



COLBY FREE PRESS

Garbage changes Nov. 12



HANNAH PYLE/Colby Free Press

Cory Crocker, an employee with the City of Colby Public Utilities Department, prepared to practice using a tipper can with the city's new sanitation truck. The first day the new sanitation trucks will be used in residential areas is Nov. 12 and only approved tipper cans will be allowed, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. Regular trash cans or trash on the ground will not be picked up. Tipper cans should be placed in the street next to the curb. On streets with no parking (such as West 4th Street) the tipper can must be placed on the grass area next to the curb, she said. The first week, the sanitation department will have people working ahead of the new truck to make sure tipper cans are properly placed for pick-up. Those uncertain of where to place their can are asked to call Chris Bieker, Director of Public Works/Utilities, at 460-4420.

Fort Hays State continues growth

By John Van Nostrand
Free Press Publisher
jvannostrand@nwkansas.com

Fort Hays State University's strategic plan for 2010 won't be rewritten because the school is nearing its objectives already.

The plan will just have a sequel for goals by 2020.

Part of those goals for 2020 may include a more prosperous western Kansas, according to school president Dr. Edward Hammond. Hammond visited the Colby Free Press Tuesday as part of his five day, 15 city tour of western Kansas. Hammonds has been with Fort Hays State since 1987.

"We wrote a strategic plan for 10 years in 2000," Hammond said. "And we knew the state would not have a lot of money which put tremendous pressure on tuition. The University of Kansas and Kansas State went up. Fort Hays only went up 5 percent," he said. "We are meeting our goals for 2010. Back in '99, some said, 'no way.'"

What did go up was Fort Hays State's enrollment. This year they registered about 9,600 students. The school plans for 10,000 by 2010. From 2001 to 2006, the school's enrollment grew 62 percent, more than any other regent school in Kansas. Hammond said the school is confident they will have 400 more students in three years.

"Now we are building a plan for 2020," he said.

Hammond said what has helped Fort Hays State reach the 9,600 mark is the number of students from western Kansas. He said one-half of the students are from the Hays area, the other half are online students who live elsewhere, but take courses via computers.

"We have the largest distance learning program in Kansas," he said.

Hammond said half of the high school graduates west of U.S. Highway 81 to the Colorado border attend Fort Hays State.

"That is our primary service area," he said.

According to school records, 33 of those students are currently from Thomas County and another 18 students from Thomas County are taking online courses.

Hammond says Fort Hays State is constantly working with western Kansas community colleges like Colby, Dodge City and Garden City to make it easy for those students to transfer.

Fort Hays State is also reaching beyond state and even the country's borders. The school has developed networks with four universities in China that have about 2,500 students enrolled at Fort Hays State.

Hammond said the reason for the growth in enrollment is simply cost and quality of education.

"There is a \$15,000 difference with the University of Kansas and Kansas State," Hammond said about the tuition comparison with Fort Hays. "And students say, 'I know I can get a quality education at Fort Hays.'"

Hammond also credits Fort Hays State's small class size and full-time faculty.

"Some schools are cutting back

full-time faculty. They say it's cheaper. But a high quality faculty and small class size leads to success."

That combination has put Fort Hays State in the top 10 percent of quality four-year schools according to the Collegiate Learning Assessment from the Council for Aid to Education.

Hammond also informally discussed the idea of what to do with a select number of those Fort Hays students and how they can improve the economic development viability of western Kansas.

One of Hammond's ideas in the future is to select 10 to 20 business major students. Those students will be given a full scholarship to Fort Hays State University as long as they plan and open a business in western Kansas after graduation.

During the students' junior year they will work in a business that matches their interest and business plan. During their senior year, they will take that experience back to class to develop their own business plan. If the student decides not to follow through with the business plan, he will pay back his college expenses over a determined period of time.

Hammond said he has discussed the proposal with economic development directors and others related to business development. His proposal includes asking those organizations to offer \$100,000 in start-up funds for the students. He is still working out the details.

"Starting a business will make a difference in the Atwoods and Saint Franceses," Hammond said. "They can have a family with kids. We need to have places for good jobs and make a decent living."

Colby High students to perform musical comedy

By Kevin Johnson
Free Press reporter
kjohanson@nwkansas.com

Colby High School's production of Lil' Abner, a musical comedy starring Junior Taylor Young as Daisy Mae and Sophomore Gray Henry as Lil' Abner, will be held on November 8th and 9th beginning at 7pm. The Friday night performance will also feature a dinner theater, which includes a meal and the show.

The dinner is a fundraiser for the Forensic Team.

Nancy Rundel, who shares director duties with Joey Nickols, said that the produc-

tion has been a school wide effort.

"This year's show is truly a production put on by a large portion of the student body.

The musical features approximately 70 students, the orchestra consists of 15 students, the Colby High School Technology Student Association created posters, the Culinary Arts students are doing the desserts for the meal, and the CHS Forensics team is serving the dinner."

"By the time show night rolls around we will have been working on it for 8 weeks." Added Rundel. "We are excited but getting tired."

The play Lil' Abner is based on the comic

strip by the same name which ran in newspapers from 1934 through 1977. Written and drawn by Al Capp, the comic strip featured a fictional clan of hillbillies in the impoverished town of Dogpatch.

Gray Henry described his character, Lil' Abner, as a big hulking man-child, "which is the opposite of my body type and how I am. We have to bulk up my muscles a bit to play the part."

For Henry this is his first leading roll, though he is no stranger to the theater. "I was in The Perils of LuLu last year but this is my first time in a lead roll.

It has been a lot of work memorizing lines and all that. A lot of it is a new experience

but it has been fun."

Also her first time in a leading roll, Taylor Young will take on the roll of Daisy Mae, Abner's beautiful and faithful girlfriend. Young had to audition for the roll of Daisy Mae beating out several other young hopefuls to land the coveted part.

"We all had to audition," said Young, "there weren't a whole lot of guys who tried out for the part of Abner since it is a singing roll but quite a few girls tried out."

Young added that though this is her first crack at High School drama she is not a stranger to the stage.

"I did musicals when I was younger, but this is the first time I've been in a play at

Colby High School."

Tickets for the show are now on sale from cast members, the Colby High School Office and the Colby Public Schools Administration Building.

Dress rehearsals for the play are Monday and Tuesday at 7pm. Tickets for Thursday's show are \$6 for adults and \$4 for K-12 students.

Friday's dinner theater tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for K-12 students.

Dinner tickets should be bought in advance so that meals can be prepared accordingly. Tickets for the show only Friday evening are the same price as Thursday and may be purchased at the door.

College challenge benefits Genesis group

The Colby Community College Student Senate sponsored a "Genesis Food Drive Challenge" in October for all clubs and organizations on campus, said Debbie Schwanke, public information officer.

"Groups competed to collect the most number of items to be donated to Genesis of Colby," she said.

Over 1,400 items were collected and delivered to Genesis on Wednesday, and the winner of the competition was the college track team with 295 items.

Second place was the Phi Beta

Lambda business organization with 293, Schwanke said. The Colby Community College nurses' organization collected 283, followed by the Kansas National Education Association and Criminal Justice students who worked together to collect 275 items.

"The college baseball team assisted with loading and delivering the food to the Genesis organization," she said.

"Each campus organization is required to participate in one on-campus and one community service project."



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College baseball team members and student senate members load a truck for delivery to Genesis of Colby.

Briefly

Venture Scouts plan lunch

The Venture Scouts in the Colby area will be serving lunch and concessions from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at the craft fair in the Colby Community Building. The scouts will have sloppy joes, hot dogs and sloppy dogs on the menu with proceeds benefiting future projects. Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 and have completed the eighth grade through 20 years of age. The purpose of Venture Scouts is in providing positive experiences to help young people become responsible and caring adults.

Brewster sets turkey dinner

The Brewster United Methodist Women will be serving the annual Turkey Supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, at the Brewster Methodist Church. A freewill offering will be taking for mission work.

Food applicants sought

Genesis-Thomas County, Inc., the area food bank, is again planning to help Thomas County families during the holiday season. Families in need and who are interested in receiving a holiday food basket during

the season are asked to pick up forms from 10 to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesdays, at the Genesis-Thomas County Office, 350 S. Range, Suite 6, Colby. Those interested, can also call Genesis at (785) 460-7930 and leave a message.

Brewster fundraiser nears

The Brewster Booster Club and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans organization are having a breakfast benefit for Whitney Schultz, who is now in her fourth week of chemo and radiation. The event is from 6 to 10 a.m., Saturday, at the Senior Center in Brewster. In addition,

teachers and staff will be holding a bake sale, also with proceeds to help defray medical expenses.

College plans horse show

The Colby Community College Intercollegiate Horse Show team will host their home show at 8 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, at the Dick Farmer Arena in Oakley. This will be the first competition for the western team. Teams from Region 1, which includes teams from Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Texas will be competing. The public is invited to attend the competition.