



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Going to state



GOODLAND STAR-NEWS

Colby's Lissa Mazanec (32) and April Weaver (25) squeezed a Goodland player for a loose ball during Colby's substate final win Saturday at Goodland. Colby will play in the state tournament starting Thursday. For more about the game and the state tournament, see page 10.

Longtime Colby artist to be featured at museum

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Works of art by a Colby artist will be displayed at the Prairie Museum of Art and History during March.

The High Plains Art Club is sponsoring the show featuring the paintings of Lillie Plummer, an honorary member of the club.

Plummer, a longtime resident of Thomas County, lives at Prairie Senior Living Center in Colby. The artist will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on April 6, and enjoys having friends stop to visit.

The pictures on display at the museum are just a few of the many she has painted during the last years of her life as others have been given away to friend and relatives. She has six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The public is invited to visit the museum and see the art display all during the month of March. Lillie will be present at the museum on March 25, when a special reception will be held for her and for Ann Birney, who will present a program for Women's History Month. Birney's talk is entitled "Her Father's Son." Birney's presentation is sponsored by the AAUW.

She was five years old when she first arrived in Thomas County in a covered wagon with her parents, George and Mary Owens, and her six sisters and three brothers. They came here from Randial, and settled south of Brewster. Lillie's first school year was at the Brownville School. They later moved to a farm 3 and 1/2 miles west of Levant where she then attended school at the District 27 School.

That was where Lillie first realized she had artistic ability.

"I would draw the pictures that were in my geography book and the teacher always told me they were really good."

Lillie Plummer, artist

"One of my favorite subjects was Geography," she said. "So I would draw the pictures that were in my Geography book and the teacher always told me they were really good. She would often put them up on the board."

Being a farm girl, Lillie also drew pictures of barns, cows, and fences in her tablet.

"I always liked to scavenge around and pick up odd shaped, dried weeds and flowers and other strange things that took my interest. I guess I was attracted to their shapes," she added.

In December of 1931, Lillie married Herman Chambers and they moved to his grandparent's farm 3 miles north of Brewster. That is where their first child, Anna Dean was born. Anna Dean also lives in Colby and is married to Ross Rodenbeck. They have three children.

After three years on the farm, the Chambers moved to Colby, where Herman took a job as a tractor mechanic for International Harvester. Six years after Anna Dean was born, they had a son, Larry, who also lives in Colby and is married to the former Dorene Allman, who was from Levant, and they also have three children.

After Herman and Lillie were married for 33 years, Herman was killed in a car wreck. Several years later, Lillie met Joe Plummer at one

of the many dances she loved to attend.

"I grew up dancing," Lillie said. "My parents were musicians. Mom played the piano, organ, and accordion, and Dad played the guitar and banjo. We would even hold dances at our home when I was a girl. After I married Joe on May 28, 1966, we hardly ever missed a weekend of going dancing somewhere."

Joe was a mechanic and Lillie worked for Berg and Grisson Drugstore, and later, for Colby Classic Dress Shop in Colby. After they both retired, they bought a motor home and traveled in almost every state in the U.S. and part of Canada.

"That is when I really started painting again. I had time then to take an oil painting class at Colby College from Kenneth Mitchell and also took several painting workshops in various places.

When Joe and I were traveling, if I saw something I wanted to paint, we would take a picture and I would paint it when I got home. On a few occasions I painted in the motor home. We also spent a lot of time on seashores and in the desert and prairies just scavenger hunting."

Joe and Lillie were married for 33 years before Joe died of cancer. Lillie herself is a survivor of cancer. She had breast cancer and also esophageal cancer and survived both.

Three Sheridan County residents vie for commission seat

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Three Sheridan County residents have thrown their hat in the ring as a replacement for former county commissioner David Zimmerman's spot at the table.

Party Chairman Doren Follis said Monday that Doyle Kauk, Jana Lea Herl and John Karls have applied for the job as District No. 3 commissioner.

Zimmerman resigned effective March 1

and accepted a managerial position with the grain company ADM in Kinsley, located 35 miles east of Dodge City.

Karls has experience at the commission table, having filled the unexpired term of the late Stan Rogers from 1997, until being ousted by Zimmerman in 2000.

A Democrat, Karls in mid-February switched parties to try for another round at the commission table.

Follis said the party's convention is at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor courtroom of the

Sheridan County Courthouse, 925 Ninth St., Hoxie.

Follis also said all three candidates for the appointment will have about five minutes to address the voting committee members about their qualifications and why they believe they should fill Zimmerman's seat on the commission.

Those voting at the Republican Party convention on Tuesday will be Bob Morgan and Elsie Rietcheck, both of Solomon Township; Dennis Rogers of Prairie Dog

Township; Kathy Broeckelman and Joe Broeckelman of Sheridan Township; and Follis, along with his wife, Irene, of Logan Township.

Bloomfield Township is not currently represented by anyone so will not have a vote in the appointment.

After someone is appointed as a replacement, Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser will have 24 hours to forward the name of that individual to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' office for her stamp of approval. Bielser

said in November when the same process took place to fill the office left empty by the death of Sheriff Jim Johnson, the turnaround time for the official word from Topeka was five days.

Follis asked Commissioners Keith Kennedy and Ron Schamberger if they cared if he suggested the newly appointed commissioner attend next week's meeting as an observer.

Both agreed that would be a positive move on the appointee's part.

Court orders media notes be turned over

WICHITA (AP) — A newspaper and television station have been ordered to turn over reporters' notes taken during interviews with a man who faces a capital murder charge in the death of a 14-year-old girl.

Sedgwick County District Judge Ben Burgess on Friday ordered The Wichita Eagle and KWCH-TV to turn over their notes from interviews with Elgin Ray Robinson Jr.

Burgess said it appeared that Robinson confessed in those interviews to raping Chelsea Brooks, 14.

The judge said that evidence is important in the state's case against Robinson, who also faces a capital murder charge in Chelsea's death.

The judge gave the Eagle and KWCH until noon Monday to turn over their notes to the Sedgwick County district attorney's office.

Burgess said the information in the unpublished notes was not covered by reporters' constitutional protections under the First Amendment because it was important to the state's case.

Robinson has denied that he killed Chelsea but in the interviews admitted to having sex with her four times.

In Kansas, having sex with a 14-year-old is rape, even if it is consensual.



PATTY DECKER/Free Press Editor

Among the suspects involved in this year's murder mystery skit, "Murder of the Loaded Librarian," are, left to right, Josh Jennings, Ron Reddick, Kristy Karnes, Terry Stover and Mike Larmer. Tickets are still available. For those interested, call Pioneer Memorial Library, 460-4470.

'Murder of the Loaded Librarian' Saturday

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Pioneer Memorial Library is planning a special event for all those crime scene investigator wannabes when "Murder of the Loaded Librarian," takes place at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, in the basement of the library building, 375

W. Fourth St. For many years, the Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library sponsored an auction to help the facility with equipment or other items, said Jeff Friesen, librarian.

However, the murder mystery is a different type of fundraiser and is now in its third year.

This year's mystery deals with

the reading of the will for Mrs. Lotta Bux, who is filthy rich, having made her fortune by creating a library paste barbecue sauce.

Participants will be asked to figure out the alleged perpetrator, the weapon used, the move and explain the circumstances leading to the homicide of Bux, said Amanda Wahlmeier, coordinator.

"As a good detective," she said, "people must remain alert to everything that happens during the evening, listening carefully to all the suspects."

Those attending will study the scene of the crime, watch for unusual movements and hunt for hidden clues.

"A limited number of tickets are

still available," Friesen said, "and it is never too late to be a Friend of the Library."

Prior to the murder mystery, the Friends will have a short annual meeting, he said.

For questions on how to become a Friend or to see if tickets are still available, call the library at 460-4470.