



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Colby's car show needs more help

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press Publisher

People get ready to rev up your engines. Your volunteer engine wouldn't hurt either. Organizers bringing back Colby's annual Rod Run are in search of more help for the show scheduled June 8-10. The antique and custom car show and events will be held throughout town. Colby's Rod Run had been held annually for years before a lack of volunteer help did not make a show possible last year. "We still need volunteers," said Jon Pope, one of the people who is helping plan this year's show. Kick-off cruise and registration will be held at Sonic and Montana Mike's from 5-9 p.m. June 8. Registration for cars will continue at 8:30 a.m. June 9 at Sixth Street and North Franklin Avenue. Rod Run will accept street rods, classics, customs, muscle cars and special interest vehicles. 1990 model cars and newer will not be accepted. Later in the day June 9 there will be a horseshoe pitching contest from those who entered a car. On Sunday, the car show will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon. A church service will be held at 9 a.m. Awards will be presented at noon. Pope said people interested in having a game or food booth are welcome. "Donations from those will be accepted to build up funds for future years," he said. For more information about Rod Run, contact Pope at Peoples State Bank, P.O. Box 869, Colby, KS 67701 or Brandon Booi at Taylor Motors, 1000 Taylor Ave., in Colby.

Colby's Rod Run June 8-10

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Chip off the block



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

City employees continued cutting up tree branches on Sixth Street as part of an on-going clean up effort from the past snowstorms. The project started Monday and will continue until crews complete the task in all neighborhoods. Branches can be no larger than 8 inches in diameter and entire trees will not be accepted. Residents were required to have branches at curbside Monday.

Not all tax-relief proposals advance

TOPEKA (AP) — Some \$175 million in tax relief for businesses over two years remained stuck Wednesday night in the Legislature, as some Republican senators tried to divorce it from faster delivery of all jobless workers' first unemployment checks.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, her fellow Democrats and some dissident Republicans supported a House-passed proposal to stop requiring workers to wait a week to start receiving unemployment benefits after they're deemed eligible. It was part of a bill reducing the payments businesses must make to the state to finance jobless benefits. Senators had approved the tax relief measure last month, but the House later added the proposal to eliminate the waiting week for unemployment benefits. That left senators with the option of approving the House's version and sending it to Sebelius, who would have signed it.

Senators who support eliminating the waiting week tried Wednesday night to pass the House's version, but it failed 23-17. House and Senate negotiators must meet again to draft something new, and the plan favored by Sebelius isn't likely to emerge. Business groups and GOP leaders opposed eliminating the waiting week because it would eat up \$30 million over two years from funds employers already have paid to the state. Sen. Karin Brownlee, R-Olathe, her chamber's lead negotiator, promised a compromise, ending the waiting week for workers whose employers lay off 100 or more at a time and allowing workers to bunch two checks into a single week, a month after they start receiving benefits. "We still need time to iron out the details," she said. However, legislators faced a time crunch: Department of Labor officials have told them the bill must clear the Legislature and reach Sebelius by the end of the week for businesses to receive any relief this year. With an improved economy and the state collecting more revenue than expected, tax cuts have emerged as a big budget issue. The Senate's action came the

same day the House approved, 121-1, a separate bill that would provide nearly \$54 million in tax breaks for seniors, home owners and poor, working families during the fiscal year beginning July 1. That measure went to the Senate. Also Wednesday, the House Taxation Committee endorsed a bill cutting corporate income taxes by nearly \$6 million during the next fiscal year. But the biggest tax cut proposal has been the unemployment bill before the Senate. There's been no disagreement that businesses deserve relief, because the state has a surplus of funds for paying unemployment benefits. The relief provided by the bill would vary, with employers involved in few or no unemployment claims receiving the biggest breaks. About 13,000 businesses wouldn't have to pay anything. An additional 19,000 would have their payment rates cut in half, and the remaining 19,000 would see their rates reduced 40 percent. Businesses' desire for the relief has allowed some legislators to tar-

get the waiting week for jobless workers. The House's plan was to eliminate the waiting week for two years, starting July 1. "This is a trade-off that in my mind should have been a no-brainer from day one," said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka. While leaders of the Republican majorities in both chambers agreed on the unemployment bill, they remained far apart on the size of other possible cuts. House leaders hope to approve tax cuts worth \$50 million more than the Senate. The bill the House approved Wednesday exempts Social Security benefit from Kansas income taxes, something 27 other states already do. About 115,000 seniors would save \$19 million a year. The measure also expands a program that reduces property taxes by up to \$600 for homeowners 55 and older, granting an additional \$16 million in relief, and increases a tax credit for poor working families by 33 percent, saving them almost \$19 million a year.

As part of the routine maintenance process at the cemetery located west of Brewster, Schultz this spring will put quarter-inch of rock on the cemetery roadways. In other council news ... Several Brewster residents have placed cargo boxes on their property for storage units. It was the consensus of the council to have anyone with the boxes to apply for a building permit. Boxes must be anchored and painted. "Some of the cargo boxes are probably better than some of the small storage sheds some people have, but they will be required to be anchored and painted," Schultz said. The city council approved a bid from Johnson Service Company from Kearney, Neb., in the amount of \$2,720 for cleaning tree roots out of the sewer lines were needed. "The first time they come out for maintenance is \$950, but after that it's only \$100," Schultz said.

Advancements in technology help Colby school's publications

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Colby High School's news is fit to print. The Colby School board learned about the district's journalism pro-

gram during its meeting Monday. Donna Henry, journalism teacher, informed the board of the journalism and yearbook class at the high school. "Students get a crash course in journalism the first nine to 11 weeks

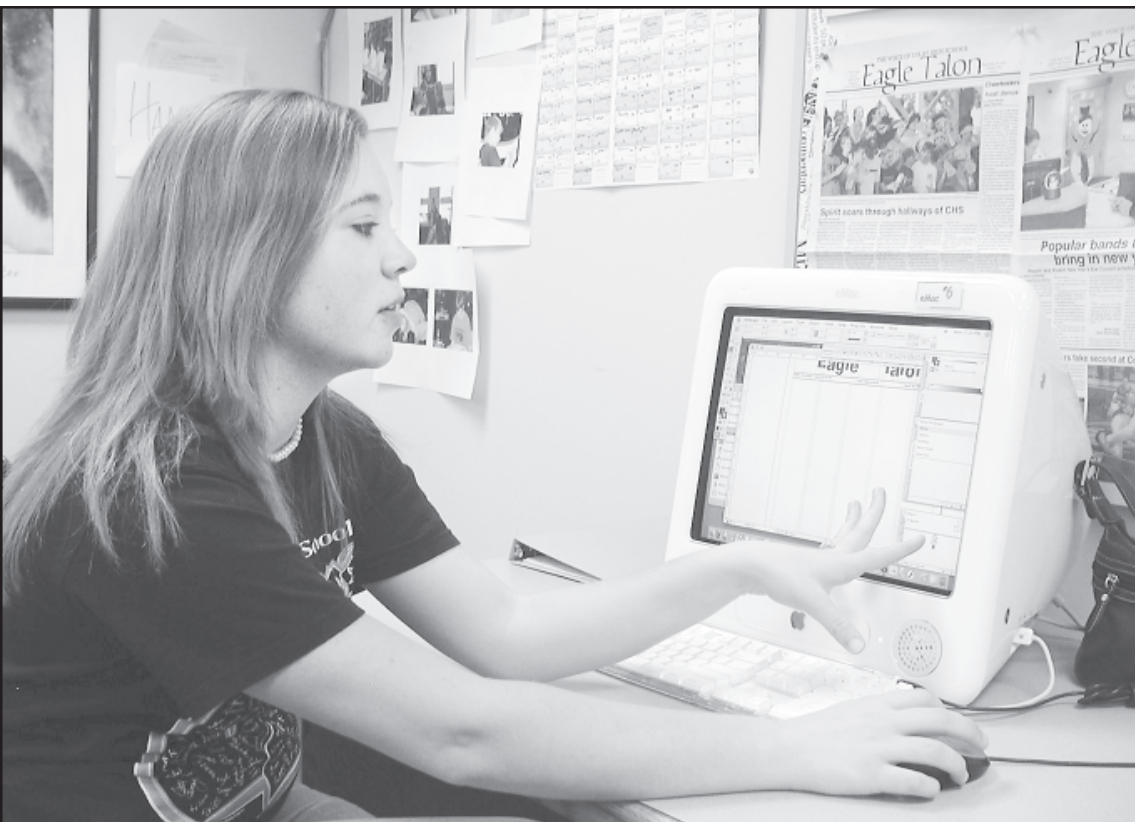
of the semester. Because there is no introductory class, they literally learn on the job," she said. Students do all planning, writing, photography, design and layout for each publication. Colby High School's student newspaper, the

Eagle Talon, is included in the Colby Free Press. Henry said technology has changed how the publications are finished. Digital photography has replaced the darkroom, and has simplified that facet of production. "Everything is done on computer now," Henry said. She said there are usually about 12 students enrolled in the class, but this year, 19 are taking yearbook. "Both staffs are self-sufficient," she said. Newspaper and yearbook staffs sell advertisement to pay for the production of their respective publications. The newspaper staff must sell \$300 per issue and the yearbook must have \$19,000 in ad sales to cover costs. Revenue for the yearbook also comes from book sales. "The yearbook for this year will be all color for the first time. It is only costing \$800 more to switch to color," Henry said. Senior Cyndi Rothfuss showed how students design newspaper pages using computer programs InDesign and PhotoShop. Rothfuss assisted the Colby Free Press with covering Eagle basketball. Henry also talked about students who qualified for the state journalism contest May 5 at the University of Kansas. Students placed in the regional contest to earn a trip to state. They are: Rothfuss, first in feature writing and second in news

writing; Johnna Wiens, first in yearbook copy writing and second in editing; Laura Dougherty, first in sports photography; Kahle Phillips, first in infographics; Kortney Khan, first in headline writing; Rishonna Martin, second in yearbook sports writing, third in editing, honorable mention in newspaper design; Kristin Cox, second in newspaper sports writing, honorable mention in yearbook copy writing; Lissa Mazanec, second in theme development, honorable mention in feature photography; Paige Stephens, honorable mention in sports photography and caption writing; Lauren Cox, honorable mention in feature writing; Lindsay Frahm and Chelle Shoemaker, honorable mention in yearbook design. In other business, the board approved republishing of the 2006-2007 budget. Jo DeYoung, district financial officer, because the enrollment for the year was higher than estimated, the budget must be republished. Republishing the budget, the district will receive \$28,485 more from the state. The money will go into the district's general fund. The board also talked about a new Web site before the start of the 2007-2008 school year. Phil DeYoung, district technology coordinator, talked about the history of the previous Web site. In 2001, two students developed a

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Donna Henry
Colby High School



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School senior Cyndi Rothfuss demonstrated the computer programs students in the journalism and yearbook class use to design pages.