



COLBY FREE PRESS



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: People attending the Farmers and Merchants Free Barbecue on Wednesday night lined up to consume 48 watermelons before the night's end. Brent Wiedeman, president of the bank, said there were approximately 2,200 people attending, which was up from last year.

Also helping the bank were members of the Colby Lions Club and KQLS/KXXX staff. John Anderson cooked the 2,200 lbs. of meat needed to serve the crowds. **BELOW:** Bart Nichols of Guymon, Okla. put forth his best effort in the saddle bronc competition.



Rodeo highlights fair activities on Tuesday

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press

As the dust settled in the arena and the horse trailers pulled out, Thomas County saw the end of PRCA rodeo on Wednesday night during the Thomas County fair.

The two day event ended with cowboys from all over the country taking home prize money for their efforts.

During the rodeo, 251 participants were entered in the seven rodeo events which included bare-back riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, and barrel racing.

Winners in the bare back, saddle bronc, bull riding and calf roping events were:

Bare Back: Jody Wiggins, Hutchinson, Kan., 83 pts., \$558.72; Dustin Murray, Corrales, N. M., 77 pts., \$419.04; Zach Dishman, Beaumont,

Texas, 76 pts., \$209.52; and Steven Anding, Kaufman, Texas, 76 pts., \$209.52.

Saddle Bronc: Bart Nichols, Guymon, Okla., 86 pts., \$713.92; Bret Franks, Goodwell, Okla. 82 pts., \$535.44; Dan Etbauer, Goodwell, Okla. 81 pts., \$267.72; and Matt Elliott, Valentine, Neb., 81 pts., \$267.72.

Bull Riding: Justin Jacobucci, Brighton, Colo., 84 pts., \$760.48; Slad Malone, Devine, Texas, 77 pts., \$570.36; Andre Metzker, Dallas, Texas, 76 pts., \$380.24; and Josh Johnson, Elizabeth, Colo., 75 pts., \$190.12.

Calf Roping: Jerome Schneeberger, Ponca City, Okla., 8.6 sec., \$950.60; Cimarron Boardman, Jackson, Miss., 9.0 sec., \$712.95; and Seth Crain, Yancey, Texas, 9.5 sec, \$475.30.

Animal control proposal topic at county meeting

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners, and C.D. Hopper of the sheriff's department, discussed the issue of animal control at the commissioners' end of month meeting Wednesday.

Hopper presented a proposed draft of an animal control policy and procedure for the commissioners to review. The draft proposes that when an animal is taken into custody by the sheriff's department, the owner or custodian of the animal will be responsible for veterinarian treatment, and boarding expenses incurred. The commissioners said they will review the proposal.

In other business:

- The 2003 Budget proposal was approved. A budget hearing will be held on Aug. 12, 2002 at 9 a.m. for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds. Detailed budget information will be available from the county clerk's office or at the hearing. The budget will also be published on Aug. 2.
- A request by the CYO to sell peaches in the parking lot of the Thomas County Office Complex was granted.
- A letter sent by Undersheriff Mike Baughn to Citizens Medical Center was reviewed. It was concerning the medical care of a previous inmate. The hospital continues to bill the county for care of the individual although the person is no longer being held in the Thomas County jail.
- Approval was received from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing on the non-metropolitan region.
- A letter from the Kansas Water office on drought response was tabled until the Monday, Aug. 5 meeting.
- The county received a letter from the Department of Health and Environment concerning the inspection of the landfill. Based upon the inspection, no violations were cited.

The commissioners' Monday meeting begins at 9 a.m. at the courthouse.

Site revamped



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

A grader leveled part of the lot where scrap metal is processed by the Kansas Department of Transportation in Oakley. The department is eliminating one of the three lifts it uses to process materials.

WeatherWatch

Colby-Oakley areas
The numbers
Wednesday's high, 104
Low this morning, 63
Year ago today, 95 and 65
Temperature at 10:30 a.m. today, 76
Colby's rainfall, 0.00
Month's total, 1.49
Oakley's rainfall, 0.00
Month's total, 2.91
Soil temp, 85
Records for Aug. 1: 108 in 1935 and 46 in 1925
The forecast
Today's high for the Colby and Oakley area is expected to reach 90 with strong northerly winds. Tonight, clear early then becoming cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows near 58, northeast winds 10-15 mph. Friday, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, highs near 92, east winds 10-20 mph, becoming southerly late. Friday night, cloudy, a 30 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows near 66, strong southerly winds 20-30 mph. Saturday, sunny and breezy, highs in the middle 90s. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)
Colby Water Usage
• July 31 = 3,376 million gallons
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

Kerr's wife brings gubernatorial campaign to Colby this week

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press

Patty Kerr, wife of Republican gubernatorial candidate Dave Kerr, was in Colby on Tuesday to campaign for her husband.

"I've been in 35 counties during the last four weeks," she said during a visit to the Free Press newsroom.

"I'm trying to stress in western Kansas that my husband is the only candidate for governor with a strong agriculture background and a strong financial background."

"I'm trying to stress in western Kansas that my husband is the only candidate for governor with a strong agriculture background..."
Patty Kerr,
wife of gubernatorial candidate

These two assets have never been more important for Kansas," she said. Dave Kerr has been a member of the

Kansas Senate for 18 years, and is currently the Senate President.

He has been the chairman of every

major committee in the Senate, including education, commerce, and the budget, she said.

"Dave's main focus," said Mrs. Kerr, "is on education and economic development."

She said he is also very concerned with the de-population of western Kansas. Kerr is being challenged in the Aug. 6 Republican primary by Bob Knight, Wichita mayor, Dan Bloom, former school superintendent at Eudora, and Tim Shallenburger, state treasurer of Baxter Springs.

The Democrats don't have a primary contest for governor, with Kathleen Sebelius, state insurance commissioner, their lone candidate. She will face the Republican primary winner in November.

Latest polls show no clear-cut leader in the Republican field, although Knight has a slim lead over Shallenburger, with Kerr moving up some and Bloom in last place.

Undecideds seemingly hold the key to victory — they are at 20 percent of the probable voters today.

Briefly

Singles dance Friday

The Colby Singles Group is holding its monthly dance from 8 p.m. to midnight, Friday, with entertainment provided by Jim Christensen of Kearney, Neb. The event is open to all single people and alumni. For further details, call Don Birzer, (785) 462-2127.

State park to enforce fire ban

Due to the continued drought, a campfire ban is now in place at the Prairie Dog State Park, located outside of Norton. All open fires, including the use of upright grills, fire-rings and any type of campfire are banned until further notice, said Steve Mathes, park manager. However, he did say that propane grills are still being permitted for cooking purposes. Signs have been posted at the entrance to the park. "Knowing that campfires are a big part of camping, we held off as long as we could before instating the fire ban," Mathes said. The reason for the ban is the potential fire danger, which has increased in recent weeks.

Retiring school personnel invited

School personnel considering retirement or are retired are encouraged to a meeting in Colby beginning at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 14, in the administration building located at 210 S. Range. The Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel and the National Association of Retired Teachers are sponsoring this listening tour across Kansas, said Jewel Thomas, president of the association. "The association believes that these meetings will help people better understand the needs of retiring and retired

school personnel, he said. No pre-registration is required.

Vendors wanted for sidewalk sale

Vendors are wanted for this year's annual *Sidewalk Sale* beginning at 4 p.m. and concluding around 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8. According to organizers from the Colby Downtown Merchants Committee, any groups or organizations that would like to sell items are encouraged to call Bonnie Dinkel at 462-2751.

Leadership nominations wanted

Applications are now being accepted for the 2002-03 Leadership Thomas County program, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators. Completed forms must be returned to the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce by Friday, Aug. 23. For questions or an application, call (785) 462-3401 or stop by the office at 350 S. Range, Suite 10 in Colby.

Volunteers needed for August event

Cheryl Schwarz and Chuck Dempewolf, co-chairperson's of the Relay for Life event are inviting people to take part in this unique fundraising event beginning Friday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. Kicking off the event, Schwarz said, will be the cancer survivors walking the first lap on Friday night. The luminary lighting ceremony will be held at 9:30 p.m. and if anyone is interested in walking as a cancer survivor, purchase a luminary or to help in any way, call her at 462-3232 or Dempewolf at 462-3481. "The Relay for Life is about being a community that takes up the fight," she said. "Please support the teams when they come to your door."

Colby school enrollment next week

Enrollment for all returning students in the Colby Public School system is Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Colby High School commons area. Packets have been mailed to all returning students, but parents who haven't received this information should call that particular school office, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. New students will be enrolling on Wednesday, Aug. 7, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the respective buildings, he said. For questions or information, call the high school at 465-5300, the middle school, 465-5200 or the grade school at 465-5100. Other questions can be directed to the administration at 465-5000.

Thomas County Fair schedule

Tonight — 7 p.m. — Dunk Tank, featuring Larry Ummel at 7; Jodi Foss at 7:30; Sheri Staab at 8; Ann Ogle-Puckett at 8:30; Tom Cook at 9; and Levi Traxler at 9:30.
8 p.m. — Demolition Derby, grandstand
Friday — 9 a.m. — 4-H Round Robin
3 p.m. — Buyers' Appreciation Barbecue and 4-H Livestock Sale
7 p.m. — Dunk Tank, personalities include Phil Breckenkamp at 7; Karen O'Neal at 7:30; Doug Lewis at 8; Justin Finley at 8:30; Johnna Thompson at 9; and Terry Wendell at 9:30
7 p.m. — Car Races, grandstand - late models, cruisers, bombers

