



# COLBY FREE PRESS



By PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

About 40 people attended Saturday's 'Smoke-free Coffee House,' sponsored by the Community Awareness Team and held at the Comfort Inn Convention Center. Taylor Miller (foreground),

Darla Nicols and Matt Hull, all seniors at Colby High School and members of the team, looked at many of the items on display for the "Old Hollywood" theme.

## 'Old Hollywood' theme of gathering

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Nearly 40 people attended the Smoke Free Coffee House event held Saturday at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby.

Now in its third year, the event has continued to attract local talent in the areas of comedy skits, poetry, and singing, said Carla Sharp, project director with the Community Awareness Team.

"Our goal this year was to raise awareness about smoking and the responsibility the movie industry

has in helping our youth," she said. Along with the theme of "Old Hollywood," Sharp said, they had literature talking about Hollywood and smoking and the impact actors and actresses have when portraying a character smoking in G, PG, and PG-13 movies.

"Youth consider actors as people they idolize and look up to, so if they are smoking on screen, then it is slowly being proven, youth will be more acceptable to smoking at some point in their lives," she said.

Another idea that Colby High

School senior Taylor Miller included in the event was a photograph of a Marilyn Monroe look-alike using Kristen Theimer, a junior.

"We had several people amazed at how real the Marilyn Monroe pictures looked and could not believe it was Kristen in the photos," she said.

"Taylor truly amazes me by his talent with photography."

Sharp also wanted to thank Randy Decker, Colby Theater manager, for lending the group movie

props, posters and other memorabilia to add to the theme.

"Randy has always been supportive of the team efforts and we also appreciated Julie Saddler at the convention center who did a wonderful job with arrangements," she said.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Community Awareness Team is encouraged to call Sharp at 460-7451.

Adult volunteers are also urged to participate in any or all of the activities and events.

## Police capture armed robbery suspects today

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Colby Police Department and Thomas County Sheriff's Office arrested two people wanted for robbery in Goodland early this morning.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said they received a call at about 2:32 a.m. that a gas station in Goodland had been robbed. About 20 minutes later, a vehicle fitting the description was pulled over on Interstate-70 about 10 miles west of Colby.

"They did recover some cash and a knife," Chief Jones said.

Jones said a 15-year-old girl and a man were taken into custody and returned to Goodland.

A release from the Sherman County Sheriff's Office said the

Total Store in Goodland was robbed by knife-point by a black male and a girl.

The man ordered the gas station attendant to turn on the pump to get gas for the car and the girl pumped the gas.

The man held the attendant at knife-point and told the attendant to give him the money from the register.

The two then left. They were stopped at mile marker 65, about 10 miles west of Colby.

The arresting officers also found out the vehicle the two were driving was stolen out of Albuquerque, N.M.

The man is being held at the Sherman County Jail and the girl is in a juvenile holding facility. Both are awaiting charges.

## Council to hold special meeting

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will be reviewing contract amendments by its attorney, Joel Kriss, for the purchase of water and land rights at its 7:45 a.m. special meeting on Tuesday.

The contract and ratification of the purchase price at \$305,800 for the water and land rights owned by G & E Farms (Max Embree) needed to be reviewed and amended due to information received from state water resources.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said in the initial contract the water rights were calculated at a

lower amount than first determined. It is for that reason that the owner of the land said he believed the land is now worth more.

The incorrect water rights for that land was first discovered by the Department of Water Resources in Topeka and was based on information provided to them from Groundwater District #4, the state's own water office and the water commissioner.

The special meeting will be held so that the council can decide on approving the amendments in order that Mayor Warren Hixson can sign off on the required closing documents.

## Area's wheat crop questionable, soil specialist says

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

If conditions don't change, many farmers in the area will have to write off their dryland wheat crop as a loss, said Roger Stockton, Northwest Research-Extension Center soil and crop specialist.

"There will probably be many

insurance claims this year," Stockton said.

He said if the dryland crop received enough rain, it could result in an average wheat harvest. After the last rain the area received, Stockton said the wheat did green up but if it doesn't receive adequate moisture, it's condition will regress.

"The most trying thing is we don't seem to be anywhere near an average rainfall pattern yet," he said. Stockton said looking back 100 years, weather records show three-, five- and seven-year droughts.

"It tends to come in cycles," Stockton said. "We've almost for-

gotten at this point but the 90s were a pretty wet decade. Mother Nature is balancing the scales now."

Irrigated wheat is receiving water as needed and it's in good shape.

He said some producers might be having second thoughts about wheat and could be considering soybeans or corn instead because

the markets are up right now. However, Stockton said those same farmers who planted wheat because of the lack of moisture might not have enough water to grow a corn or soybean crop.

There might be a few problems with some irrigation wells because they might not have enough water.

## Kansas spelling bee winner credits her family legacy

TOPEKA (AP) — Kendra Frazier was thinking about more than the state title she had won when she correctly spelled the words "callow" and "noisome" during the All-Kansas Spelling Bee.

"I knew this was the last year for anyone else in my family," said Kendra, the youngest in a family of top-notch spellers. "I did it for my sisters."

Her sisters, Angela and Erica Frazier, died in a car wreck in the early 1990s. Angela represented her

county and her family four times at the state bee, finishing in second place twice.

Erica was a good speller and had hoped to compete in the All-Kansas Spelling Bee, said John Frazier, their father.

Kendra's mother, Linda, also competed in the bee in 1967, as did Kendra's older sister, Christa.

"I don't know where they get it," Frazier said of his wife and daughters' ability to spell.

Kendra, who beat out 98 other

spellers to win the state title Saturday at Washburn University, attributed her spelling prowess to "reading a lot" and experience.

The eighth-grader from Altamont Grade School was neck and neck with 13-year-old Erin Keeley in the final rounds of the four-hour contest.

It was the final year of participation for both girls due to age and grade restrictions.

Keeley had placed second and third in previous contests.

Kendra had already spelled catamaran, congeal, coniferous, dolorous, and hypercritical. Keeley had spelled euphemism, chivalrous, onyx, cuticle and savvy.

Keeley stumbled on the word "noisome," meaning harmful to health, foul-smelling, or offensive. She substituted a "y" for the "i." To win, Kendra had to spell that word and a final one correctly.

"Secretly, I was extremely excited," Kendra said.

"I knew 'noisome,' but I knew I

didn't have it won.

"The hardest part of the bee was not knowing what that next word would be."

The final word was "callow," meaning immature or inexperienced.

After Kendra spelled the word correctly and was pronounced the winner, Keeley bit back tears and offered her congratulations.

Kendra goes on to represent the state in the National Spelling Bee June 1-3.

## Briefly

### Performance planned in Oakley

*Red, Hot & Blue!* will perform in the Oakley High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. The group has been enjoying a five-year run in Branson, Mo. and reminisces about the "good old days," said Vicky Waldschmidt, media correspondent with Western Plains Arts Association. Admission at the door \$15 for adults, \$8 for students or by WPAA season passes. This presentation is supported by the Heartland Arts Fund, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from the Kansas Arts Commission, and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

### Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will have their end of month meeting Wednesday at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include county road department director Clair Schrock discussing his department's five-year plan, and Ron Redick from Hi Plains Mental Health.

The meeting is open to the public.

### Egg hunt planned in April

The Colby Kiwanis Club is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, in Fike Park. The event is open to children up to 9 years of age.

### Fair board special meeting set

The Thomas County Fair Board will hold a special meeting at 8 p.m. on Tuesday at the Thomas County 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include approval of Colby Community College rodeo team lease, approval of Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and Women's Rodeo Cowboy Association application fees, executive session and new business. The meeting is open to the public.

### Puddle Duck sets enrollment

Pre-enrollment for Puddle Duck Preschool is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31 and Thursday, April 1, from 4-6 p.m., at 520 W. 5th, Colby. The preschool is non-denomina-

tional and open to children 3, 4, and 5 years of age. For information, call Amy Jennings, director, at 460-2603.

### Guard to hold open house

The Colby Army National Guard unit is hosting an open house at 7 p.m., Friday, for family or anyone interested in the Kansas Army National Guard.

### Childbirth classes scheduled

Colby Childbirth Education will begin another series of Childbirth Education classes in April. Classes will be held Thursday, April 1, 8, 15, and 29 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Health Sciences Building at Colby Community College. To preregister, call Jeanene Brown at 785-460-4850.

### Discounted park permits continue

The Thomas County Clerk's office is reminding everyone that vehicle park permits will be discounted until Thursday. After that date, said Tracey Perkins, county clerk, the annual costs will go to \$44.50; second to \$24.50; senior and disabled rates, \$22.25 and second at \$12.25.



### 60s to prevail

**Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...**Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. North winds 5 to 15 mph. **Tuesday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. North winds 5 to 10 mph. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the upper 50s to around 60. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. **Wednesday night...**Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 60s.

#### The numbers

Sunday's high, 63  
Low this morning, 29  
Records for March 29, 90 in 1943 and +4 in 1987  
Year ago today, 45 and 17  
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00  
March total, 0.74  
March snowfall, 1 inch  
Soil temperature, 54  
**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.

