

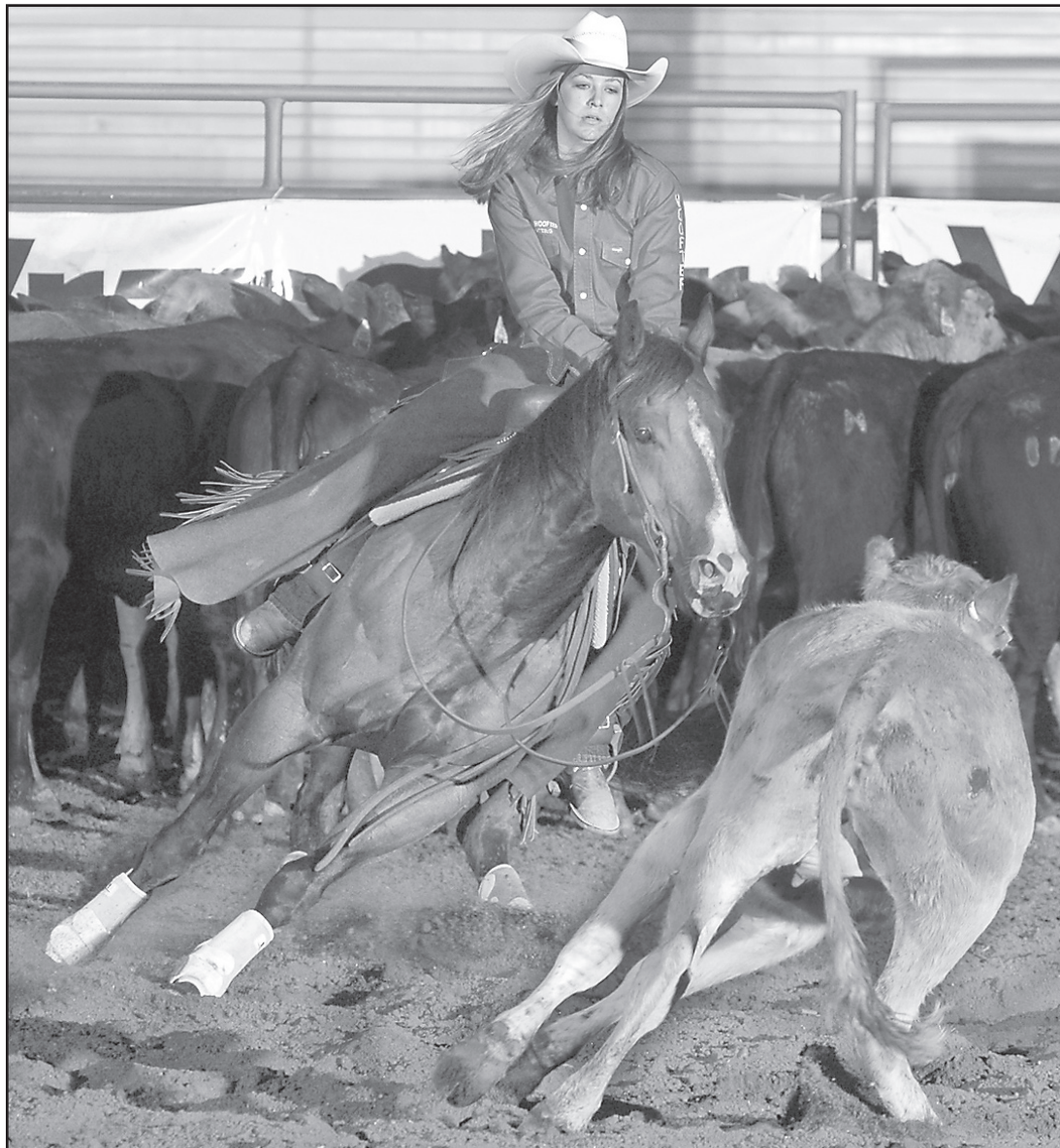


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Cutting is serious business. At last year's National High School Rodeo Cutting Champion, Colby's Quinlynn Woofter and her horse, Peppers Lucky Jewel, both kept their eye on the cow, to make sure it didn't get back to the herd.

Local girl takes state, heads to national rodeo

By Vera Sloan

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Quinlynn Woofter, a 2009 Colby High graduate, walked away from the state High School Rodeo finals in Topeka with first place in the cutting event last weekend.

On a scale of 80 as a perfect mark, Woofter marked a 78 with both judges to win the champion.

"It was a tough win," said her mother, Jennifer Woofter. "One of her best friends was her toughest competition. The final placing wasn't announced for over an hour after the event finished, and we wouldn't believe the buzz about the winner until we saw it officially posted."

Cutting is an equestrian event in the western riding style where a horse and rider are judged on their ability to separate a single animal away from the rest of the herd and keep it away for a period of time. Ranchers used this method when vaccinating and branding large herds.

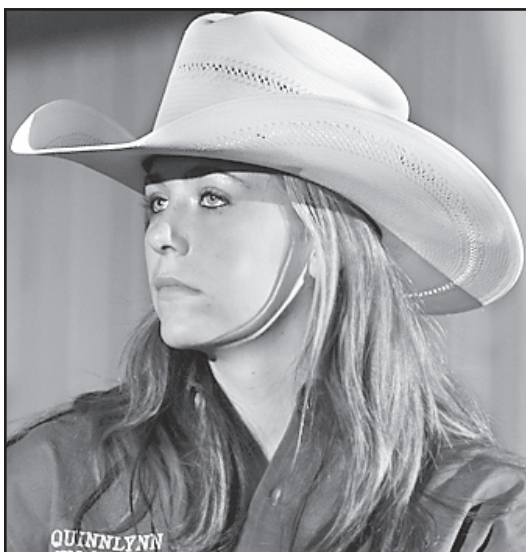
After two "long-go's," and a "short go," Quinlynn led the "high average" for the weekend by 7 points. The championship is determined by adding the finals points and the year's accumulated points, her mother said. When it was all over, Quinlynn was named grand champion, winning the title by three points.

As state Reserve Champion last year, she placed 10th at nationals. At the Celebrity Cutting at the American Royal in Kansas City, she received the highest score ever in that arena.

With the championship, she brought home a new saddle, saddle blanket and two championship buckles, plus a Farm Credit scholarship for being on the Academic Team her entire four years of high school. She will be heading to the National High School Rodeo finals July 19 in Farmington, N.M., her mother said.

Woofter said she has been entering cutting competitions since she joined the high school rodeo team halfway through freshman year.

"Now I'm trying to do a little break-away roping," she said. "I really can't remember when I didn't ride a horse. My older sisters both rode in



Woofter brought home this year's State High School Rodeo Cutting Championship last weekend, and she will be competing in the National Finals again this year.

4-H. I guess I started when I was pretty little, and I rode in 4-H for a long time."

Although Woofter liked 4-H horse events, she said she thinks high school rodeo is different and more fun. She said she particularly values the friendships she has made while competing.

Woofter also has other interests and accomplishments. She excels in art and photography. In 2008, her ceramic sculpture won a state competition and went on to win the National Scholastic Arts and Writing Gold Key award. The piece was chosen to be on display for a year at Carnegie Hall in New York.

"It should be on its way home," she said.

Woofter, a member of the National Honor Society, was in the top 10 in her graduating class. Her plans include attending Colby Community College to study dental hygiene and joining the college rodeo team.

She is the daughter of Mike and Jennifer Woofter of Colby. Her grandparents are Mary Ellen Horton, Atwood, and Dale and Gladys Woofter, Hoxie.

Area crops hit hard by recent hail storm

By Vera Sloan

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With the wheat harvest just a heartbeat away, everyone is keeping an eye on the clouds, and last weeks rain was accompanied by some horrendous hail in areas south west and south east of Colby.

Some farmers report being 100 percent wiped out, while others report minimal to heavy damage.

"70,000 acres would be a fair estimate of acres partially destroyed and totally destroyed in Thomas County in last Thursday night's rain and hail storm," said Ross Sloan, county executive director of the U.S. Farm Service Agency. "About a third of the acreage was totally destroyed, while some received 10 to 20 percent damage, but the outcome will be determined when the combine goes to the field."

There are more acres of wheat damaged than corn

damaged, Sloan added, but of the corn that was hailed, about half of it is totally destroyed.

"I examined corn five days after the storm, and there was no change in growth, so that tells me the growing point was definitely damaged," he said. "The farmers have options with insurance: do they use all the insurance on the first crop, or spread it to a second and take a chance on a late planting or alternative crop?"

Brian Olsen, area agronomist with Kansas State University Research and Extensions, said farmers' options may be determined by what residual herbicides they had down.

"If Atrazine was applied, that will limit which crop can follow on the hailed ground," he said. "Some farmers may opt to just go with their normal rotation, but they have great moisture and may want to

See "CROPS," Page 3

Council considers new loading zone at school

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby School District has asked the city to create a loading zone on the east side of North Cleveland Avenue during school hours to allow parents to drop off and pick up middle school and grade school students.

Rob Ross, Colby Middle School principal, talked to the City Council about the issue at their meeting on Tuesday evening. The board had no problem with the idea, and City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said she will prepare paperwork so

the council can approve a resolution at its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7.

"It will give parents a safe place to drop of kids," Armstrong said.

The loading zone would run from 265 feet north of Webster Street to Second Street and be in effect from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. on school days.

The city also approved providing Embark, a firm which does end-of-life directives, with a loan of \$81,815 over four years. The company will pay a reduced rate of \$255.67 a month as long as they meet the goals laid out in the loan agreement, Armstrong said.

The goals include creating 30 new jobs in the first year, 30 in the second, 32 in the third and 38 in the fourth. Embark will have to pay \$127 per month plus \$10 per month for every projected job that hasn't been filled.

In other business, the council:

- Heard Armstrong report that customers with more than two tipper cans (trash barrels) will have to pay extra on their monthly sanitation bill. Residential customers will be charged an extra \$7.25 per additional can and commercial customers \$8.25 per can.

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Musician lets kids in on the fun



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Sue Schnitzer, of "Wee Bee Music" fame, entertained children and parents on the lawn of Pioneer Memorial Library on Tuesday evening. She encouraged kids to interact, and they were hopping, "bicycling," "swimming" or jumping while she sang a song. Schnitzer, a former special agent for the FBI, is widely known in the Denver-Boulder area as a singer and entertainer. The library was celebrating the birthday of children's librarian Judy Kleinsorge's.

Briefly

Church school starts Monday

The Colby Wesleyan Church will hold Vacation Bible School from 9 to 11:30 a.m., from Monday to Friday next week, June 22-26. This year's theme is "Studio GO! Game Show - Where kids experience real teamwork, real service and real FUN!" Kids will "meet" characters from the Bible who decided to team up with God and GO for it. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Monday. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.

Church to offer health checks

The First Presbyterian Church of Colby will offer HealthScreens, a program of the Gerontology Research Foundation, on Saturday, with tests to determine your current health baseline. These include checking your risk for stroke, heart attack, thyroid disease, cancer, osteoporosis, diabetes and other

preventable illnesses. To schedule an appointment or for information, call HealthScreens at (877) 854-4735 or go to www.healthscreens.net. Different fees are charged for each test.

Care Center to honor fathers

The Colby Care Center invites everyone to a Father's Day celebration at 5:30 p.m. Friday at the center. The staff will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers, so bring a side dish to share. For information, call Amanda Hillis at 462-6721.

Pilots plan miniature air show

The Colby RC Flyers invite everyone to a free air show from sunrise to sunset Saturday and Sunday, seven miles north of Colby on K-25 and one-eighth of a mile east. Visitors can try the club's remote-control trainer and a public drawing will be held at

noon. There will be flying contests and open flying each day. Lunch and drinks will be available. For information, call Nick Nichols at 460-6357.

City to spray for mosquitoes

The City of Colby is fogging for mosquitoes each week. On Mondays or Tuesdays, crews will fog from Webster Street south. On Thursdays or Fridays, they will work from Webster north. Check your yards and empty anything that holds stagnant water - such as cans, swimming pools, tires and the like - to help keep the mosquito population down. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Camp set for Tuesdays

The Colby Wesleyan Church is offering "Tuesdays @ 10," a free summer day camp for children 4 to 12. Kids are invited to participate in the food, fun, games

and God's love from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday through July 28. This year's "Son Rock Camp" will include nature hikes and outdoor activities with lunch. To register, or for information, call the church office at 462-8391.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a nice fat female 2-year-old cat and three mixed-breed dogs - one male and two female - available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

