

Parade of honor

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

It was the first of its kind in recent history, and for many in Colby the Veterans Day Parade was a welcome sight.

"We were so impressed with the turnout of people on Monday," said Leilani Thomas, who watched the event and spoke on behalf of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

The parade was also impressive, she said, since the idea and plans

materialized only weeks before.

Highlights included the Color Guard, the Colby Fire Department, two bands from Colby High School and Colby Middle School, an Eagle activity bus carrying veterans and spouses unable to walk, which was driven by Bill Kersenbrock, also a veteran.

Adding to the special celebration, a group of more than 20 veterans walked together with the American flag outstretched.

Colby Ag had a banner thanking all veterans, and Dale Deaver and Jim



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Veterans in Colby carried a large American flag down Franklin Avenue Monday afternoon during Colby's first ever Veterans Day parade. A nice

Vap, who are both veterans, were also visible driving in separate vehicles during the event.

The route for parade started at Fike Park and went down Franklin Avenue to 2nd Street where it turned to the Thomas County Courthouse. The parade ended at the courthouse with a

small ceremony.

Vap spoke to the group of spectators and participants with a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.

"I think we need these type of activities," said Kersenbrock, who has served in either the National Guard or on active duty since 1957.

size crowd gathered in the downtown area to show their appreciation to those who have worn the uniform of the U.S. military services.

"These veterans need to know they are appreciated and, after all, we wouldn't have what we have today — our freedom — if not for them," he said.

Although the day was cold, Kersenbrock said he too was pleased with the amount of people who came

out to support the veterans.

"It went very well," he said about the parade activities, adding that it was an honor to have been asked to drive. s

In addition to the parade and ceremony, a special dinner was served for all veterans and auxiliary members at the American Legion.

Widens lead with few votes left to count

Kline apparent winner of hard fought race

OLATHE (AP) — Republican Phill Kline isn't quite ready to declare himself winner of the attorney general's race and hopes his lead remains large enough to discourage a re-count.

Kline's lead widened to 4,045 votes Monday after the Johnson and Shawnee county commissions certified results from last week's general election.

The latest figures include provisional ballots.

As of Friday evening, 79 of 105 counties had reported certified results to the secretary of state's office, covering more than 11,000 of some 15,000 provisional ballots.

With only 4,100 provisional ballots not spoken for, it seemed highly unlikely that Kline would lose his lead

over Democrat Chris Biggs.

But the margin might remain close enough for Biggs to seek a re-count.

Kline felt confident enough to schedule an afternoon news conference to discuss the transition from retiring Attorney General Carla Stovall.

"I'm waiting until the secretary of state certifies, but the numbers look very good for us now," Kline said.

Biggs asked Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh's office to conduct a re-count if the final margin between the two candidates is 0.5 percent or less.

Thornburgh's office on Monday credited Kline with 411,052 votes against 407,007 for Biggs — a margin of 0.494 percent out of 818,059 votes counted.

Provisional ballots are cast when

poll workers aren't sure a person is eligible to vote.

The most frequent reason for using a provisional ballot is when someone moved but did not tell election officials about their new address.

The margin between winning and losing becomes important when considering a re-count.

If the margin is 0.5 percent or less, the state picks up the costs if the re-count is done in the same way as the counting on Election Day.

If the margin is greater, the candidate must pay the re-count costs and put up a bond with Thornburgh's office based on those costs before the re-count can begin.

Before the counting of provisional ballots started to be counted Friday,

unofficial results gave Kline 406,353 votes to 403,343 for Biggs, a margin of 3,010 out of 809,696 cast, or about 0.4 percent.

The close race came after the two candidates traded accusations over experience and ideology and argued for weeks about who is best qualified.

Kline, 42, of Shawnee, was a legislator for eight years and led efforts for large tax cuts and conservative social policy.

He ran unsuccessfully for the 3rd Congressional District seat two years ago.

Biggs, 43, of Junction City, has been Geary County prosecutor since 1988.

The race was closely watched across the country as Kline was at one time considered for a federal post.

Seventh grade student's poster is judged the best

By **DARREL PATTILLO**

Colby Free Press

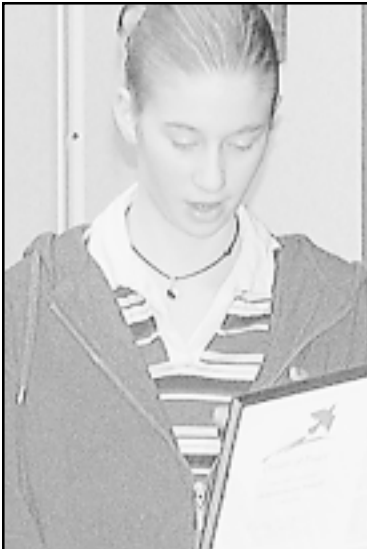
Colby Middle School seventh-grader Misty Mather has taken the first step toward becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the Colby High Plains Lions Club.

Mather's poster was among more than 325,000 entries submitted worldwide in the 15th annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Club International is sponsoring the contest to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere.

The winning poster was selected by Cathy Gordon, art instructor at Colby Community College, Kirk Nielsen, superintendent of Colby public schools, and Virgil Jones, secretary of the High Plains Lions Club. Sixty-two local entries were whittled down to three for Monday night's final selection. Second place in the contest went to Jeremy Harter. Third place was awarded to Lissa Mazanec.

Contest chairman Mary Hurtt said "I was impressed by the expression and creativity of the Colby Middle School students. It is obvious that these young people have strong ideas about what peace means to them. I'm so proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions."

Mather's poster now advances to the next level of judging in Salina. "Misty's poster will face stiff competition through the district round and three more rounds of competition, if she is to be declared the international



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Misty Mather looked at the certificate she received at the Lions Club supper Monday night after her poster was chosen as the winner.

grand prize winner," Hurtt said.

Ultimately, one grand prize winner will be selected from 24 international finalists. The grand prize includes a cash award of \$2,500, plus a trip to New York City for the winner and two family members for the awards ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations. As Merit Award winners, the remaining 23 finalists will receive certificates and a cash award of \$500.

"Our club is cheering for Misty as her poster advances in the competition," Hurtt said. "We hope that her vision will be shared with others around the world."

House robbery turns deadly

GARDEN CITY (AP) — Masked robbers forced their way into a home early Monday, tied up six members of a family and fatally shot one man who tried to escape, police said.

The robbers took several items before driving away in a red, four-door car as two other members of the family ran to a neighbor's home to call police. A 3-year-old boy who was also

in the home was unharmed.

Police Capt. Mike Utz said the Vietnamese-speaking robbers approached Thai Nguyen, 30, about 5 a.m. Monday as he was starting his car to go to work and forced him back into the house at gunpoint.

Nguyen's brother, Thang Nguyen, 38, tried to escape and was shot dead as he ran through the kitchen.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Carl Gilbert handed books to Pioneer Memorial Library's RosaLee Waterman, who is the children's librarian. Gilbert, along with the rest of the 2001-2002 graduating class of Leadership Thomas County, gave away books to all of the schools and libraries in Thomas County. Other members of the 2001-2002 leadership class are Cindy Cersovsky, Howard Culver, Becky Donelan, Becky Dickman, Donna Finley, Kathi Hapke, Judy Kleinsorge, D'Ette Scholtz and Bill Shields.

Books for schools, libraries County Leadership Class finishes project

By **DARREL PATTILLO**

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Leadership Thomas County's graduating class of 2001-2002 has completed its class project, which involved giving away a set of 12 hard cover books to each public school and library in Thomas County.

In all, 112 second grade students benefited from the project, receiving books that illustrate leadership skills such as team building, collaboration, creative problem solving, and having a vision for change.

The project was funded in part by money from the Kansas Health Foundation, which recognized Leadership Thomas County in 1999 as a program of excellence. As an incentive to par-

ticipate, Leadership Thomas County was given \$10,000 to fund its class project for four years. It was a portion of this award that funded the current project.

The Kansas Health Foundation has also endowed \$50,000 to the Thomas County Community Foundation to ensure that every Leadership Thomas County class will have funding to make an impact on youth and children in Thomas County, said Becky Donelan, the local foundation's executive director and a member of the 2001-2002 class.

Another \$50,000 has been endowed for the continued support of the Leadership Thomas County program.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Monday's high, 54
Low this morning, 25
Year ago today, 65 and 30
Temperature at 10:45 today, 48
Soil temperature, 43
Records for Nov. 12, 76 in 1971, 0 in 1911

The forecast

Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 30s, southwest winds around 10 mph. Wednesday, sunny, highs near 70, brisk southwest winds 15-25 mph. Wednesday night, cloudy, slight chance of showers, lows in the lower 30s. Thursday, cloudy, another slight chance for showers, highs in the mid 50s.

Briefly

Fair board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet Thursday at 8 p.m. at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Agenda items include: 4-H representatives, Jon Starns and Dan Rietcheck; discussion of the rodeo sponsors who have not paid; a grandstand project; Thomas County Amusement Association contract; and groundskeeper replacement. All fair board meetings are open to the public.

Women's health luncheon Wednesday

The Heart of Women's Health luncheon is Wednesday, at the Quality Inn, formerly Ramada Inn, Colby. The luncheon will feature speaker Marcia McCoy, coordinator for the Women's Cardiac Center Mid America Heart Institute Saint Luke's-Shawnee Mission Health System. The cost is \$10 and will include a meal to be served at noon and the presentation from 12:30 to 1 p.m. For more information call Betty at 462-3939.

Wellness Fair set; coupons on sale

With the annual Wellness Fair nearing, businesses are being

asked to take part in promoting community health and wellness by covering the cost of the fair registration and or health screenings for their employees who may want to participate. The fair will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the student union on the Colby Community College campus. Blood work will be done on Saturdays, Jan. 4 and Jan. 11.

The registration fee is \$5, with additional fees for some of the tests. For information about business coupons, call Wanda Davis at (785) 462-4797.

Christmas parade reminder

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce reminds everyone that the date for this year's Christmas Parade will be Sunday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. The parade will begin on the south end of the downtown business area and travel north and then onto Santa City. Anyone interested in participating — floats, bands, other musical groups, individuals, churches, other groups, organizations, etc. — should let the Chamber of Commerce people know no later than Dec. 5 at 5 p.m.

The office number is 462-3401.

Mass to honor special people

Sacred Heart Church and the Colby Council of the Knights of Columbus will hold a special *Blue Mass* on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m. at the church. This Mass is a way of reaching out in thanksgiving for the superior job that our police officers, sheriff's deputies, highway patrol troopers, firefighters and EMT's do every day to serve and protect the citizens of Thomas County.

Scout fund raising underway

Colby Girl Scouts in Cadette Troop 110 (seventh graders) are currently selling cookie dough, pizzas and other products with proceeds going to support council-wide activities, said Bret Pfeifer, scout leader.

Boy Scouts selling popcorn

Boy Scouts are going door-to-door in the Colby area taking popcorn orders as part of their annual fund raising effort. Delivery will be in November around Thanksgiving. Call 694-2599 for additional information.

