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On to state!



PAT TUBBS

The Colby High varsity wrestling team gathered around Coach Matt Sims for a pep talk at the 4A Regional Wrestling Tournament in Chapman on Friday. The Eagles won the tournament and qualified 10 wrestlers for the state tournament this weekend at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

Eagles win regional tourney

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby High wrestling team took first place at the Class 4A regional tournament in Chapman on Friday and Saturday, with 10 Eagles pinning down spots in the state tournament.

“We did a nice job,” Coach Matt Sims said on CatchItKansan.com. “We brought 12 guys here and have 10 going to state. I was a little bit disappointed about the consolation semifinal round – we went 0-4 there – but it was good getting there.”

The Eagles dominated the competition with 171 team points, 32 more than second-place McPherson. Wrestlers who placed first to fourth qualified for the state tournament Friday and Saturday in Salina.

Junior Dustin Reed at 120 pounds, senior Konnor Kriss at 138 and junior Beau Brown at 170 grabbed first place in their

Coach, wrestler No. 1

Colby High varsity wrestling coach Matt Sims was voted Coach of the Year by the coaches at the Class 4A regional tournament in Chapman last weekend.

Junior wrestler Dustin Reed, who won the championship at 120 pounds, was named Regional Wrestler of the Year, an honor also voted on by the coaches.

Sims said his receiving the award, which he shared with coach Ben Elliott of Smoky Valley High, is mainly a reflection on his team.

“I’ve told a lot of people, ‘You’re voted on, and that’s fine; it just means that you have good kids who work

hard,’” Sims said. “We’ve got a great group of guys that are hard workers and have remained coachable, and that’s 90 percent of what’s been done.”

Principal Larry Gabel said both awards speak to the program’s quality.

“That’s a neat reflection on the leadership in the program, the coaches and the kids,” Gabel said. “That’s really neat.”

Sims won this same award in 2007, his first year coaching in Colby, and has had wrestlers win the regional title as well.

The Eagles moved up to No. 3 in the Class 4A state rankings going into the state tournament Friday and Saturday.

weight classes.

Sophomore David Mainus,

106; junior Quade Woofter, 145; and junior Zell Bieberle, 285;

took second in their weights.

Senior Michael Tubbs, 132; junior Macen Shull, 152; sophomore Andrew Taylor, 160; and junior Troy Quenzer, 195, came in fourth.

“I think it was a good regional,” Sims said. “You look at the top teams: McPherson is taking seven, Smoky is taking seven, Concordia, seven, Abilene six.... It was a tough regional.”

The Eagles moved up this week to No. 3 in the state in Class 4A team rankings by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

The 10 Colby wrestlers have been paired up with the opponents they will meet in the first round this weekend:

- Reed, who has a 40-1 record, will face senior Antonio Ferro of Basehor-Linwood, 15-1 this season.

- Kriss, 39-2, will wrestle freshman Taylor Watkins, 32-10, Columbus.

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FFA invites whole town to breakfast

By Christina Beringer

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The Colby High School FFA chapter has been working hard to promote activities for National FFA Week, which began last Saturday and will continue through the week.

In addition to events and activities at the school, the chapter invites everyone to a Community Appreciation Breakfast from 6 to 8 a.m. Thursday at the high school commons. The menu includes pancakes, sausage and bacon.

“The breakfast on Thursday is (for) a free-will donation,” said chapter President Katera Harter. “The proceeds will go to the chapter for travels to next year’s national convention, judging con-

tests and other expenses.”

Harter said that until 1988, FFA stood for Future Farmers of America, but in these modern times, with so much more going on in agriculture, the name just didn’t suit the organization anymore.

“Now, the organization is known as the National FFA Organization,” she said.

The Colby High Chapter began in 1935, and has since built a reputation as innovators and leaders of tomorrow, she said.

Through agricultural education and hands-on learning, members prepare for more than 300 career opportunities in the food, fiber and natural resources industries, said Kristy Meyer, a spokesman for the national organization. She said

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Argentine crash kills 49 at depot

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) – A packed train slammed into the end of the line in Buenos Aires’ busy Once station today, killing 49 people and injuring hundreds of morning commuters.

Federal Police Commissioner Nestor Rodriguez says the dead include 48 adults and a child.

At least 550 people were injured, and emergency workers were slowly extracting dozens of people who were trapped inside the first car, said Alberto Crescetti, the city’s emergency medical director. Rescuers carved open the roof and set up a pulley system to ease them out one by one.

The commuter train came in too

fast and hit the barrier at the end of the platform at about 16 mph (26 kph), smashing the front of the engine and crunching the leading cars behind it; one car penetrated nearly 20 feet (six meters) into the next, Argentina’s transportation secretary, J.P. Schiavi told reporters at the station.

The conductors’ union chief, Omar Maturano, told Radio 10 that the train might have come in as fast as 18 mph.

Most damaged was the first car, where passengers make space for bicycles. Survivors told the TeleNoticias channel that many people were injured in a jumble of metal and glass.

City hopes to save train

GARDEN CITY (AP) – Garden City commissioners approved resolutions offering money and support for keeping an Amtrak route through southwest Kansas.

The commission approved a resolution Tuesday asking Amtrak to maintain the Southwest Chief’s route between Chicago and Los Angeles through Topeka, Newton, Hutchinson, Dodge City and Garden City. It also approved spend-

ing up to \$20,000 to help pay for lobbying efforts in Washington to keep the current route.

The Garden City Telegram reports (bit.ly/AlgAtf) Amtrak is considering an alternative route that would run south of Newton through Wichita and the Texas Panhandle to New Mexico. It cites the poor condition of rail on track owned by BNSF Railway, which Amtrak uses for its service.

Session aims to help new grandparents

By Christina Beringer

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Two groups are inviting grandparents and others interested in helping young parents in their struggles dealing with new babies to a free program and supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the conference room at Citizens Medical Center.

Anyone who wants to attend is asked to register with Smart Start Northwest Kansas at (785) 465-9103 so they can plan the meal count.

The program will feature Kathy Ryan, a registered nurse and certified lactation counselor with

the Thomas County Health Department; Smart Start project director Maureen Ostmeier; and Paige Campbell, director of the Northwest Kansas Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect office in Colby.

Topics will include how to support new parents with infants, brain development in infants, understanding a crying baby, supporting the breast-feeding family and how to strengthen the family with protective factors.

Much of the information should help young parents be better equipped to raise a happy and healthy child, sponsors say, and will give other adults in an infant’s life the resources to support the parents and the baby.

Ostmeier said many factors af-

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Colby Grade School third graders belted out “Sing a Happy Song” Tuesday night during the musical “Everybody Has Mu-

sic Inside” directed by Jennifer Koel and accompanied by Nikki Brattin. All of the third-grade helped present the program.

KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

