



COLBY FREE PRESS

Eagles and eaglets



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Braden Beims, along with his mother, Cortney, cheered the Eagle football team on Friday night at Hoxie. Braden, who was one of the younger fans in the audience, also cheered on his father, Mitch Beims, one of the assistant coaches for the Colby squad.

Fair board plans dates for 2004 county activities

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Dates have been set for the 2004 Thomas County Fair.

The Thomas County fair board set dates for the rodeo, parade and demolition derby during its meeting Thursday.

The rodeo is set for Tuesday, Aug. 2 and Wednesday, Aug. 3 and the demolition derby is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 4.

The parade is set for 10:30 a.m. the Saturday during the fair.

Justin Alexander, board member, said he got heard some grumbling about the parade being moved to Saturday but after people went, the same people said they enjoyed the change.

Money was also on the agenda.

"I think the Wall of Support turned out pretty well this year," fair board member Mark Anderson said. "The community's really helped a lot."

He also said the board did well with the profit-loss statement for this year's fair and events because they made money.

In other business, the group approved the use of the fairgrounds by the Boy Scouts on Sept. 20 and for use for the Pickin' on the Plains blue grass festival next year.

There was also a short discussion

"I think the Wall of Support turned out pretty well this year."

Mark Anderson,
fair board member

on the rodeo.

Fair board member Gary Garrett said there was some concern over the quality of contestants and their number.

Part of Cheyenne Frontier Days was at the same time as the Thomas County rodeo and Garrett said some of the better cowboys and cowgirls probably opted for the bigger rodeo instead.

He said it could be because the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association has cut back on the number of rodeos that athletes can count toward their year-end results. The number has been scaled back from 100 to 50. He said the contestant numbers were down also but that wasn't just a problem for Colby and numbers this year were down around the area.

"We'll see what happens," Garrett said. "The rodeo went fine."

The board is also still looking for a new groundskeeper.

Numbers at recent Colby blood drive are lower than expected

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Organizers of the recent blood drive in Colby were "somewhat disappointed" with the turnout, but overall they said they were pleased with those who donated.

Of the 148 who came in, 136 blood donors were productive, said Jackie Stephens, co-chair of the drive.

"There were 163 people who made appointments (prior to the drive)," she said, "and usually we can make-up for those who don't show with the walk-ins."

Stephens said the blood drive prior to this one in September saw

quite a few more than expected and many people ended up having to wait for a long time.

Anticipating that same type of turn out at the recent drive, officials at the Central Plains Region Blood Service wanted to accommodate everyone and so they brought in a larger staff and more beds.

However, this time the turn out was less than expected and donors had little if any wait at all, Stephens said.

Although there are a lot of factors that influence why someone cannot keep their appointment, Stephens and Jo Frahm, the other co-chair, suggest that if someone makes an

appointment to give blood they should try to make it.

In the event something should come up, regional officials, along with local coordinators, would appreciate a call to cancel.

"We not only depend on appointments, but we also depend on walk-ins as well," Stephens said.

The next blood drive is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004 at the Colby Community Building and coordinators are hoping for a great turnout.

Stephens also offered a few tips and eligibility guide as to why people can or cannot give blood.

For example, health history plays

a major factor in whether or not someone can be a donor.

If the iron levels are too low, the blood cannot be used, she said. Yet there is a way to raise the iron level prior to giving blood and that is by eating raisins or sunflower seeds the night before.

Some other reasons a person might not be able to donate include having a fever of 99.5 and above, high blood pressure the day of the drive, and cancer patients with less than five years since treatment was completed.

Most types of health problems are not disqualifying if the condition is under control, Stephens said.

For instance, someone with high cholesterol is acceptable, or a person taking medications for asthma and even someone with a cold or allergies will more than likely be acceptable for blood donations.

There is one medication, Tegison, which will make a person not eligible to ever donate blood and for people taking Accutane, Proscar, Trotecia, Avodart, Coumadin, Heparin or other prescription blood thinners could have a waiting period before they can donate.

Prior to giving blood, both Frahm and Stephens, encourage donors to avoid caffeine, but drink plenty of water.

Other general requirements for giving are that donors must be 17 years of age or older and weigh at least 110 pounds.

The actual donation of blood takes about seven minutes, officials said.

With only five percent of the population donating blood and the demand growing as life expectancies increase, regional and local blood drive officials, hope to see many people at the next drive in January.

For questions about the drive or scheduling future appointments, call Stephens at (785) 462-8122 or Frahm at (785) 462-2082.

Drought affecting eastern and western part of state

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

It's obvious that the state is in a drought.

However, parts of the state that were in a drought watch have been moved to warning status and counties in northeast Kansas are now under emergency status.

"We had some rain, at least we did here in eastern Kansas," said Hank Ernst, an environmental scientist

with the Kansas Water Office.

"It's as dry as it has been," he said. Adding that it didn't make any difference.

He said aside from the accidents on the Kansas Turnpike, the rain had no immediate effects on the drought conditions in the state.

Only continued precipitation could help but Ernst said there is no real way to tell how far behind on precipitation the state is or how

much is needed to make a difference. Ernst estimated parts of Kansas could be 10-12 inches behind where it needs to be but he said it is only his guess.

He said the northeast corner of the state was put in emergency status to put in place the framework to use reservoirs for emergency water supplies if conditions worsen.

"It was adding to the tools," Ernst said.

Unlike western Kansas, Ernst said the northeastern corner depends on surface water instead of an underground source like the Ogallala Aquifer, which stretches south through Oklahoma and Texas and north into Nebraska.

He also cautioned that the watch-warning system is to help communities ready their water conservation plans if they're needed.

Ernst added that the city of Colby

dropping it's voluntary watering stipulation is a good sign.

He said there are 773 public water providers in the state and approximately 500 of these have a conservation plan that has drought contingency provisions when the need arises.

Ernst said by e-mail these "set triggers that, when reached, call for voluntary or mandatory restrictions on water use."



Colby, Oakley, Hoxie

Tonight...Mostly clear.

Lows in the lower 50s. Wind

out of the southwest at 15 mph.

Tuesday...Highs in the low 90s

with wind out of the southwest

at 15 mph. **Tuesday**

night...Mostly clear and

breezy, low in the 50s.

Wednesday...Sunny and clear,

high in the low 90s. **Wednes-**

day night...Lows in the upper

40s. 30 percent chance of rain.

By the numbers

Sunday's high, 93

Low this morning, 43

24-hour precipitation to 8

a.m. today, 0.00

Month's precipitation, 0.02

Year's precipitation to date,

14.02

2002's precipitation to date,

9.42

Water Usage/Colby

The water production three

day average for Friday, Satur-

day and Sunday, Sept. 12, 13

and 14 was 2.363 million gal-

lons.

The forecast is from the National

Weather Service, and

other numbers are from the

Northwest Research-Extension

Center, Colby and the

Colby Public Works Depart-

ment.

Briefly

College board meets today

The Colby Community College board of trustees will meet at 5 p.m. on Monday in the board room in Thomas Hall. Items on the agenda include consideration of policies and procedures manual revisions, approval of contracts and agreements, the admissions publication, board retreat, business and industry contract consideration and payment of claims. The meeting is open to the public.

Senior Center closed Tuesday

The Colby Senior Progress Center will be closed on Tuesday for cook's training, said Donna Schielke, director. There will be no meals served and no transportation available. The center will be open on Wednesday at its usual time, 8 a.m.

City Council sets Tuesday meeting

The Colby City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in council chambers of city hall. Items on the agenda will include approval of the homecoming parade route at 2:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 26. The route will start at Fike Park and continue south on Franklin Ave. to Fifth Street, west on Fifth to Mission Ridge Ave., south on Mission Ridge to Third Street and west on Third to Range Ave.

Other items are approval of uniform public offense code; adopting standard traffic ordinance, awarding bids on 1995 Intrepid and 2001 Chrysler P.T. Cruiser; special event insurance for the municipal airport's open house. Under new

business, the council will hear a request from Sacred Heart Church to change the requirement for a catering license to serve alcohol at the Colby Community Building; a request to place "children at play" signs on Maize Road; approving contract to purchase land and S & T telephone service with Pat Mallory.

Amusement Association meets

The Thomas County Amusement Association will meet at 8 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex today. The meeting is open to all. The office complex is located at 350 S. Range in Colby.

College to offer certification courses

Colby Community College will offer certification courses for social service designees and activity directors starting on Monday, Sept. 22. The courses will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 22, Nov. 3 and 10 in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union. Four college credits and two certificates will be awarded for attendance at all eight classes.

Two college credits and one certificate will be awarded for six classes. To enroll or for more information, call (785) 462-3984, Ext. 286.

Center enrollment continues

The Thomas County Learning Center, 305 N. Franklin in Colby, is now taking enrollment applications. One function

of the center is to give students a chance to get their high school diploma. For those wanting to enroll, call 465-7900.

Job Service open over noon hour

The Colby Work Force office (formerly known as Job Service) at 485 N. Chick is staying open during the lunch hour. Linda Groff, local supervisor, said the change went into effect last week and is expected to be a permanent situation. For questions or information about how the Colby Work Force office can help people find jobs, call the office at (785) 462-6862.

Childbirth classes underway

Colby Childbirth Education classes are being held on Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m.. This is a four-week series and is held at Colby Community College in the Health Science Building. Call Amy Hutfles at 460-4344 if you need additional information.

Genesis office open on Wednesdays

The Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank, located in the Thomas County Office Complex at 350 S. Range, Suite 8, is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until noon and again at 1 until 4 p.m. Anyone wanting to make cash donations or bring nonperishable food items can do so by dropping them off at the office or the first Sunday of each month at designated "Genesis Sunday" churches.

