-3208.

Holiday dinner open to everyone

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Tri-State Praise radio staff will host its annual Thanksgiving celebration at the 4-H building in Colby on Thursday.

"Our original purpose for the Thanksgiving gathering was simply to give area residents a place to go if they didn't have anywhere else to be on Thanksgiving Day," said station manager James Claassen. "And while we still hope those people will attend, we've expanded it to include anyone in the tri-state area who just wants a fun, family friendly place to go on Thanksgiving Day."

"It's an evening everyone can enjoy."

Claassen said doors will open at 4:30 p.m., with the meal starting at 5 p.m.

"Bring your family and friends, and yourself, for a fun evening of celebrating God's goodness," he said.

The 4-H building is located on the Thomas County fairgrounds in the 300 block of South Range Avenue.

Claassen said Dillons and Walmart donated turkey and ham, and KGCR will supply tableware and tea and coffee.

"We'd like you to bring a side dish or dessert and your favorite table game," he said.

"But everyone is more than welcome, even if they can't bring some food with them."

Claassen said Thanksgiving often gets sandwiched between Halloween and Christmas, and that giving thanks, especially to God, is something which should never be overlooked.

He said the original Pilgrims

spent three days expressing their thankfulness to the Lord for the bounty He provided after struggles they had experienced just to survive.

"We in America in 2006, should have no problem coming up with an extensive list of things to be thankful for," he said.

"If we can help remind area residents to do that, even if they aren't able to attend our community gathering, then we'll consider the event a success."

Claassen said food is a small portion of the evening's activities. He said the station staff has planned several games and there will be door prizes as well.

"My favorite, since I love Christmas music, is a complete set, six CDs, of new Christmas music received this year here at Tri-State Praise KGCR," he said.

For the love of sports



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

McPherson author Steven Michael Farney, left, signed copies of his book "Title Towns Class BB Boys Basketball Champions of Kansas 1952-1968" Monday at Pioneer Memorial Library. The book includes the championship seasons of Winona and Brewster. For more about the book, turn to page 8.