



COLBY FREE PRESS

Budget among items *City council to face busy Tuesday night*

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will hold its regular meeting and public hearing on the 2004 proposed budget Tuesday beginning at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers.

The agenda includes presentations from Pioneer Memorial Library and the Colby Recreation Department on their 2004 budgets, along with approval of an ordinance regarding exceeding budget limitations and the five-year capital improvement plan before opening the meeting for public hearing on the budget.

Other agenda items include approval of next year's budget, discussion of sign lease with Dorothy Stephens Trust, review of an ordinance involving shipping containers in commercial and industrial zones, along with action on water warning and emergency levels.

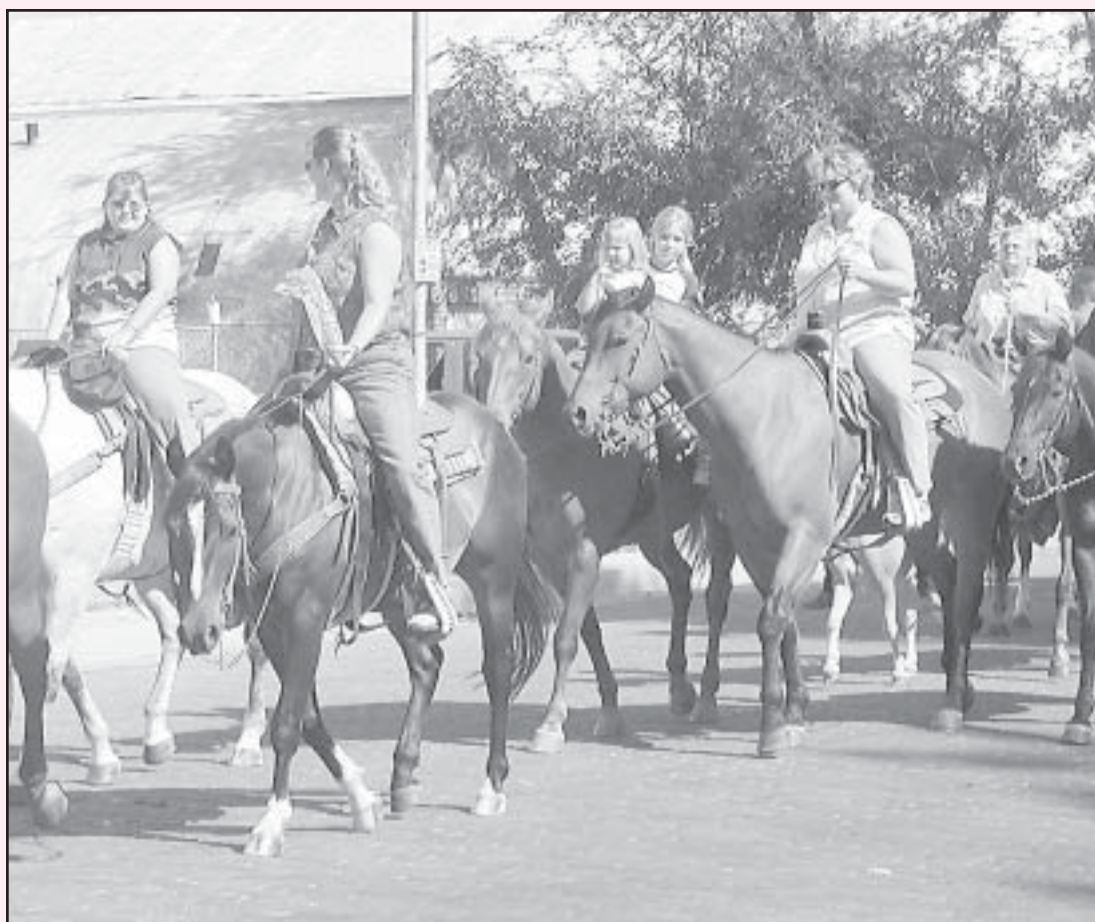
The council will also consider authorization of a proposal for test holes and test well after a review by the water rights committee, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

The council will look over bids for vehicles and authorize sale of a recently seized P.T. Cruiser and Dodge Intrepid. There will also be discussion on a letter Armstrong sent to the Kansas Department of Transportation asking them to look at a couple of items and consider further study on improvement on U.S. 24 and Country Club Drive.

There will also be an ordinance recommended on revising sewer user chargers, sewer connection fees and minimum billings with approval possible by the Sept. 1, 2003.

Armstrong also reported that the municipal pool will close on Friday, Aug. 15.

For questions or an agenda, call 462-4410.zzz



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

A group of horses and their riders were just one of many groups featured in the Thomas County Free Fair parade on Saturday morning. The parade, which went through downtown Colby and on to the fairgrounds, included tractors and combines, civic groups, businesses and more.

Parade winners named

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Hundreds of people were on hand Saturday morning to view the floats, vehicles, agricultural equipment, animals and more during this year's Thomas County Fair Parade.

In year's past, the parade was held on Tuesday afternoons to kick-off fair activities.

But this year the idea was to hold the event at the end of the fair, board members said.

The weather cooperated with sun and temperatures in the 80s.

Even with the change in dates for the parade, some things haven't changed — such as the winners in each of the various categories, said Brad Skolout, one of the many parade organizers.

The following were recognized for their efforts.

In the antique vehicle category, the winners were Monty Biggs, first place; Stan Kauk, second; and Colby Implement, third.

Organizations and personal



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Bill and Bev Biel, the 2003 Thomas County Free Fair Parade grand marshals, made their appearance in grand style Saturday morning.

floats saw Heartland Christian School with a first; Sacred Heart School, second place; and Colby Wesleyan Church's vacation bible school in third.

Horse and Saddle Clubs saw first place going to the 2003 Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess, Kerrie Olson and Brenda Wilson; second place to Stella Ziegelmeier, Judy Bixenman, Janet Schroeder and families; and third to Lindsey Jarnagin.

First place in band and drill teams went to the Colby High School Drill Team and second to the Colby High School cheerleaders.

Wilbur Henry took first in the Animal Drawn Vehicle category and Sears, Lang Diesel and F&M Insurance respectively were recog-

nized in the business float category.

4-H Clubs honored included the Colby Comets in first, Solomon Valley, second, and Abilene Hustlers, third.

In the children's category for organization and personal floats, first place went to Kandace Rather and Heartland Christian School, second to Christine Zejda with Zejda's ATA, and third to Andrew Bixenman and Jason Schroder.

Bryon Sowers and Sheldon Nelson took first in the Best Decorated Wheeled Vehicle children's category with Mark and Christina Ostmeyer taking second and Abbie Reed and Lacy O'Neal in third place.

Fair auction receives high marks

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Free Fair 4-H livestock auction on Friday showed off the best of what the fair had to offer this year.

Doug Musick, Thomas County extension agent, said the auction was "excellent."

"I've been talking with 4-H families and it's one of the best sales they remember," he said. "It was a big success."

Forty-four steers, 15 sheep and

46 swine were sold at the premium auction Friday. Musick said the average price on the steers was \$1.34 a pound and the high-selling steer went for \$1.85 a pound. Sheep averaged \$2.80 a pound with the high-selling animal going for \$4 a pound.

Swine went for about \$2.76 a pound and the high-selling animal went for \$3.75 a pound.

"The comments I heard, prices were better than expected," Musick said, adding that there were fewer animals sold this year, which prob-

ably helped bump up prices.

"Our quality is very good on the animals," Musick said.

He also said the 4-H families were pleased with the prices and the overall sale. This was Musick's first Thomas County Fair.

"I was nervous," he said. "That's one of the biggest events at the fair. It went off smooth."

TNT Auction brought and used their new sound system, which Musick said added quite a bit to the auction.

Thomas County records first case of West Nile Virus

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

West Nile Virus has arrived in Thomas County, according to information posted on the Kansas State University Extension Web site. A dead bird tested positive.

Additionally, according to the Web site, the first human case of the disease this year was reported in Gray County.

Seventeen counties have had infected birds, three with horses testing positive and another with an infected mosquito pool.

Earlier this month, Dr. Russell Bowers of the Colby Animal Clinic, said he hadn't seen any horses yet infected with the virus and so far, there have been no confirmed human cases.

Bowers said the disease is transmitted through mosquito bites, usually when one of the insects bites an infected bird and then transmits the virus by biting a human or a horse.

He said it can't be passed on by direct contact with a horse or an infected person and has to be transmitted through a mosquito bite.

"Birds are kind of the natural reservoir for it," he said, adding that dogs can be infected although it is very rare and he has heard of no feline cases.

In addition to the counties now with reports of West Nile, the state recently confirmed the first human case of the disease, said Dr. Gail Hansen, deputy state epidemiologist.

"West Nile virus," she said, "rarely causes serious illness in humans, but it is obviously possible."

Hansen said it was only a matter of time since it was found in birds,

horses and mosquitoes already in the state and since we had 22 cases last year.

"Even if an infected mosquito bites you, your chances of becoming seriously ill are small," she said. "Nevertheless, we are urging Kansans — particularly older adults and people with compromised immune systems, to take seriously the precautions against being bitten by mosquitoes and to make these precautions a regular part to their day."

Public health officials are also recommending the following precautions to minimize contact with mosquitoes and exposure to West Nile Virus by using insect repellent containing DEET, limiting outdoor activities during dawn/dusk when mosquitoes are most active and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors whenever practical.

Other precautions included eliminating stagnant pools of water on property and repairing screens on other areas of the home where mosquitoes might enter.

Symptoms of West Nile Virus are usually mild and include fever, headache, and body aches, occasionally with a skin rash on the trunk of the body and swollen lymph glands. The symptoms of severe infection (West Nile encephalitis or meningitis) include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis, Hansen said.

Dead birds can be reported on the Internet at <http://www.nhm.ku.edu/birds>.

Information on the virus can be found at http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/westnilevirus/current_info.htm.

Accident sends six to hospital in Colby

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A two-vehicle accident near Colby Friday resulted in six people being transported to Citizens Medical Center.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, the accident happened four miles east of Colby on U.S. Highway 24 at 11:15 a.m. when a 1989 Cadillac driven by Brian J. Remington, 16, of Danbury, Neb., struck a 2002 Chevy truck driven by Troy V. Westadt, 34, of Colby.

Remington was driving eastbound on Highway 24. Westadt was

also driving eastbound and was attempting a left-hand turn when the Cadillac hit his truck. The pickup rolled into the south ditch and came to rest on its wheels, facing west.

Remington, the driver of the Cadillac and his passengers, Leslie E. Berner, 20, and Lisa Remington, 19, also of Danbury, Neb., and everyone in the truck, Troy V. Westadt, Pamela Westadt, 33 and Chandellor Westadt, 1 of Colby were all transported to Citizens Medical Center.

According to Gwen Young at the hospital, all six were treated and released.

No money to finish project

LAWRENCE (AP) — Even if plans to finish the South Lawrence Trafficway gain necessary federal permits and survive legal challenges, the state lacks the funds to complete the \$115 million highway, Kansas transportation officials say.

"Right now, we don't know where the money would be to build this project," said Jim McLean,

spokesman for the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The 14-mile trafficway was designed to link Kansas Highway 10 east of the city with Interstate 70 northwest of the city.

The nine-mile western leg has been open for several years, but the eastern leg was stalled by protests and lawsuits.

Briefly

Recreation pictures available

The Colby Recreation Department team pictures are here and can be picked up at the Colby Community Building, said Ryan Sturdy, director. For questions, call 462-4440 or stop by their office at 285 E. 5th St.

Colby schools enrollment Tuesday

Enrollment for students returning to Colby Public Schools is Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the commons area of Colby High School.

Information packets will be mailed next week and school officials ask that if someone doesn't receive it to call 460-5000. Enrollment for new students is Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the respective buildings.

Sacred Heart to enroll Aug. 12

Sacred Heart School enrollment will be Tuesday, Aug. 12

from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 462-2813.

DivorceCare Classes to begin

A 13-week video series and support sessions on DivorceCare offers understanding and guidance on such topics as the emotional upheaval, financial stress, forgiveness, new relationships, reconciliation and kid care, according to information provided the Free Press by the sponsoring organization. The classes will begin on Thursday, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. at Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 Pine.

These free sessions are open to anyone who is going through or has gone through a divorce. To register, call 465-9077.

Mud volleyball tourney planned

The Colby Jaycees are planning a co-ed mud volleyball tournament on Saturday, Aug. 9, beginning with registration at 9 a.m. There will be no pre-registration and the event is

open to those 21 years and older. The tournament will be held behind the Jaycee Center located just southwest of the Colby Animal Clinic, 810 E. 4th St.

For questions, call 462-7781.

School district has new prefix

Colby Public Schools has changed all telephone numbers from the "465" prefix to "460" prefix, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. The change went into effect on Tuesday, July 1.

Still accepting military photos

Colby Photo at 420 N. Franklin is still accepting pictures to honor military members either serving overseas or in the United States. Ardash Beringer, owner of the business, said the "window to honor our troops," can also include Reserve and National Guard members. Photos used in the tribute will be returned. Questions to 462-8169. The public is invited to stop by and look at the photos.



90s and 60s

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the middle 60s. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming light northwest late this evening. **Tuesday...**Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. North wind 5 to 15 mph. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. **Wednesday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the middle 90s. **Wednesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the middle 60s.

By the numbers

Sunday's high , 94
Low this morning, 69
Records for the date, 106 in 1918 and 49 in 1894
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 0.00
Year's precipitation to date, 11.29
2002's precipitation to date, 5.94

Water Usage/Colby

Aug. 1-2-3 = 3,224 million gallons (daily average)

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other figures from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

