



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Gardeners Jo and Duane Cheney checked the growth of perennials set in cups for the children's shopping spree at the Colby library and new little tomato seedlings waiting to be transplanted. Cheney, who turns old pop bottles into planters (below right), says the denim wick works just fine at keeping the plants moist.

Gardeners fill plots, huts with their plants

By Vera Sloan

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A love of growing things could get a guy into big trouble. Work wise, that is.

If there's a bare spot of ground anywhere on the five-acre homestead where Gary and Jo Cheney live 8 1/2 miles southwest of Colby, you can about bet on Gary growing something on it. Whether it's vegetables, flowers or chickens, idle ground is put to use.

"I've always loved to grow things," Cheney said, "and there's about two acres of garden out there in various places. Jo loves to cook, so it really goes well together."

When he started gardening, he said, he used a spade, then graduated to a rototiller, and when it got too big, he had to get a tractor to prepare the lush compost-enriched soil.

When it comes to a green



thumb, apparently he's got what it takes. Cheney said he planted about 18,000 square feet to perennials, thinking they should fill the space in about 10 years.

Two years later, he said, the

flowers had entirely overtaken the space.

The Cheney plots could be called alphabet gardens, because

See "GARDENERS," Page 5

Candidates talk about their stands

By Andy Heintz

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Candidates for the Colby city and school elections answered questions and gave their perspective on issues affecting the schools and the city at a public forum Wednesday at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center.

Despite competition from the Harlem Globetrotters, about 35 people showed up for the event, sponsored by the college Endowment Foundation, the Colby Free Press and the Colby Rotary Club.

Rotary President Relda Galli opened the event and Rotarian Steve Ziegelmeier moderated the discussion.

Two city candidates, Raymond

"Omar" Weber and David Voss, both newcomers to the council and both unopposed for their seat, attended. Not present were incumbent Councilmen Mark Beringer and Tim Hutfles, both also unopposed.

Polls will be open for the general election from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. Advance balloting is available until noon Monday at the county clerk's office in the courthouse.

David Voss said part of the job of being a councilman is seeking input from your constituents. He said people need to change the way they think about the city.

"We need to not think about how good Colby is, but how good Colby could be," he said.

He said one way for the city to avoid stagnation is for it to create more amenities, including maybe a new pool or trails, so people have more things to do. He said this would need to be done in an affordable manner.

"We need to rely on the expertise of or community," said Voss.

He said adding new things to Colby would only be feasible if everyone works together.

Raymond Weber, a sales representative at Lang Diesel, said that he thought he could bring unique and innovative thinking for change to the council. He said given the economic conditions in Kansas, the city should hope for the best

See "COUNCIL," Page 5

Nine remain in contest for Golden Plains board

By Judy Rogers

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The Golden Plains School District has nine candidates for three board positions. All positions are at-large.

Voters can cast an advance ballot in person at the Thomas County Courthouse until noon Monday. Voting can be done in person from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day, Tuesday, March 3, at the Colby Community Building.

Candidates include Teri Brantley and Don Koerperich of Selden; David Gould, Ben Hoeting, Todd Schwarz, Matt Vogler and Brandi Wark of Rexford; and Kim Moss and Terry Moss of Menlo.

Questionnaires were sent to the

candidates from the Colby Free Press following the primary election. Following is a summary of the five responses we received. For those who responded only to an earlier questionnaire, we have briefly restated their positions from the primary.

Teri Brantley, 52, lives in Selden and is married to David. Her children are Ryan, 20; Walter, 33; Bobbi, 31; Rohn, 29; and Jarrod, 26. A 1974 graduate of Victoria High School, she works with husband Dave in farming and cattle.

As an eight-year incumbent in her third year as board president, she said her priority is to continue to focus on the budget, while making decisions that will benefit the

kids, the staff and the school the most. The biggest challenge she sees ahead is the uncertainty of the state's decisions on the school budget.

She says she hopes to continue to work with the administration and board to ensure that the school remains strong in academics and try to maintain or increase enrollment. The things she would like to change are usually out of the district's control - government and state requirements, including the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

She believes people are pleased with the direction of the district, and sees her position as an opportunity to help a great number of people.

See "SCHOOL," Page 5

Legion to bring 200 to Colby

By Vera Sloan

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Colby will play host to the 6th District meeting of the Kansas American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary on Friday to Sunday, April 17 to 19, bringing about 200 people here.

The district covers the area of northwest Kansas from U.S. 81 to the Colorado border and south from Nebraska into Logan and Ness counties.

The Comfort Inn will be the convention headquarters. An addition to this year's meeting will be the Colby Chapter of the Legion Riders, a group of 50 to 60 motorcycle riders. The Riders act as an honor

group at military functions, funerals and for private events, said Phil Finley, a past commander of the Colby Legion post.

There will be an open house from 4 p.m. to midnight on Friday, with registration from 4-8 p.m. and the next day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong will give the welcome address, and State Rep. Jim Morrison will speak.

A 7 p.m. banquet will be served by John Anderson/C.W. Hamilton Catering on Saturday evening. The Legion Auxiliary will have a breakfast at the post home at 8 a.m. Sunday.

A memorial service for deceased members will be at 10 a.m. on Sunday, followed by the conclusion of the business meeting.

Churches plans services to mark death and resurrection of Jesus

Many Colby area churches are planning special services for Holy Week and Easter.

Trinity Lutheran Church plans services at 7 p.m. for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, an Easter Eve service at 5:30 p.m. and an Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m., along with Easter Day worship at the regular time of 10:30.

Holy Week services for Colby First

Baptist Church, 615 W. Webster, will begin Palm Sunday, with the message "Who Is Your Jesus?" at morning worship and a study, "Christian Beliefs that can Drive You Crazy - Guilt and shame are good for me," at 7 p.m. There will be a Maundy Thursday communion service at 7 p.m., featuring seven symbols of Jesus' sacrifice. The Easter morning message of Pastor Carroll Morony will be "Do You

Believe In Easter?"

Father Don Martin of Ascension-on-the-Prairie Episcopal Church says that there will be an Evening Prayer service at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday. On Maundy Thursday, the church plans a service of Holy Eucharist and commemoration of the Last Supper beginning at 5:30 p.m. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar and the veiling of all crosses

in preparation for Good Friday. The Good Friday service begins at 5:30 p.m. and recalls Jesus' death on the cross. On Easter Day, the celebration begins at 9 a.m. with include music and a joyous remembering of the resurrection.

The Shepherd's Staff Conference Center and the Rexford Community Church will be co-sponsoring a showing of "The Passion of the Christ" with Mel

Gibson at 7 p.m. on Good Friday at the Hall, 230 Main St., Rexford.

At Colby First Presbyterian Church, special services begin Palm Sunday, when worship with communion will be at 11 a.m. On Maundy Thursday, the church plans a joint service at the Hoxie First Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Any-

See "HOLY WEEK," Page 3

Briefly

Meeting to cover hazard plans

Thomas County officials plan a "town hall" meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Law Enforcement Training Center, 360 N. Franklin, to explain the process for writing a hazard mitigation plan for the county, including all cities and school districts. Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan said the plan will cover preparation for any likely emergency and ways to avoid damage or losses. For questions, call McMahan at 450-4516.

Convoy group to meet Sunday

Area organizers of the World's Largest Truck Convoy, a benefit for the Special Olympics, will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday at Montana Mike's in Colby to start planning this year's event, set for September. Anyone who wants to help is invited to the dinner meeting. Call 443-1682 or 460-2818 for questions.

Class to learn hostage drill

Colby Community College students will take part in a preplanned mock hostage incident at 9:30 a.m. Monday, using several rooms on the west side of the Bedker complex. The Norton Correctional Facility hostage negotiation and rescue team will conduct the exercise. The incident area will be barricaded with crime-scene tape. Notices will be posted for students and parents.

Center offers field of eggs

Kids 10 and under are invited to an Easter egg hunt at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Care Center, 105 E. College Dr. For questions, call Amanda Hillis, 462-6721.

Church plans big auction

Colby Berean Church will have an auction at 9 a.m. Saturday at the TNT-Jones auction house, 200

N. Franklin. Items include antiques, tools, vehicle, furniture and household. Berean Youth will have a food stand. Money will go to the Building Generation of Faith Fund. Auction items can be previewed from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday and after 8 a.m. the day of auction. For information call (785) 443-3433 or 462-6664.

Kiwanis hunt Saturday at park

The annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Colby Kiwanis Club will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Fike Park. Kids will be divided into groups for age 3 and younger, at 10 a.m.; 4-6 at 10:10 and 7-9 at 10:30. In case of bad weather, listen to KQLS or KXXX radio. For information, call Scott Haas at 460-3922.

Kindergarten screening set

Free kindergarten screening for incoming students, which had been scheduled for this week, now

will be Monday and Tuesday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Areas to be screened include vision, hearing, speech, language, motor and cognitive development. To make an appointment, call school nurse Amy Hutfles at 460-5111 or 460-5100.

Commodities here Monday

Government commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Retired Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Distribution to eligible people, under income guidelines, is first come, first served. Participants are asked to not arrive before 12:30 p.m. If you are eligible, you may send a signed permission slip with another person.

