



COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Monday

February 23, 2009
Volume 120, Number 30
Serving Thomas County since 1888

8 pages

Eagles take regional, send 11 to state

Class 4A state tourney Friday in Salina

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby High Wrestling team won the Class 4A regional tournament in Ulysses with 210 points overall, with most of the team qualifying for the state tournament Friday and Saturday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

Eleven of the 14 Eagles' wrestlers who competed at the regional will be heading to state:

- Freshman Konnor Kriss, 103 pounds.
- Junior Nathan Reed, 112.
- Sophomore Dryden Baumfalk, 119.
- Freshman Dalton Snyder, 130.
- Senior Heath Stephens, 140.
- Senior Garrett Zwegardt, 145.
- Sophomore Andrew Flanagin, 160.
- Senior Breck Aramberger, 171.

- Senior Treat Bugbee, 189.
- Senior Tanner Kriss, 215.
- Senior Adam Weber, 285.

Tanner Kriss, Aramberger and Konner Kriss won their weight classes. Tanner Kriss and Aramberger have not lost a match all season.

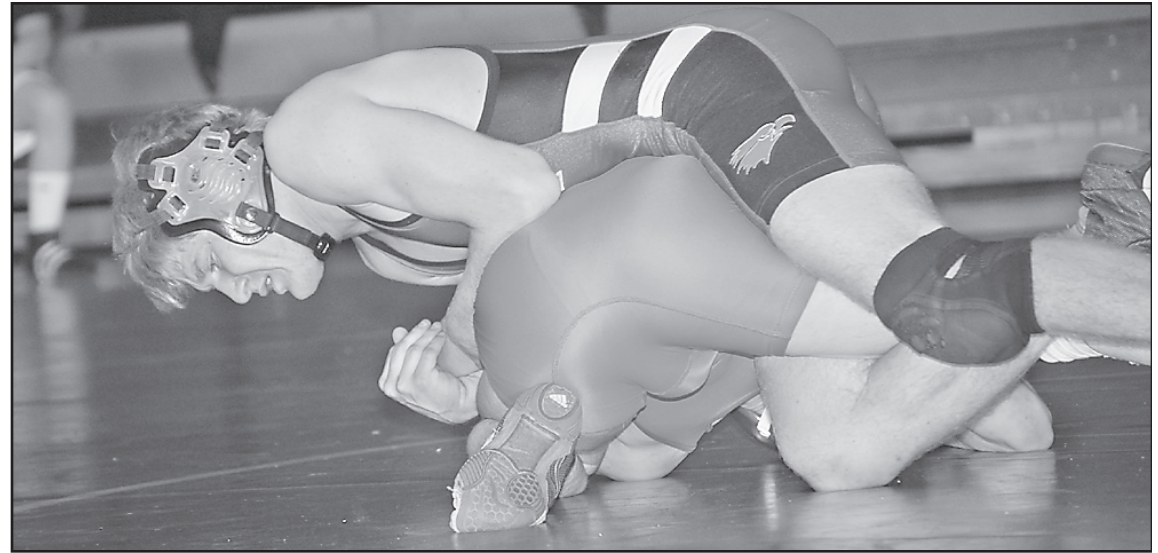
Weber, Bugbee and Reed all finished second while Stephens, Snyder and Flanagin took third. Zwegardt and Baumfalk both finished fourth.

Scott City placed second at regionals with 160 points.

Coach Matt Simms said he was disappointed that all 14 of his wrestlers were not heading to state. But Simms said he was pleased with how the team had performed at regionals.

Simms said he was happy with how much his younger wrestlers have improved this season.

"Dryden, Konnor and Dalton have improved a lot," he said.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Senior Garrett Zwegardt gained control over his opponent at regional wrestling in Ulysses on Saturday. He's one of 11 wrestlers going to the state tournament in Salina this weekend.

Carnival pleases every age

Kids aim for fun at Sacred Heart day

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Everybody had a good time at the carnival put on by Sacred Heart School on Sunday. Young and old alike had plenty of activities to keep them busy at the event.

The school raised \$22,000 at the carnival and 17,100 on selling raffle tickets alone, said Principal David Evert. He said people could buy a single raffle ticket for \$1 or they could buy a book of 12 for \$10. The money raised at the carnival will go toward buying textbooks and other curriculum materials, he said.

Games at the carnival included speedball, bowling, balloons, grab bag, Dance Revolution, "Hillbilly Hoops," a glassware toss, wiggle cars, laser guns, a bucket toss, Mario Kart, Guitar Hero, ladder, chicken in the bucket, bingo, the traditional cakewalk and many others.

Every classroom was full of people talking, participating in activities or trying to keep track of their energetic children as they moved from game to game.

One room was set up for giving away prizes to people who had won tickets. The room offered a variety of items, including stuffed animals, books, card games, necklaces, little purses and bracelets. The prizes were donated by individuals and businesses, Evert said.

Students who sold the most tickets also were rewarded. The four who sold the most tickets before the carnival won prizes, said Evert. The first-place winner got \$200 and second place \$150.

City Limits Bar and Grill and F&M Insurance Store each donated \$100 for the first prize and Commercial Sign, Paul's Furniture and El Dos de Oro Restaurant



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Kindergartner Braydon Horinek (below) tried out the laser guns at the Sacred Heart School Carnival on Sunday while his brother Brock, a third grader, watched the action. Van Koon (left, above) gave a roll of toilet paper to a girl ready for the tossing competition.

donated \$50 each for second. The third- and fourth-place winners won \$100 and \$75 respectively. Straightline and Cornerstone Ag each donated \$50 for third and Northwest Hearing Service and Farm Credit of Western Kansas teamed up to pay for fourth.

Third grader Jordan Hartwell came in first by selling 160 books of 12 tickets and fifth grader Elissa Zerr finished second by selling 121 1/2. First grader Jill Stephens finished third by selling 77 books and fourth grader Alex Zimmerman was fourth with 65.

Evert said the top three tickets sellers from each grade also would receive prizes. The first-place winner will get eight gift certificates worth \$160, second place gets eight \$10 Wal-Mart gift cards and third gets eight Taco Johns gift certificates.

The No. 1 ticket-selling class gets a pizza party donated by Gambinos and second gets two Dairy Queen cakes donated by the Service Oil Co. The third graders finished first by selling 368 books and the fifth graders came in second by selling 367.



Board wants more cowboys

By Shalee Roundtree

Colby Free Press
sroundtree@nwkansas.com

The Thomas County Fair Board discussed the switch from the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association to the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association at its February meeting.

Rodeo Chairman Clair Schrock told the board that discussion on the change started back in September last year.

"We knew that something had to be done because we just weren't drawing the cowboys like we had in past years," said Schrock.

The rodeo will be part of a series of nine rodeos, approved with other associations, throughout the surrounding area. Participating towns include Atwood, Colby, Wallace, Park, Hoxie, Hays, McCracken and Oakley, Schrock said. Although the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo has been around for a long time, he said, the board has high hopes for the new rodeo and expects to draw more cowboys and a larger crowd.

"We think the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association will be a good fix for the rodeo because it will encourage more cowboys to compete," he said.

Clint Milliman, Thomas County extension agent, discussed some possible fair themes, including: "Thrills, Squeals and Ferris Wheels"; "A Treasure Chest of Thomas County's Best"; and

"Good Times Go Hand in Hand at the Thomas County Fair."

The agent also brought up some changes to the 4-H book. The horticulture and floriculture sections will have the junior and senior divisions combined so the same thing isn't printed twice, he said.

In committee reports, Ron Kogler brought up cost for the repairs needed to the solar building and fence repairs on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds. The board mentioned that the cost to pour the concrete would be between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

However, repairs to the fence would be free because the college rodeo team plans on helping. Discussion was then briefly turned to entertainment. The board decided that the cables in front of the grandstand should be removed to create a better view of the Oakridge Boys.

Shawn Carney, a representative for the Modern Woodmen, said the group would like to plant trees at the fairgrounds. He said they have \$400 for this project, but an application needs to be sent in by May. An immediate motion was made to accept the group's offer.

Donations and volunteers are needed for set-up, serving, and clean-up for the Emergency Medical Service barbecue. A judge is needed for the demolition derby, said Kogler. Finally the board addressed the blue grass festival. The board decided to ask the bluegrass committee to the next meeting to talk about some issues.

U.S. releases prisoner amid claims of torture

LONDON (AP) — A Guantanamo prisoner who claims he was tortured at a covert CIA site in Morocco returned to Britain a free man today after nearly seven years in U.S. captivity — the first inmate from the U.S. prison camp freed since President Barack Obama took office.

Binyam Mohamed flew into a British military base and was ex-

pected to be out of custody within hours.

Mohamed's claims of torture, abuse and extraordinary rendition are at the heart of several lawsuits. Lawyers on both sides of the Atlantic are suing to get secret documents they say prove the United States sent Mohamed to Morocco

See "RELEASED," Page 3

Briefly

School's out, school's out

Colby School District students and teachers will get the day off Friday, when the weather is expected to be a chilly, but sunny, 45 degrees. The break is a reward to all for the district making it's "Adequate Yearly Progress" goals under the No Child Left Behind Act, said Superintendent Terril Harrison.

Rotary to sell soup at games

The Colby Rotary Club will be selling potato soup and chili from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday during the Colby High-Norton Blue Jays basketball games at the Community Building. Tickets are available from any Rotarian for \$4 for adults and \$2 for kids. For information, call Relda Galli at 460-2000 or e-mail galli@fnb.com.

FFA to flip pancakes Thursday

You're invited to eat free at the Colby High FFA

Appreciation Breakfast from 6:30 to 8 a.m. next Thursday at the Ag Shop, 240 N. Copeland. Pancakes, bacon or sausage, drinks and door prizes will be offered to mark National FFA Week. For questions, contact Shawna Howell-Hoffman at (785) 460-5320 or showell@colbyeagles.org.

Group looks for a better life

Living a full life with disabilities is the topic of a support-group meeting from 1:30-3 p.m. Friday in the high school classroom of the Colby United Methodist Church. The group is for people with mental and physical disabilities and caregivers. For information, call Doug Finley at 460-2306 or Connie Menges at 460-3112.

Benefit will help girl's family

Friends and family plan a benefit soup supper for Trinity Pfeifer, a second grader at Colby Grade

School, who needs hip surgery. She is the daughter of Jason and Angie Stegeman of Colby. Come in for broccoli-cheese or chicken-noodle soup, chili and drinks from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Community Building basement. Donations will be accepted. For information, call her mom at (785) 460-0227.

College offers handgun class

Colby Community College, working with Profire professional instructors, will offer Kansas "concealed-carry" handgun training 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday in the Student Union. This class is required to apply permit to carry a concealed handgun. Cost is \$145. Training for Utah certification, which allows concealed carry in 36 states including Colorado, costs \$75. Fingerprinting, photos and notarization will be offered for \$30. For information, call Barry Kaaz at (785) 460-5429.

Cancer society sells daffodils

Once again, the American Cancer Society is selling flowers for its Daffodil Days fund raiser. Colby project leader Kim Barnett will be taking orders at home, 462-2997; at work, 460-2761; or by e-mail at umccolby@st-tel.net. Deadline for ordering is Sunday.

Farm Bureau has scholarships

The Thomas County Farm Bureau is offering three scholarships to high school seniors whose parents are members. Applications are available at Thomas County high schools and at the Farm Bureau office, 550 N. Franklin. They are due by March 12.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 8 3