



COLBY FREE PRESS

'Art' thou cool Program good draw at Colby High School

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Huddled back at the end of a quiet hallway is Colby High School's art studio. Inside the room is anything but quiet.

Hanging on the walls and covering almost every available surface is a finished work or a project in progress.

Teacher Donna Roberts wouldn't have it any other way. She is the school's sole art instructor, teaching everything from basic drawing skills to crafts and sculpture to the approximately 130 students enrolled in the program.

Roberts said students start out in Art I, which is the beginning class. "We cover basic skills," she said, which includes two- and three-dimensional shading, pencil drawing, balance and more.

Art II builds on the skills learned in Art I and Roberts said she tries to introduce students to a medium other than the one they prefer.

"I try to give them a lot of variety," she said, adding she thinks the most important lesson students take away from their time in art is individual expression.

For example, that includes giving the students a problem to solve or a project in acrylic, watercolor or sculpture.

She will give them a project or set parameters, like giving them an assignment like a five by seven acrylic painting.

The students can interpret it any way they want, as long as it's a painting in the size she specified.

Besides the regular art classes, Roberts also teaches separate classes on clay, crafts, drawing and sculpture, which don't require a prerequisite.

Her classes last a semester and are usually taught when there's enough enrollment. She said she only has a clay and crafts class right now but

"I try to give them a lot of variety. . . That's what I like about teaching. There's always something new and different."

Donna Roberts
art teacher at Colby High

the students keep busy.

The students aren't the only ones getting a variety.

Roberts said getting to facilitate creativity for her students and helping them learn is what she enjoys most.

"That's what I like about teaching," she said. "There's always something new and different."

Most students start out as freshmen and most stick with the subject during all four years. Roberts said some students have three different classes with her a week so they can concentrate on their work.

The hard work usually culminates in the chance to have their artwork displayed somewhere or submitted for a contest, such as a show in St. Francis for schools in north-west Kansas or a contest at Fort Hays State University.

Roberts has taught art since 1985, switching from the grade school to the high school in 2000. She said art was something she always wanted to pursue and went back to school at age 29 to get her degree so she could teach.

The combination of children and art was what helped her make her decision.

"I've enjoyed it," she said.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Kellee Snyder, a student in Julie Brown's HeadStart class at Colby Grade School, used one of four new computers Monday purchased with money seized by local law enforcement. The computers will be used for learning games and more.

Seized drug money helps HeadStart

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A \$1,992 donation, thanks to money seized by local law enforcement, is benefiting the Head Start program at Colby Grade School. The money was used toward purchase of four new computers.

Nonnie Trail, who works at the county treasurer's office, was instrumental in helping get the money for the computers. She said she wrote a letter in November and another in January, which was when Head Start re-

ceived the funds.

She said the process started when she asked if the program needed anything. Head Start teacher Julie Brown said the biggest need she could think of was computers.

"We just had one," Brown said, adding it was difficult to get all of the students computer time. Brown has 36 students, 18 in the morning and 18 in the afternoon.

With the four new Hewlett Packard computers, she can get eight students on at the same time.

"It's been really nice," she said. "We can utilize it better as a learn-

ing tool."

They received \$996 from the Thomas County Sheriff's Office and the same amount from the county attorney's office.

Trail explained money and property seized by county law enforcement can be used as the office sees fit and money gets divided up between the agency who seized the money or property and the attorney's office.

The agency gets 85 percent and the attorney receives 15 percent. They can use the money for training or supplies or however they see

fit, including educational purposes. "We are so pleased that they found the Thomas County Head Start a worthwhile cause for some of the seized funds," Trail said. "We believe that so many children will benefit from the purchase of these four computers."

Both Brown and Trail wanted to express their gratitude to Sheriff Tom Jones and County Attorney Allan Taylor for seeing fit to donate the money to the program and also the law enforcement officers in the county.



Colder, warmer

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Partly cloudy. Colder. Lows around +2. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph., shoving the wind chill to minus numbers. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Much colder. Highs in the mid 20s. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday night...**Mostly clear. Lows around 12. West winds 5 to 10 mph. **Friday...**Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the upper 40s. Northwest winds around 10 mph. **Saturday and Sunday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the 40s. Lows in the 20s. Chance for snow Sunday evening.

The numbers
Tuesday's high, 48
Low this morning, 17
Records for Feb. 11, 76 in 1957 and -24 in 1899
Year ago today, 49 and 20
February precipitation, 0.13 inches
February snowfall, 6 inches
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00

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.

County commissioners approve bid for road work

Concrete crusher also given nod as part of project

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Bids for asphalt on Thomas County roads were opened and approved by county commissioners on Monday.

Bids came from High Plains

Sand, Heft Company and Venture Corp., and commissioners approved the low bid of \$13,510 from High Plains Sand.

That's \$4.90 a ton, said Tracey Perkins, county clerk.

Commissioner Glen Kersenbrock was happy with the bids.

He said the asphalt will be mixed with sand and used for topping county roads.

The commissioners also signed a

contract with Penco Engineering to inspect 33 county bridges for \$47 a bridge.

They also gave approval for the road department to rent a concrete crusher to get rid of stockpiled concrete.

It will be used for road resurfacing on the county's gravel roads.

In other business, the commissioners heard from Ron Hutfles and his daughter who came in to discuss

an issue.

Hutfles said his daughter had a wreck on a county road and blamed road conditions for the cause of the accident.

Kersenbrock said they told Hutfles to see what he could come up with but the commissioners declined any further comment.

He also said the commissioners talked about the 911 bill that passed in the Kansas House this week.

Kersenbrock said the commissioners are interested in how the bill fares.

The bill will require a 50-cent tax per month on cell phone service to help pay for technology to allow 911 dispatchers to pinpoint the location of cell phone users who make emergency calls.

"We are in support of that because it isn't fair for the hardlines to take care of that," he said.

Briefly

Singers plan benefit performance

A special performance by the K-State Singers is scheduled at 2 p.m., Sunday, in the Oakley High School auditorium for Christin Molstad, who is battling breast cancer.

A free-will donation will be taken at the door in lieu of admission. Proceeds from the concert will help defray medical and travel expenses to Houston for primary treatment.

She has continued to teach English, debate and forensics at Oakley High School during this time, said Deb Kohn, one of the coordinators of the event. Christin and her husband, David Molstad, have three daughters: Elyse, 19, and a sophomore at Colby Community College; Adrienne, 16, and a junior at Oakley High School; and Paige, 6, a kindergarten student at Oakley. Entertaining audiences since 1954, the K-State Singers are one of the oldest show choirs in the nation. Each year the Singers perform somewhere between 30 and 40 shows across the state of Kansas.

For information about this performance, call Deb Kohn at (785) 672-4659 or Michelle Lunsway at (785) 672-4137.

Benefit supper for preschool planned

Kappa Upsilon, a local sorority, is sponsoring a soup supper on Friday, Feb. 20 from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at the Colby Community Building when Colby takes on Atwood in basketball action.

The menu will include chili, chicken noodle, and vegetable soups, along with cinnamon rolls, cookies and drinks. The cost is free-will donation with proceeds going to benefit PuddleDuck Pre-School.

County landfill closed Monday

The Thomas County landfill will be closed Monday in observance of President's Day. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., said Larry Jumpers, landfill supervisor.

Library hosts book sale

Pioneer Memorial Library will host its annual Book Lover's Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in the library basement, 375 W. Fourth. Prices range from a low of 10 cents to a maximum of \$5. For information, call 462-4470.

Youth group hosts pasta dinner

Colby United Methodist Church middle school youth group is sponsoring a pasta dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday. The cost of the dinner is a free will offering.

Fund raising event Saturday

A fund raising event for the Colby Booster Club is planned from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14 at the Kansas Quick Lube in Colby.

In addition to supporting the Booster Club by participating in the Lube-A-Thon, there will be other highlights including free refreshments, prizes, and more.

Kindergarten enrollment announced

Kindergarten pre-enrollment for the 2004-2005 school

year will be held at Colby Grade School on Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the conference room. Please bring your child's birth certificate, immunization records and social security number. Call the grade school office at (785) 460-1500 if you have any questions.

Lecture series begins Thursday

Nationally-known public interest attorney Edward Ramey will be the first guest speaker of 2004 for the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Frahm Theatre on the Colby Community College campus beginning at 7 p.m., Thursday.

There is no admission charge. The Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series is funded annually by private donations, said Tom Moorhous, organizer of the event.

Rotary soup supper Tuesday

The annual Colby Rotary soup supper will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, during the Colby High School basketball game against Goodland at the Colby Community Building. All proceeds from this event go to benefit various organizations. Tickets will be available at the door or from any Rotary Club member.

Workforce Center has new hours

The Colby Workforce Center (formerly the Job Service Center) is now operating under new hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The center is located at 485 N. Chick.

