



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages



Guest visits traditional hot dog feed

By Sam Dieter

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The Lions hot dog and watermelon feed had a special guest this year: Miss America.

A former Miss America, to be more accurate, Teresa Scanlan, of Gering, Neb., was crowned in 2011 after earning the title of Miss Nebraska, the first woman from that state to win the national beauty pageant. She was also the youngest to win in 70 years; she graduated from Scottsbluff High School in 2010, a year early.

She put her crown away in 2012 to go to Patrick Henry College in Virginia, and came back here to help film the documentary "The Great American Wheat Harvest."

The film follows Jim Deibert of Colby, along with other professional harvesters, as they travel from Texas to Canada harvesting wheat.

After that, Scanlan made an appearance at the 4-H building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds for the annual hot dog feed sponsored by the High Plains Lions Club, with help from the Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club. The crowd filled up the main room in the building where 180 seats had been set up.

Scanlan told the crowd about her hometown, located in the Panhandle of Nebraska. Although she has never been in this part of Kansas, Scanlan said, there was a

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School plans July JumpStart

Colby Grade School is planning two weeks of things for kids to do this summer.

The school's JumpStart program will run from 8 a.m. to noon Monday to Thursday over two weeks from Monday, July 22, to Thursday, Aug. 1. The activities are part of the after school program started at the grade school this spring, and scheduled to run for five years in all. Kathy Vaughn, the after school coordinator, said research has shown that kids tend to forget what they learned over the summer.

"Because of that we want to

give them a 'jump start' to help them get back into the swing of things," she said.

To that end, the kids will catch up on the basics of math, writing and reading, Vaughn said, but they will also play sports and there will be activities including cooking, crafts and music.

"We want the kids to experience different enrichment-type activities," Vaughn said.

The activities will center on the theme of animals, past and present. The kids will take a field trip

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Honoring the Fourth



Starting off with city workers placing flags along the streets (above), Colby's Fourth of July celebration ended with a bang Thursday as the Kiwanis' fireworks display (above right) went off as planned. Some residents (right) watched the fireworks from the comfort of their own yards. Earlier, hundreds of people gather at the 4-H building for the Lions' hot dog and watermelon feed (far left), including special guest Teresa Scanlan (left) of Gering, Neb., Miss America 2011.

EVAN BARNUM, HEATHER ALWIN AND SAM DIETER
Colby Free Press

Name chosen for newest park

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The area next to the Aquatic Park has a new name: Poolside Park.

The Colby City Council decided on the name at its meeting Tuesday night for the park, which now includes a playground and a walking trail loop. The council chose the name after rejecting it and two others, Prairie Park and Grassroots Park, at the last meeting. Council members wanted a longer list of names and the city sent out e-mails through the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and the city Recreation Department.

But City Manager Tyson McGreer said Tuesday that "when we advertised, we sent it out through mass e-mail, we had about two more (suggestions)."

After hearing about the winning selection, Megan Carmichael of the Thomas County Coalition credited Katrina Sullivan, Todd Stramel and Brent Wiedeman—who helped organized the construction of the playground—with suggesting the name. The name was chosen out of a list of about 20 suggestions the coalition gathered last month before narrowing them down to three.

The Council members were not impressed by the three names at

first. They asked if the coalition had gathered enough suggestions and what it had done to find them, and asked for a story to run in the Colby Free Press about the search for a name.

No one seemed to have a favorite name Tuesday night. Mayor Gary Adrian suggested the council go with something simple and Councilman Pat Mallory finally put forward the motion for Poolside Park.

City officials have referred to that area as South Franklin Park at past council meetings, as they discussed building it up into a park.

In other business, the council:

- Tabled a discussion on having a K-9 program for the Police Department. Chief Randy Jones explained that a K-9 unit would help with law enforcement and with public relations and introduced Cole Andreasen, an officer who wants to help start the program.

"He's really wanting to take this task on," Jones said, "that's what he wants to do, he wants that to be his niche."

Mallory was thinking about next year's budget, which the council will start working on next week.

"So is there money in this budget for that?" he asked.

Jones said that a vehicle the Kansas Highway Patrol is holding for the police as a K-9 car could be paid for out of the law enforcement trust fund, and that the police are going to sell some good cars at an auction next month, which should bring in money. He

said that usually only one officer handles a dog.

Council President Fred Taylor pointed out that the Thomas County Sheriff's Office already has a K-9 unit, and asked what the benefit would be of having one for the police department. Jones said that Sheriff Rod Taylor has been sick, and that Undersheriff Marc Finley, who heads up the K-9 department, is also taking over some sheriff's duties. Andreasen added that the law enforcement agency that makes a cash seizure gets 10 percent of the money.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a contract with Utility Maintenance Contractors to fix manholes in the city for \$11,495.

- Approved a lease with Top Ag Inc. to rent space at the airport for \$500 a month. City staff originally suggested leasing the space for \$450 a month, and McGreer said the city's Airport Advisory Committee suggested \$500 a month. Both amounts are in the ballpark for rents for commercial property, he said.

He said the company plans to use its own plane to scout crop fields, a job that is sometimes done by satellites with radar. But if there are clouds or bad weather when the satellite flies by, it makes the image less accurate.

"Right now they're using heat imaging for the crops," he said, "and they think they can get a little more accurate by flying over it."

- Approved a bid from APAC Kansas Inc., based in Hutchinson, to seal cracks in the airport run-

way with hot tar for \$76,235, of which the city's share is \$27,308. McGreer pointed out that the Airport Board agreed with the bid Tuesday morning. The council has discussed the project several times over the past months, and at one point let out a bid for the project that no companies answered. Eventually the city decided to get the Kansas Department of Transportation to help pay for the project.

The department's airport division has money the city can apply for each year, McGreer said after the meeting, adding that the city has been saving for the project for several years and will pay for the last of it next year.

- Discussed how to get rid of bindweed that has sprouted in the city. McGreer said that the weed has already taken root, so spraying it now would only waste weedkiller without actually killing the weed. The city has discussed spraying it in the fall and next spring, he said. Public Works Director Omar Weber later described the time to spray and what to use as 90 percent of the problem with the bindweed, and said that the city will not use the more powerful kinds of weedkiller. McGreer said getting rid of bindweed will be a long-term process.

"It's like stickers, we have to keep after it for years," he said, "unless we spray with Roundup or something, but we'd have 'dirt park' then."

And the package says ...



HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press

Eight-year-old Michael Shepard celebrated Independence Day by lighting off fireworks with his parents and grandparents in Colby. He couldn't resist rushing over to check out this firecracker's performance after it went off with a bang. Home fireworks shows lit the skies over Colby Thursday night.



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