



Figgins



Keltz

Athletes invited to play in all-star game

Garrett Figgins of St. Francis Community High School and Caleb Keltz of Cheylin High School are among the basketball players who have been invited to play in the Colby Community College 18th annual Northwest Kansas All-Star Basketball Classic mens game.

The All-Star games featuring senior basketball players will be held on Sunday in the Colby Community Building. The women's game is set to tip-off at 5 p.m. with the men's game to follow at 7 p.m.

Both Keltz and Figgins will be playing on the men's team 2.

Water to be drained at Bonny

It's a fisherman's dream. There may not be a limit on the number of fish someone can catch in one day at Bonny Lake this year.

But as soon as the fish are gone, the water will be next.

The *Burlington Record* reported on March 17, that state officials overseeing the lake's operations suggested the no-limit fishing since the water is expected to be drained later this year. Emptying Bonny's water will help Colorado meet compliance with the Republican River Compact with Kansas and Nebraska.

The fishing strategy was discussed during a public hearing about the future of Bonny held Monday, March 7, in Burlington.

"The idea of draining Bonny is still front and center. It's a tragic step we are taking and Bonny is beautiful," said Alex Davis, assistant director for water for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

Bonny's water will complement a water pipeline proposed to be built north of Laird. The pipe-

line will send water from wells in that area into the North Fork of the Republican to help Colorado achieve compact compliance.

Even with water out of Bonny, state officials are researching how the area could still be used by the public.

"I hope it can remain, but it will look a lot different," Davis commented.

The numbers at Bonny are already different.

John Geerdes, the southeast region manager of Colorado State Parks, said Bonny and the number of its visitors have significantly changed since the mid 1990s.

In 1996, Bonny had four campgrounds with a total of 179 campsites and more than 90 picnic areas. That complemented the 36,000 acre feet of water in the lake. An acre foot of water is the amount needed to cover one acre with one foot of water, which is the equivalent to 325,851 gallons.

All of that created about \$2 million of economic activity a year in the area.

Dry weather patterns the past 10 years are part of the reason for Bonny's smaller amount of water. Water has also been released in the past because of the compact.

At the last measure, there is about 12,900 acre feet of water and boating has been limited in recent years because of the water amount. State budget struggles the past two years have reduced the four, full-time employees at Bonny to one. Campground sites have been closed.

A chart displayed at the meeting tracked the amount of water and visitors at Bonny since 1996.

"As the water plummeted, so did the visitors," Mr. Geerdes said.

A proposal is for the Colorado Division of Wildlife to assume responsibility of the area. Agreements for that to happen must be made as the area is currently part of the state parks department.

Having the Division of Wildlife take over Bonny is an alternative. The state's estimated \$1 billion budget shortfall is another issue as Governor John Hickenlooper suggested closing Bonny.

"The goal is to still allow you out there," Mr. Geerdes commented. "We are not looking at a big closed sign on Bonny."

But don't expect the same amenities under the Division of Wildlife. All electrical outlets

at campsites will be shut off. Camping will be self-contained. Bathrooms will be primitive. There won't be any access to the Visitor's Center and other buildings and developments, with an estimated value up to \$4.5 million.

"I would hate to see the Visitor's Center knocked down. Is there a local group who could use it," Mr. Geerdes asked. "What will we do with the buildings?"

Actually draining Bonny, which won't happen until after Labor Day, will have challenges. Years of silt build-up have created an un-level lake bottom. Random pools of water at various depths may be created when the water is drained.

"It may be physically impossible to get all the water out," Mr. Davis commented.

State officials said fish trapped in those pools may be caught and relocated to other lakes in the state.

For Bonny to be an ongoing part of compact compliance, future rain and snowmelt must flow through the lake and to the Republican River. State officials said any standing water will still be used by migratory birds as Bonny is popular among various species.

Mr. Geerdes said another public meeting about Bonny is expected in the fall.

International tenors to perform on Sunday

Three male tenors, called The International Tenors, will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April

10, in the Cultural Arts Center, Colby. Western Plains Arts Association presents them as they

perform a varied program from opera to musical theatre to pop.

The International Tenors brings everything the audience could hope to hear in a three tenor concert: opera, musical theater, operetta and pop, performed as only true tenors can, with authenticity and a little humor! An incredible show coupled with a multimedia video, the tenors perform on stage with a big screen showing scenes and footage of Italy, Spain, and France, and of the favorite artists. The audience will almost believe they are sitting in a little café watching a great show in the Piazz, a wonderful little getaway!

The show includes a stirring tribute to the famous tenors of the past: Enrico Caruso, the world's first tenor superstar, Mario Lanza, Hollywood's biggest star in the 1950s and the world's first true crossover tenor, and, of course, Luciano Pavarotti, dubbed the voice of the century.

They then perform an ani-

ated and fun-loving set of the most beloved three tenor songs and arias! "O Sole Mio," "La Donna Mobile" and the drinking song "Libiamo"... plus a medley of favorite musical theater numbers, from shows such as The Phantom of the Opera, West Side Story and Les Miserables.

The International Tenors then switch gears and perform some of the world's greatest Pop/Opera hits! "Time to Say Goodbye" and "the Prayer" by the world's biggest selling opera singer, Andrea Bocelli; "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban; song selections from Il Divo and others. They then bring the show to a powerful conclusion with the song that made Pavarotti a household name, "Ness'un Dorma"!

Admission is by Western Plains Arts Association season ticket, or at the door. This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

Training offered for senior health program

The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging and the Kansas Department on Aging will sponsor training for the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) program. The three-day training will be held in Hays on May 11, June 22 and July 13. Alternate training dates and locations are available. All expenses for the training...food, mileage and lodging (if needed) will be paid. Pre-registration by April 29 is required.

The Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas is a free program that uses trained community volunteers to answer people's

questions about Medicare and other insurance issues. The counselors provide free, unbiased, and confidential assistance to beneficiaries, their caregivers, and others who have question about Medicare.

The program's volunteers receive training on Medicare, Medicare Prescription Drug insurance, Medicare Supplement Insurance, Long-Term Care Insurance and other health insurance subjects that concern Kansans.

For more information, contact Glenna Clingsmith at the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-432-7422 or (785) 628-8204.

Bowling News

Ladies Night Out 3/24

Team standing: Yehas, Wray Meat Packing, Strikers, Bier's Maids, Dundy Ag, Wright Carpet, Bankwest.

High game (scratch): Wray Meat Packing 603, Wright Carpet 568, Wray Meat Packing; (handicap): Wray Meat Packing 801, Wright Carpet 789, Dundy Ag, 779.

High game women (scratch): Marsha Kechter 201, Kechter 186, Laura Robbins 182; (handicap): Kechter 248, Kechter 233, Linda Olsen 231.

High series women (scratch): Kechter 514, Jeanne Dunn 453, Boot Peterson 446; (handicap): Kechter 655, Peterson 596, Olsen 591, Dunn 591.

Monday Night Mixed 3/28

Team standing: Merklin Construction, ABC-Z, Western State Bank, Earl's Mowing.

High game (scratch): ABC-Z 595, Merklin Construction 526, Western State Bank 410; (handicap) ABC-Z 811, Merklin Construction 758, Western State Bank 696.

High game men (scratch): Brad Merklin 175, Eddie Zuege 162, Arrie Cox 148; (handicap): Merklin 221, Bill Wilger 196, Cox 195.

High series men (scratch): Zuege 464, Merklin 463, Cox 406; (handicap): Merklin 601, Zuege 557, Cox 547.

High game women (scratch): Amelia Zuege 173, Connie Wilger 137, Pat Rose 128; (handicap): Zuege 226, Wilger 206, Maggie Smith 187.

High series women (scratch): Zuege 471, Rose 364, Wilger 349; (handicap): Zuege 630, Wilger 556, Rose 526.

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