



COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Monday

February 4, 2008

Volume 119, Number 21

Serving Thomas County since 1888

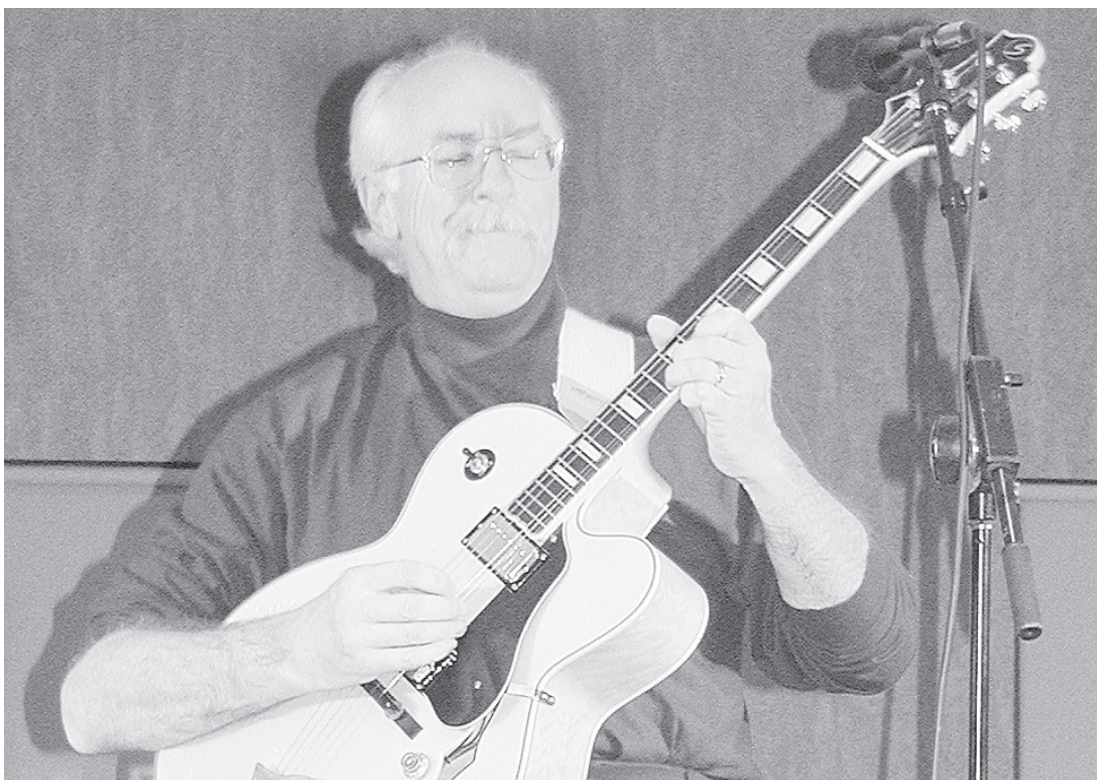
8 pages

Fun and fundraiser



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Almost 100 people attended the Saturday Pick-in' On the Plains Bluegrass Festival's fundraising event to help with expenses for this year's summer event. **RIGHT:** Dan Keller of Colby was one of the performers at the event. Also singing and playing a variety of bluegrass music and other selections were Bill Summers and Larry Booth; Larry and Taylor McLemore; The Wagoner Family; The Bugbee Sisters (Monica and Karla); and Chase McNinch.



Colby on fire during winter sports

By Joey Falkoff

Free Press Reporter
jfalckoff@nwkansas.com

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series about the success of Colby High's winter sports programs in 2008. In this edition, we look at where this season stands in comparison to previous successful winter sports seasons.

Most high schools are lucky to have one winter sports team ranked in the top 10 in the state.

To have two teams ranked is phenomenal.

But for all three teams to be ranked, including one (wrestling) at #1 and another (girls basketball) that is undefeated and rated second, well that's just bordering on absurdity.

That is precisely the current state of affairs at Colby High School where losses have become as rare as Patriots coach Bill Belichick cracking a smile.

"I think everyone enjoys being able to say we're taking some names in winter sports," said Eagle senior wrestler Nick Kriss.

Things are going so well that the boy's basketball team, which sits at 11-4 and ranked 10th in class 4A, is bringing up the rear.

"I guess we're not holding up our end of the bargain," joked head boys coach Beau Sheets.

For Sheets and his team to keep pace with the other two sports, it would take near perfection.

Led by second year head coach Matt Sims, the Colby Eagle wrestling team climbed to the top of the 4A rankings a couple of weeks ago after their fourth place showing at the ultra-competitive Newton Tournament, which featured eight of the top 10 teams in the state. The Eagle matmen just wrapped up their second consecutive Northwest Kansas League title Friday, going undefeated in league duels for a second consecutive year. They also won the Eagle Invitational for the first time in its 22 year history, won the Southwest Classic in Liberal and won the league tournament by a whopping 113.5 points.

"I think we've been really solid, but we haven't peaked yet," said Kriss. "We're going to peak at state, which is the perfect time. We'll be right on schedule."

While the wrestlers say the best is still yet to come, the Colby Lady Eagle basketball team knows no boundaries.

After capturing their first ever state title last year, the Lady Eagles started from scratch with new head coach Parker McKee, but have kept right on ticking. They are off to a 15-0 start, which includes a win over 6A Wichita South by 25 points and 1A #5 ranked Hoxie by 29 points. Were it not for 12-0 Andover Central, they too would be ranked first in the state.

"This winter it just keeps on

going," said Colby athletic director Larry Gabel. "It's good for the whole student body, the atmosphere of the school and the community."

Then there's the boys basketball team which has already matched its 11 win total of last year and could finish with their most wins since finishing runner-up at state in 2003.

"We're just happy to be a part of all the fun," said Sheets.

The stars have aligned just right at Colby High this winter, bringing to bare the question: Is this the greatest winter sports season in school history? At least one fan believes the potential is there.

"It's not been very often all three teams have been this good together," said Eagle booster club member Gary Adrian, whose lived in Colby the last 18 years since returning from the Army.

See "HISTORY," Page 3

Wellness Fair offers many presentations

By Patty Decker

Free Press editor
pdecker@nwkansas.com

With the 2008 Wellness Fair only three days away, organizers are encouraging everyone to attend this event. This year's event is from 5 to 9 p.m., Thursday, at the Colby Community College Student Union.

In addition to the many health booths and variety of screening that will be available, speakers are also on the agenda.

"Introduction to the Genetics of Cancer" is one of the presentations fairgoers will have the opportunity to listen to.

Teresa Castellano, certified genetic counselor, will present an informative talk titled, "Introduction to the Genetics of Cancer."

Castellano, said Jeanene Brown, one of the organizers, has provided genetic counseling for many individuals from northwest Kansas and was requested to be included in the resources available at the Wellness Fair.

"The focus of her talk at the fair will be on the genetic component of many cancers and the importance of individuals and families seeking genetic testing and counseling regarding their risks," Brown said.

Castellano's talk will be held at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge of the student union. She will also have a booth with additional information regarding genetic counseling.

Dr. Bruce Kellogg will also present a talk outlining the importance of various adult health screenings.

Kellogg will highlight the importance of prevention and early identification of illnesses by regular health screening exams, Brown said. Kellogg's talk on health screenings will be held at 6 p.m. in Room 107 also in the student union.

"Again this year, local doctors, Dr. Kellogg, Dr. Darren Matchell, and Dr. Gary Slavens, will review laboratory test values and their meaning," she said.

"Fair participants who took part in the laboratory tests offered in January can obtain their results and attend one of the presentations beginning at 5:30 p.m. and offered every hour on the half hour," Brown said.

"Be sure to attend the Wellness Fair and participate in all the many educational opportunities and health screenings available," she said.

For questions or other fair information, call Brown at 460-4850.

Groundwater meeting set

The Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4, which includes Colby and surrounding areas, will be conducting its 33rd annual meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Goodland.

Agenda items will include: election of board positions for Chey-

enne, Sherman and Thomas counties, presentations on the 32nd meeting minutes and more.

In addition, Tom Cech from Colorado will be speaking about the groundwater well closures experienced in northeast Colorado over the past two years. For questions, call (785) 462-3915.



JOEY FALCKOFF/Colby Free Press

TOP: Eagle senior Nick Kriss, top, has helped lead the Colby Eagle wrestling team to a #1 ranking in class 4A. **BOTTOM:** Lady Eagle senior Tasha Wagoner, left, has started all 15 games at point guard for Colby. The Lady Eagles are 15-0.



Briefly

City council to meet

The Colby City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in council chambers. Agenda items include a presentation and recognition of Shelby Gardner, winner in the northwest Kansas Regional competition "If I Were A Mayor."

Other items include discussion on the increased time for construction inspection services of the Wastewater Treatment Facility; awarding bids for the fire station construction; waiver of city residency for computer support technician position; discussion of replacement of commercial sanitation truck and statement of enforcing officer on property in violation of environmental code at 1025 E. Fourth St., owned by John and Carlotta McDermott, along with authorization for Mayor Ken Bieber to sign order of violation. For an agenda or questions, call 460-4410.

Think 'kind' Feb. 10-16

The Thomas County Community Foundation is promoting a "Random Acts of Kindness Week" during the week of Valentine's Day, Feb. 10-16. The challenge to residents, businesses, individuals and non-profit organizations is to perform small charitable deeds for fellow citizens, said Melinda Olson with the foundation. "We are striving for 100 percent Thomas County participation," she said.

Caucus schedule in county

The following is the caucus schedule for Thomas County provided by the Thomas County Clerk's office: Tuesday the Democratic caucus is in Logan County (no other details available). For questions, call (785) 234-0425. The Republican Caucus is planned at 10 a.m., Saturday, in the Colby Commu-

nity Building Little Theater. For questions, call 462-6638 or (785) 234-3456.

Walk Kansas starts soon

Walk Kansas, a fitness program sponsored by the Thomas County Extension office, begins, Sunday, March 9, said Jan Poore, extension office professional. Registration packets are available at the office, 350 S. Range Ave. in Colby. "We would like the registration packets turned in no later than Friday, March 7, but registration will be accepted no later than 5 p.m. on March 10," she said. For questions or costs, call Poore, 460-4582.

Daffodil drive begins

American Cancer Daffodil Days is coming and orders may be placed from now until Thursday, Feb.

21. The daffodils will be delivered to Someplace Special in Colby around the first week in March, said Cathy Harrison, coordinating the event. Prices range from a bunch for \$10 to bouquet with vase, \$15. In addition, there is a "Bear and A Bunch," for \$25 and one-half and full cases of daffodils from \$250-\$400. For questions or to order, call Harrison at 460-2501; 462-2331; fax: or 462-6242.

Fundraiser scheduled

The Thomas County 4-H Council is holding a benefit for Whitney Schultz who is a Brewster Prairie Gem 4-H member. Whitney was diagnosed with cancer Labor Day weekend and the 4-Hers wanted to do something for her on March 9. All Thomas County 4-Hers are holding a soup and raffle benefit at the 4-H building here in Colby. For questions, call 460-4582.