



Champion huskers take to field

Hundreds turn out for Oakley competition
By Kevin Bottrell



Whitney Smith of Allen, Neb. (left), missed an ear as she was husking Sunday at the National Cornhusking Championships in Oakley and had to go back and get it or suffer a penalty. Mike Anderson of Illinois (above), a two-time state champion, tossed ears into the cart.

Crisp but sunny days were just what the doctor ordered for the state and national cornhusking contests in Oakley this weekend.
'It was a little breezy Saturday,' said organizer Warren Park, 'but Sunday was perfect.'
For the state competition Saturday, teams from all over Kansas came to Oakley. Park said 71 people got their hands on the corn. Lloyd Swart, an Oakley farmer who was volunteering as a contest judge, said fewer teams come from eastern Kansas, where less corn is grown, but one particularly large group came from Atchison County.
Many of the Kansas huskers competed in the nationals Sunday. Others came from Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri and Indiana. Park said 110 people registered Sunday, adding that he was pleased with the attendance, which he said was higher than last year.
The contest moves around each year among the participating states. It was in Oakley in 2004. The town was also the first site of the modern contest when the sport was reorganized in 1971. Last year, it was in Roseville, Ill.
The object is to see how much corn a person can remove from the husk and pick in a given time: 10, 20 or 30 minutes. Huskers are separated by age and gender.
Each husker goes down a row of standing corn, picking each ear

they come across and tossing them into a cart. The cart, pulled by horses, mules or a tractor, follows alongside and has a backboard so the pickers can toss the corn in as fast as they can. Swart said a good picker can husk 30 ears a minute, while some of the champions can husk 60 ears per minute.
Contest organizers had prepared six paths through a field west of town with 11 rows for both left-

and right-handed huskers. Once a row was picked, the stalks were removed so the next competitor would have a row of unpicked corn. The field, next to the Buffalo Bill statue just west of Oakley, be-

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Expect delays as crews test sections of area highways

The Kansas Department of Transportation will do pavement tests this week on sections of K-25 and U.S. 83 in Logan and Decatur counties, using flagmen and a pilot car to control traffic.
Kristen Brands, District 3 public affairs manager for the department in Norton, said these surveys, called falling weight deflectometer tests, are done each year to help track road conditions. The surveys

measure the quality of pavement and help the department know what roads need repairs.
Technicians will be working in four-mile segments. Drivers should expect a wait of no more than 15 minutes.
For questions, contact Brands at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org.

Cops finding more marijuana farms

HUTCHINSON (AP) - Large-scale marijuana growing operations have been turning up more frequently in Kansas, as part of what authorities say is a move by organized crime to the region.
Drug Enforcement Administration statistics show the number of outdoor marijuana operations found in Kansas and neighboring states has increased over the past couple of years, and the number has doubled in some cases.
'We're seeing it all over the U.S., but operations are moving

to areas in the Midwest where they think we don't have adequate law enforcement,' said Rod Page, a special agent with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, told The Hutchinson News. 'They're looking for backwoods areas where they think they won't be caught.'
A large marijuana operation found Oct. 7 in rural Reno County near Haven is one of eight marijuana plots reported this year in Kansas, according to a report in the Hutchinson newspaper.
Page said it's the fourth such

plot found in the past two weeks. He said each site had between 3,000 and 4,000 marijuana plants.
In most cases, those who oversee the crop also live on the property, creating a danger for hunters and landowners who are most likely to stumble upon the plots.
'The West Coast has been seeing these types of operations, particularly on state and government ground and forests,' Page said. 'But it's coming to the Midwest.'
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Learning about fall



Teachers Amy Jennings (foreground) and Michelle Mettlen (behind tree) of Puddle Duck Preschool took their students on a fall walk Friday, collecting leaves, berries, seed pods and acorns for a craft project.

KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Briefly

Women's group to sell greenery
The Colby Presbyterian Women are selling fresh Christmas greenery to raise money for mission projects. Items include wreaths, swags, garlands, holly, table decorations and more. Order by Sunday, Oct. 31, for delivery the first week of December. Call the church at 462-6342, Mary Smith at 462-3387 or JoAnne Sunderman at 460-2476.

Genesis needs names for baskets
Genesis-Thomas County food bank plans once again to help area families during the holiday season. Forms are available for families in need who would like to receive a food basket. Come to the office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 13, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays by Tuesday, Nov. 9. For information, call 460-7930.

District Music Concert is Oct. 25
The Colby Schools' District Music Concert will be at 7:30 p.m. next Monday in the Community Building. This free event, open to the public, will feature musicians from the grade, middle school and high schools. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

College pool open weekdays
The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. Monday to Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; from 5 to 9 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Friday. Open swim is from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; and 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission is \$3, but monthly and yearly passes are available. Call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476.

Pets available for adoption
Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 1- to 2-year-old female vizsla (a Hungarian retriever breed), a small 1- to 2-year-old black-and-white male mixed-breed dog and several kittens 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.

Berean Church to study Esther
The Colby Berean Church will be doing the Beth Moore study 'Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman' and a six-week Crown Money Map Seminar from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sundays starting Oct. 31. Enrollment for Esther will end Friday so books can be ordered. For questions or to register, call the church office at 460-2763. For information on the money seminar, contact Jerry Barton at jerrybarton@st-tel-

net or call (785) 443-3680.
Massage class needs clients
The Therapeutic Massage Program at Colby Community College is offering massages by students in the Massage Clinic I class from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. For an appointment, call (785) 460-5427. The fee is \$5. Any gratuities will be put into the Massage Therapy Club fund to help students pay for the National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, said Debra A. Waites, di-

