

Colby forensics team brings home first place

The Colby High School Forensics team dominated the Norton invitational speech tournament Feb. 9, bringing home its first first-place plaque of the season.

The Colby team ranked above Sharon Springs, which finished second, and Hill City, third.

Twenty-one Colby students received high enough scores to place them in the final round, taking positions in each of the nine events. Four took first place, three got 2 ratings and five had 3 ratings.

Junior Walter Vacik placed in each of his performances. He received a 1 rating in the informative speaking category and a 3 rating in extemporaneous speaking.

Senior Tomi Miller took home a third-place medal for her informative speech and second for extemporaneous speaking.

Sophomore Cheyne Weis took fourth place for his informative speech.

Four of the six finals places for the informative speaking category were taken by Colby students. Sophomore Brooke Wark rounded up sixth place.

In addition to Vacik and Miller placing in the extemporaneous speaking event, three other Colby students also placed. Junior Abby Friesen took first place; junior Sarah Lamm, fourth; and sophomore Sterling Miller, fifth place. Only the sixth-place position was held by a student from another school.

Colby also swept the Oral Interpretation of Prose category, again occupying four of the six positions: senior Gabby Browne, first place; sophomore Erika Moore, third place; fresh-

man Rachel Browne, fourth; and junior Ashley Coleman, sixth.

The serious solo acting event was an easy take for Colby, as well. Senior G. Browne received her second first-place award in this event. Senior Cameron McLaughlin trailed in second place, followed by sophomore Ally O'Neal in fifth place and freshman Desi Schippers in sixth.

Schippers also partnered with Coleman and the couple brought home a sixth-place medal in the impromptu duet acting event.

Three Colby duet acting partners placed: R. Browne and freshman Julie Schroeder got third place, sophomore Aaron Faber and senior Blake McNinch got fifth and senior Kurt Sloan partnered with senior Eric Lowe for sixth.

A forensics beginner, Lowe also placed in the Oral Interpretation of Poetry event. He brought home a fourth-place award and another new team member, Tyrell Yarborough, got sixth.

Senior Brady Rose received a second-place medal for his persuasive speech, followed by S. Miller, who brought home his second fifth place award of the day.

Freshman Andrea Browne rounded out the competition and helped Colby take first place with her fifth-place award in Humorous Solo Acting.

Colby did not compete this weekend. Instead, the team put on the annual Colby High School Invitational Speech Tournament on Saturday at the high school.

Breastfeeding's best for babies, mothers

Kathy Ryan
Thomas County Health Dept.

We all know that breastfeeding is the best nutrition we can give to our babies.

Many of us know that the first milk, the colostrum is very rich in nutrients and antibodies to protect the baby. The baby only gets small amounts at each feeding but this matches the size of the baby's tiny tummy and what it can hold.

This colostrum then changes into mature milk by the third to fifth day after birth. Breast milk is easily digested and has just the right amount of fat, sugar, water, protein, nutrients and antibodies to help baby continue to grow. As baby grows, mother's milk continues to change to meet the child's needs.

Breastfeeding may take a little extra effort than formula feeding at the beginning, but it can make one's life easier once mom and baby settle into a routine. When you breastfeed, there are no bottles and nipples to sterilize; and you do not have to buy, measure and mix formula. Also there is no need to warm bottles in the middle of the night.

Breastfeeding saves money. Formula and feeding supplies can cost well over \$1,500 each year depending on how much your baby eats. Breastfed babies are also sick less often, which can lower health care costs.

Physical contact is important for the newborn. It can help them

feel more secure, warm and comforted. Mothers benefit from this closeness as well. This is a calming, relaxed time for mother.

Breastfeeding is also good for the mother's health. Breastfeeding has been linked to a lower risk of Type 2 diabetes, breast cancer, ovarian cancer and postpartum depression in women. Nursing mothers also miss less work because their infants are sick less often.

Breastfeeding also benefits society. Recent research shows that if 90 percent of families breastfed exclusively for six months, nearly 1,000 infant deaths could be prevented. The United States would also save \$13 billion per year due to medical care costs are lower for fully breastfed babies. Employer medical costs are less because moms are missing less work due to sick babies.

Breastfeeding is also better for the environment. There is less trash, plastic waste, cans and bottle supplies.

For anyone wanting information on breastfeeding or breastfeeding support, or a mother who needs assistance with a problem related to breastfeeding, you may contact me, Kathy Ryan, at the Thomas County Health Department, 460-4596.

Kathy Ryan is a registered nurse and certified lactation counselor with the Thomas County Health Department.

Writing deadline nears

The 24th annual Kansas Voices statewide writing contest entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 15.

Both divisions have adult and youth categories in poetry and prose. All Kansas writers are encouraged to enter. To be eligible, writers must live in Kansas. There is no requirement for subject matter and all entries are judged based on literary merit.

\$1,000 in prize money will be awarded: \$275 each for first prize poetry and short story in adult division, first prize for poetry and short story in the youth division is \$100 each, and \$250 total will be given for Honorable Mention awards.

Winners will be honored and invited to read their work at a special presentation at Winfield Arts and Humanities Council, 700 Gary, Winfield, on Saturday, May 4.

You may call (620) 221-2161 or write to the Winfield Arts and Humanities Council, 700 Gary, Suite A and B, Winfield, Kan., 67156 for guidelines, entry forms or dinner reservations. The guidelines and entry form may also be downloaded at www.winfieldarts.com.

Entries must be unpublished

Bill targets dropped pot rules

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Lawmakers in Olympia are considering an oddly specific proposal about marijuana.

A bill introduced by Democratic Rep. Christopher Hurst of Enumclaw and Republican Rep. Terry Nealey of Dayton would set out steps for the “proper disposal of legal amounts of marijuana inadvertently left at retail stores holding a pharmacy license.”

Nealey says the bill was prompted by recent incidents where marijuana was found at Walmart stores, after it was apparently dropped. He says there's some concern that having

stories or poems accompanied by an official entry form and a \$3 entry fee for each submission.

Last year the winner in the Adult Division was Abby Otte of Lawrence for the fiction piece, “South for the Summer.” The winner in poetry was Graham Barnes of Topeka for “Level Ground.” Honorable mentions in adult prose included “The Heroism of General Toreno” by Grace Becker of Newton and “Echoes in the Static” by Bob Sommer of Overland Park. Honorable mentions in adult poetry included “The Actor's Advice” by William Coleman of Wichita, “Galileo's Telescope” Sanda Moore Coleman, Wichita, “Morning: As the Bird Flies” by William Clyde Brown, Salina, “Sisyphus” by Boyd Bauman, Roeland Park.

In the Youth Division, last year's winner was Katie Guyot of Lawrence for her fiction piece “A Thrasher Near the Nest.” The youth poetry winner was Tanner Boyle of Winfield “Cul-de-Sac of Pain.” Honorable mentions in youth poetry included “A Fibonacci Poem” by Dylan Entz of Wichita; “Small Blinks” by Tanner Boyle of Winfield.

Remember: You are only known by a number to the judges. All winners are at the discretion of

marijuana on the premises could affect the licensing of the pharmacies at such stores.

Washington voters legalized possession of up to an ounce of marijuana last fall.

The bill says that if less than an ounce of pot is found at a store with a pharmacy, the store must notify law enforcement, and the marijuana must be properly disposed of.

Nealey says the stores should follow the same steps if the marijuana is left there intentionally, or if it's more than an ounce of pot.

Deaths

Linda Kay Petty

Linda Kay (Ruda) Petty, 69, Colby, died Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013, at the Logan County Hospital in Oakley.

She was born Feb. 22, 1943, in Colby, the daughter of Victor J. and Vaneta E. (Passell) Ruda.

Survivors include two sons, Jeff (Audrey) Rummel, Loveland, Colo., and Brad (Angela) Rummel, Osborn; a brother, Tim (Vicki) Ruda, Atwood; and three grandsons.

Services will be at 10 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Atwood, with Father Nick Parker officiating and burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery in there.

Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. today at the Williams Funeral Home in Atwood, with a vigil service at 7 p.m.

The family suggests memorials in her name in care of the funeral home, 109 N. Second St., Atwood, Kan., 67730.

Ruth Elaine Taylor

Ruth Elaine Taylor, 76, Hoxie, mother of Lana Anderson of Colby, died Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, at the Hays Medical Center.

She was born in Tasco on March 11, 1936, to Walt R. and Mary “Mae” (Cunningham) Hyde.

On Nov. 3, 1951, she married Wayne “Red” Taylor at the Sheridan County Courthouse. They owned and operated Red's Kerr McGee Station in Hoxie. They also ran the Sheridan Inn Restaurant, Pix Theatre and Red's Pool Hall. She also worked at the hospital and nursing home in the laundry and kitchen and as an aide for many years.

She loved music, singing in church with her husband and yodeling. In her spare time she did puzzles, crocheting, gardening and landscaping.

Preceding her in death were her parents and two sons, Randy Taylor and infant Ross Taylor.

Survivors include her husband,

Elsie S. Garrett

Elsie S. Garrett, 94, Goodland, died Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013, at Good Samaritan Society-Sherman County in Goodland.

She was born Jan. 17, 1919, in Offerle, the daughter of Anna Augusta (Averill) and George Henry Sire.

She graduated from Offerle High School in 1936 and from Fort Hays State College in 1940 with a degree in home economics.

She taught in Shallow Water and Clayton before becoming a staff member and later the head of the home economics department with the Los Angeles School District.

In 1942, she married David Butler in Clayton. He died in 1943 during service on a Navy submarine.

In 1959, she married Frank Garrett. He died in 1967.

After her retirement in 1974, she moved to Sun City, Ariz., and traveled extensively with friends both

of the home; two other children, Russ (Helen) Taylor, Lyndon, and David (Kathy) Taylor, Sylvester, Ga.; two brothers, Darrel Hyde and Ralph Hyde, and a sister, Wilma (Julius “Curly”) Bieker, all of Hoxie; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, at the Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home in Hoxie, with the Rev. Carl Dumler officiating and burial in the Hoxie City Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday and 9 a.m. until service time Friday at the funeral home.

The family suggests memorials to the Sheridan County Health Complex, in care of the funeral home, Box 987, Hoxie, Kan., 67740.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.mickeyleopoldfuneral.com.

California seeks wildfire costs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California officials are pushing hard — some say too hard — for money to recover the costs of fighting wildfires, The *Sacramento Bee* reported Sunday (bit.ly/150cEka).

For the last eight years, the state has more aggressively gone after businesses and individuals it blames for starting wildfires, but now some of those targeted are pushing back, the newspaper said.

The state's Civil Cost Recovery Program is considered such a financial success that Gov. Jerry Brown is asking lawmakers to expand the unit's staff of lawyers, fire accountants and investigators from 14 to 24, *The Bee* said.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection officials say the unit goes after people who spark wildfires, costing millions of dollars to put out. They also say cost-sharing agreements with federal and local agencies require the state to pursue money from those who start fires.

But state Sen. Jim Nielsen, R-Gerber — who represents a vast rural area in far Northern California — says the state should put limits on its attempts to recover money.

“It's clearly being abused,” he said. “The state is going to try to identify as many sources of revenue for government as it possibly can, and that's what's driving it.”

The state pays the costs of emergency firefighting out of its general fund, with annual costs over the last decade averaging

\$249 million, officials said.

The state recovered less than \$2 million annually from 2001 through 2003, but recouped \$35.6 million in 2010-1.

“Our ultimate goal is to return the most money to the taxpayers who paid to suppress these fires,” said Cal Fire spokeswoman Janet Upton.

Environmentalists, often at odds with timber companies on a number of issues, support Cal Fire's drive to collect money.

“If they cause forest fires, they bear the burden of the cost of those fires, and not the public, especially if they are doing activities that increase the chance of fires,” said Susan Robinson, an activist with Ebbets Pass Forest Watch.

But some, especially those in the timber industry, are fighting back in court.

The state is seeking \$15 million from Sierra Pacific and others for firefighting costs, legal fees and interest for a fire in 2007 that burned 65,000 acres.

Sierra Pacific and its subcontractors argue that the state manipulated evidence and targeted deep-pocketed businesses.

The defense contends that the explanation for the blatant and intentional failure of Cal Fire to fully investigate other potential causes of the Moonlight Fire is that its investigators were driven to place blame on Sierra Pacific, a “deep pocket.” Richard Linkert, an attorney for another defendant, wrote in a Jan. 31 court filing.

Boars win in boar hunt stakes

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgians went on a boar hunt and at first it looked like no contest: 200 hunters vs. 170 wild boars. Yet in the end, only one boar was slain.

As hunter Jef Schrijvers said after a frustrating day: “The boars won. The hunters lost.”

The northern town of Postel had organized the hunt because an explosive increase in the boar population had damaged farm fields and woods and caused rural traffic

problems.

In a coordinated swoop, the hunters sought to drive the boars together so that marksmen in high positions could shoot them, but the plan didn't work.

Schrijvers told the VRT television network that “the hunt was perfect, safe and correct. Only the result was disappointing.”

He called it a “successful general rehearsal” ahead of similar hunts.

**The family of
Thurman Cox wishes
him a Big Happy
92nd Birthday on
February 20th!**

Birthday wishes can
be sent to:
P.O. Box 464
Colby, KS 67701



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Thursday, February 21st

6:30 - 8 a.m.

Colby High School