



COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Wednesday

March 2, 2011

Volume 122, Number 34

Serving Thomas County since 1888

8 pages

Lending a helpful hose



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Residents and neighbors used garden hoses to control a small grass fire Monday in the 300 block of West Third Street. The fire burned a patch of grass, a cedar bush and spread to a row

of trees before it was put out. Assistant Fire Chief Sean Hankin said the department couldn't tell for sure what started the fire, but it was likely a cigarette butt.

Beef program plans to study cattle feeding

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

to pursue the grant and do the fund raiser.

Dr. Marci Ward, beef cattle program director at Colby Community College, has applied for a \$75,000 Advanced Technology Grant from the National Science Foundation that would pay for technology that measures feed efficiency of individual cattle.

She told the board about the grant at a meeting on Feb. 21 at Thomas Hall to make sure she had the board's blessing and to ask if she could start a fund-raising campaign for extra money which, combined with the grant, would be used to buy eight feeding chambers along with computer software that would measure each bull's feed efficiency. The board gave her the go ahead to continue

In an interview a couple of days later, she said the technology would be obtained from GrowSafe, a small company in Canada. She said the technology would be a great learning tool for students. Ward said the technology had been around for about 20 years, 10 years for feed efficiency purposes; but it had mostly been used by universities as a research tool. She said high cost had kept cattle ranchers from investing in the technology.

Ward said cattle owners will be able to use the technology for \$65 per bull. She said whatever owners spend, they will receive half again in return. For example, she said if someone spent \$1,000

See "FEEDING," Page 3

Piano players get high marks at state festival

Five Colby High School students came back from Hillsboro last week having earned the highest ratings at the state piano competition.

Senior Amanda Barnum and sophomore Jayden Bixenman each received a I rating at the competition at Tabor College on Feb. 19. Junior Rachel Juenemann, sophomore Alex Juenemann and freshman Abby Freisen each earned II ratings, the second highest. Ratings go from I to V.

The students performed the

same pieces they played at the regional contest earlier in February. Barnum played the first movement of "Sonatina" by Aram Khachaturian. Bixenman played the first movement of Beethoven's "Moonlight" sonata.

Rachel Juenemann performed "Dr. Gradus ad Parnassum" by Claude Debussy; Alex Juenemann performed the first movement of "Sonatina," Opus 13, No. 1; and Freisen played "Le Petit Negre" by Debussy.



JAN BARNUM

Colby High senior Amanda Barnum practiced a piece in the auditorium before the state competition in February.

Nebraska group says river is 'over-appropriated'

By Timberly Ross

The Associated Press

OMAHA - A southwest Nebraska irrigation district wants the state Department of Natural Resources to rule that parts of the Republican River basin are "over-appropriated," allowing farmers to use too much well water.

Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District attorney Jeanelle Lust said the river basin's current designation as "fully appropriated" isn't sustainable.

"They'd like to see, 50 years from now,

people are still enjoying the water out there," she said.

The district is most concerned with the river upstream of a diversion dam in Cambridge. A change from fully to over appropriated would put stricter limits on the amount of water that can be used in that part of the basin. But the state agency contends it doesn't have the authority to upgrade the basin's status under 2004 revisions to state water law.

The irrigation district believes the department is incorrectly interpreting the law and wants the Nebraska Supreme Court to order

the department to consider a change in appropriation status. Arguments are scheduled for Wednesday in Lincoln.

The Republican River starts in eastern Colorado, flows into Kansas and Nebraska and then returns to Kansas in Republic County, in the northeastern part of the state. Its basin covers almost 25,000 square miles. A 1943 river compact signed by the three states allocates 49 percent of the river's water to Nebraska, 40 percent to Kansas and 11 percent to Colorado.

See "RIVER," Page 3



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Dr. Angie Rogers, a candidate for the Colby Community College Board, sat at her desk at MILCO in Colby.

Board candidate supports agronomy

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

lab and applied and natural science instructor, before being let go. She taught biology, botany, chemistry, range management, zoology, weed identification and crop and soil science. Rogers is also a financial director of the Northwest Kansas Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services.

Dr. Angie Rogers, environmental scientist for MILCO, said Colby Community College has lost touch with the community and that's one of the reasons she is running for a position on the college board.

Rogers, worked for the college for three years, from 2007-2010, as a director of agronomy, developer of the forensic science

Rogers said bringing the agronomy program back to the college was one of her reasons

See "CANDIDATE," Page 3

Briefly

Ag department food available

The United States Department of Agriculture will distribute extra commodities from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, March 14, at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Commodities are given according to income guidelines and distribution is first-come, first-served. Participants are asked to not arrive before 12:30 p.m. Commodities include canned beef, tomato soup, green beans, mixed fruit, vegetable soup, orange juice, cherries and milk. For information, call the program office at 462-6744.

Mailing change delays city bills

Due to a change in mailing, city utility bills may not be delivered until the third day of each month starting this week. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the change is beyond the control of the city. For information, call City Hall at 460-4400.

Soccer sign-up open all week

The American Youth Soccer Organization is enrolling players for the spring season through Friday. Kids 5 to 19 are welcome. For information or to sign up, call Emily Griffin at 460-0647.

Boosters to serve potatoes

The Colby High School Athletics Booster Club will have a baked potato bar from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Colby Community Building during the substate Basketball Tournament. Proceeds will go to help build a new locker room for visiting teams at Dennen Field. For information, call Gary Adrian at 460-2931.

Prom dresses on sale at church

Gently used, like-new prom dresses will be on sale from 6 to 8 p.m. until Friday in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. in

Colby. New styles, great colors and sizes, \$20 each. Proceeds go to Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank. For information, call Sue Draper at (785) 460-6322 or Shanda Mattix at (785) 460-5464.

World Day of Prayer coming

Church Women United will sponsor a World Day of Prayer lunch and service at noon Friday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Women from Colby churches will present a program prepared by Chilean women called "How Many Loaves Have You?" Donations will be accepted. For information, call Millie Horlacher at 462-3104.

Help solve a murder Saturday

Tickets are available for Pioneer Memorial Library's Murder Mystery night until Thursday. The Murder Mystery night will be at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. It includes dinner while each table attempts to

solve the murder. For information, call 460-4470.

Gem Lions plan soup luncheon

The Gem Lions Club will be serving homemade vegetable and potato soup, chili and cake for its annual Winter Soup Day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Gem Community Building. Donations will go for community projects. For information, call Ken Poland, 462-7809. The Lions will be collecting eye glasses and hearing aids to recycle.



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