



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

Musclemen manhandling mats



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Before and after every home wrestling event, the Colby High School varsity and junior varsity wrestlers, along with any other help they can muster, have the job of putting away all the wrestling mats after a meet. With the Colby Eagle/Comfort Inn Invitational Wrestling Tournament this weekend and a dual meet tonight, the wrestlers will be working overtime to get ready and that means carrying a lot of mats around. When asked how much each of the mats weigh, no one seemed to know

for sure. Brian Kraus, high school principal, said he wasn't sure and a few of the wrestlers who were asked only said, "not sure, but they are heavy and not much fun to haul up and down the stairs." In the photo on the right Colby High School freshmen Jared Flanagin (left) and Nick Harlow (right) were among the many wrestlers helping. Wrestlers quickly learn that becoming mat haulers is just part of the game.

Flu mist is still available locally for those seeking protection

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press  
There are still opportunities to get vaccinated for the flu. However, time and vaccine are running out. Leslie Focke, a nurse at the Family Center for Healthcare, said the clinic has run out of injectable flu vaccine. She said there are still doses left of the flu mist, which is given as a nasal spray. "We do have that available," she said.

The clinic can order more of the mist if it's needed. There are some injectable doses available for kids through the state's Vaccines for Children program. "We didn't have a shortage at all," Focke said, adding the media coverage about flu season spurred more people than usual to get vaccinated. The clinic is trying to locate a supply of the injectable flu vaccine but hasn't had any success.

"Pretty much everybody has ordered it all," she said. Colby Medical and Surgical Center is out of vaccine and won't be receiving any more. The prime time for inoculation is October or November, Focke said, because it takes two weeks for the vaccine to become effective. Focke said vaccine manufacturers usually make 83 million flu vaccine doses each year and there are

never more than 75 million people who get vaccinated. However, that changed this year. The flu mist is a live, weakened flu virus. The injected vaccine is a killed form. Focke said the mist, which has been available for about two years now, does sometimes cause mild flu symptoms for one or two days. Those symptoms are a mild fever, headache and muscle aches.

"It will pass," she said. Focke explained a flu shot provides some protection against the virus, and if someone does contract the flu, the symptoms will be less severe. Tama Unger, director of fund development at Citizens Medical Center, said the hospital hasn't had any indication of a flu outbreak in the community. She said there are people coming

in with the usual respiratory ailments that occur with colder weather, but nothing identified as the flu. Unger also said the hospital doesn't vaccinate people for the virus. Instead, it leaves that duty to the county health department and the clinics in the community. For children's vaccine or to schedule an appointment to receive the flu mist, call 462-6184.



No change

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie  
forecast  
Tonight...Partly cloudy then mostly cloudy after midnight. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows around 14. South winds around 5 mph shifting to the east after midnight. Friday...Mostly cloudy then partly cloudy in the afternoon. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs in the upper 20s. Southeast winds around 10 mph. Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 15. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Saturday...Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs around 40. West winds around 10 mph. Saturday night through Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Lows in the lower 20s.

By the numbers:  
Wednesday's high, 36  
Low this morning, 12  
Records for Dec. 11, 78 in 1902 and 2 in 1911  
Year ago today, 54 and 20  
Precipitation past 24 hours, trace  
Month's precipitation, 0.09  
Snow past 48 hours, 0.00  
Year's precipitation to date, 14.53  
2002's precipitation to date, 12.60  
Soil temperature, 36

The sources:  
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Volunteers sought to help assemble Genesis Christmas Baskets Friday

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor  
Volunteers are needed Friday night to help with assembly the Genesis Christmas Baskets at the 4-H Building. Work on filling the baskets will begin at 7 p.m., said Jeri Landry, one of the Genesis board members. "We never know from year to year how long the process will take," she said, "since it depends on how many people come out to help." Last year, there were enough volunteers available that the entire process took less than one hour, she said. The number of baskets is about the same as in year's past, she said, with between 135 and 138 needing

to be assembled. Each of the baskets will contain either a ham or turkey, along with all the fixings for a holiday dinner. "There are so many people who give anonymously," Landry said. For example, the food bank received 200 pounds of potatoes and a large assortment of fresh fruit for the baskets this year. "We are encouraging anyone who can help with the baskets on Friday to please come out," she said. Even though the Christmas basket program is about the same, she said, there has been a large increase throughout the year in usage per month. As for the food bank's budget, the expenses have doubled and

nearly tripled, she said. In addition to Landry, the Christmas basket program has received a lot of help from Marci Wasson and Sherry Kriegshauser, board members, along with Rosalie Seemann, president of Genesis. Donations of food or money are always needed as well. For those interested in giving non-perishable food, items can be delivered to the Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank located in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Suite 8. Food bank hours are on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. Anyone wanting to make cash donations can do so by writing: P.O. Box 214, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Committee will pick interim Register

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press  
Thomas County should have an interim register of deeds in place by the end of the year. Bill Adams, Thomas County Republican Party chairman, said the committee will get together sometime before Christmas to appoint someone to serve as Register of Deeds until the election in November, 2004. "We haven't set the exact date," Adams said. The Thomas County Commissioners named Maybelle Moore the temporary replacement for Denny Burke at their Dec. 1 meeting. Burke retired in November after 19 years of service to the county. She was elected as Register of Deeds in 1996. Adams explained that the Repub-

lican Central Committee will recommend the replacement to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. It will take a gathering of precinct delegates who make up the committee to go through an election process and, nominations and them take a vote, he said. The name will then be submitted to Sebelius, who will then act on the recommendation.

Healthcare. For questions about the event, call Unger at 462-7511 or Scott Focke at 462-6184.

Briefly

Concert planned here Monday

The Colby High School concert band, Colby Middle School band, fifth grade band and the high school Jazzmen will be performing at 7:30 p.m., Monday, in the auditorium of Colby High School. The concert is free with cookies and fellowship following the performances. The middle school band concert was postponed due to weather on Tuesday and rescheduled the same night as the other concerts.

Reception planned for new doctor

A special welcome reception and open house is planned for Dr. Gary Slavens, the newest family practitioner in Colby, said Tama Unger, public information officer at Citizens Medical Center. The open house will be at the Colby Country Club from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16. There will be food and refreshments served and the event is open to everyone. Slavens is with Family Center for

Children's party planned Monday

The American Legion in Colby is having its annual "Children's Christmas Party" at 7 p.m. on Monday. In addition to children giving their list to Santa, there will be treats and refreshments served. The event is open to all members, their children and grandchildren. For questions, call 462-2127.

Pancake feed Saturday

The High Plains Lions Club is hosting its annual pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Colby Community Building. The all-you-can-eat event is a fund raising effort for the group. Tickets are available from any club member or at the door the day of the feed.

To ease parking overload Shuttle service offered

(Inaccurate times in Wednesday's story prompted a rerun today.)  
Two attractions might create some parking problems at Colby High School on Friday night. The Western Plains Arts Association will have a shuttle bus service available Friday to the Colby High School auditorium for the holiday show, "A Christmas Carol." Curtain time for the performance has also changed from 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. In addition to the performance's time change, the shuttle bus service begins 7 p.m. This is being under-

taken in case parking becomes a problem with the annual Colby High Eagle Wrestling Tournament going on in the gymnasium that same day. Those attending the "Christmas Carol" performance are asked to drive to Colby College's south parking area where a shuttle bus will transport them to and from the high school as needed. The shuttle will continue to run until all attending the performance have been transported to the high school for the 8 p.m. show.

Calling all kids!!



Send your letter to Santa Claus to:  
Colby Free Press  
155 W. Fifth St.  
Colby, Kan. 67701

Your letter will appear in the paper so Santa can read it.

Help needed in basket assembly

Assembling the boxes for the Genesis Christmas Basket campaign will be held at 7 p.m., Friday at the 4-H Building. All donations of non-perishable food are still welcome and can be brought to the Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank located in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Suite 8. Food Bank hours are Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Anyone wishing to make a cash donation may send it to P.O. Box 214, Colby. Everyone is invited to come help assemble the baskets.

Santa's shop to open

Pre-school through fifth grade students will be able to do their own shopping when the annual Santa's Helper Shop opens from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday at Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby. The event is sponsored by Blue Jean Ladies with all homemade gifts priced at \$3 to include gift wrapping. Limit is four gifts per child and all proceeds go to benefit community projects.

