



COLBY FREE PRESS

Mural sparks art club

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

The High Plains Arts Club is enjoying the fruits of its labors. The club, which was founded in 2002, has an exhibit of its work on display at Colby Community College.

The group had one of its monthly sessions at the Kansas Country Store on Monday.

President Marlene Carpenter said the exhibit will be up until May 7 in the art gallery at the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.

The group meets the second Tuesday of every month to paint. They don't meet over the summer and next month's gathering will be their last before fall.

The meetings also include a short program on art, either a how-to, a presentation on an artist or anything else to do with art and painting. Monday's meeting included a program on Picasso, which Carpenter said is a good example of what they present.

Member Marj Brown said the group helped paint a large mural at Colby Community College and it was at that time they decided to form as a club.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Bev Kern, a member of High Plains Art Club, worked on a painting during the group's gathering Tuesday afternoon at the Kansas Country Store in Colby.

cided to form as a club.

"Everyone's invited to come and join us," Brown said. "Mostly we do this for fun."

Carpenter said they all have their own tastes and techniques.

"We're all different as far as our education and how many years

we've been doing it," she said, adding they all learn from one another. "Most of us work at it all the time."

Work begins on underground salt museum

HUTCHINSON (AP)—Work is under way on the 650-foot shaft that officials hope one day will lower an estimated 150,000 visitors a year into the Kansas Underground Salt Museum.

The museum, expected to open in the fall of 2005, is about the size of three football fields. It will depict the story of salt and its mining from

Biblical times to now.

"This will be the only museum of its kind in the Western hemisphere," said Tim Johnson, president of the Reno County Historical Society.

As part of the work, officials from the Thyssen Mining Co. are also freezing a large section of the Ogallala Aquifer beneath the shaft. They will then bore through the ice

and install a hoist system.

Hutchinson was founded above one of the world's largest underground salt deposits. Salt mining has been a part of the local economy for more than a century. More than 300,000 tons of rock salt is still mined from the 67 miles of caverns under the city.

Hutchinson officials began rais-

ing in 2000 the \$7.8 million needed to open the museum. They have raised \$5 million so far.

Underground Vault & Storage, is sharing the cost of constructing the shaft and an aboveground visitor's center. Thousands of Kansas schoolchildren toured the mines from the 1920s until the visits were halted by federal officials in 1965.



Much warmer

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph and gusty. **Thursday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s. West winds 10 to 20 mph. **Thursday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph. **Friday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the southeast 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. **Friday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. **Sunday...**Partly cloudy. Slight chance for thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s to around 70.

The numbers
Tuesday's high, 63
Low this morning, 26
Records for April 14, 86 in 1940 and 13 in 1893
Year ago today, 92 and 43
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
April total, 1.29
April snowfall, 3 inches
Soil temperature, 45
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.

Trip no longer a dream for one Colby motorcyclist

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The dream of traveling around the world on a motorcycle is now a reality for a Colby man and his friend from Colorado.

"It's been my desire for years and years to travel around the world," said Jim Oliver, of Colby, who together with his friend, Dennis O'Neil of Golden started the first leg of their 50-day trip late last week by getting their motorcycles to Tacoma, Wash.

Once in Washington, the motorcycles will take about one month by ship from Tacoma to Vladivostok, Russia.

Both Oliver and O'Neil will then fly to Russia in mid-May and once back on the motorcycles, the two will begin the second and longest leg of the trip.

Starting at the eastern shore of Russia and following latitudes, the twosome will take the Trans-Siberian Highway across Russia through potholes and swamps. From Vladivostok, they will skirt China along the highway as they head east.

The road near Amur, which is the first major place the two will encounter, is supposed to be completed, but Oliver said sometimes what is said and what actually is done aren't necessarily the same.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Jim Oliver of Colby looked at some of the places he and a friend will be traveling when they begin the second leg of their trip around the world in mid-May.

If that road is completed, Oliver said it should be smooth sailing from there, but if it isn't the two will have to contend with swamps, gravel and mud and could even end up having to take a train instead of

dealing with the terrain.

One of the next sites; however, will be Lake Baikal. "This is the deepest lake in the world at about one mile deep," he said.

According to the timetable,

Oliver said they plan to visit the Ural Mountains and end up in Moscow — hopefully with enough time to tour the city.

Most of the major cities with populations of more than a million people are about 700 to 800 miles apart, he said, leaving only little villages between.

From Moscow, the two will ride through Latvia, Lithuania, down to Poland and across to Germany riding through Berlin, Munich and other German cities.

"We plan to stop in Munich and visit the BMW motorcycle plant and museum," Oliver said. The reason for this one-day stop is to talk with officials there since BMW of Denver is one of the sponsors.

By the time the two get to Munich, Oliver said they will have been on the road for 26 days and averaging 450 miles a day.

The total trip will cover more than 15,000 land miles and three-quarters of the globe.

"We plan to backtrack into Austria and the Alps (after Munich)," he said, "and I am looking forward to all those hills and curves."

Other areas will include Dolomite Mountains of Italy and into Switzerland coming down the Alps to France and the French Riviera.

"If we are ahead of schedule by the time we reach the Riviera,"

Oliver said, "we want to take a ferry ride to Corsica."

They will shoot across north ending up at the Mediterranean Sea to France and then Spain's Pyrenees Mountains into Lisbon, Portugal.

"At that point," he said, "we will air transport our motorcycles or ship by sea to the east coast."

It took Oliver nearly two years to plan the trip and he considers himself lucky to have such an understanding wife.

"Molly (his wife) has always been so supportive," Oliver said. "The biggest issue she struggled with was safety and the 'what ifs' but eventually agreed to the idea."

Oliver was a motorcycle enthusiast since he was 12 and for the next 48 years his love for riding has gravitated from there.

Riding around the world, he said, was just the next logical step since he has taken his motorcycle across 49 states, Canada, and Mexico.

Motorcyclists name their bikes, and Oliver's BMW is named after his wife's mother, Lucille. Although he has sponsors who either donated money or equipment, the total cost of this 50 day plus journey will be close to \$20,000.

Oliver hopes to keep everyone informed about his progress either by KLOE in Goodland or updates in the *Colby Free Press*.

More filings announced for primary

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

More people have filed to run for office in the Aug. 3 primary in Thomas County, according to County Clerk Tracey Perkins, who reminded those interested that the filing deadline is noon on June 10.

Republican Ken Christiansen has thrown his hat into the ring for the District 3 county commission seat held by Democrat Duane Dawes who won't be running for re-election, he said this week. Bert Stramel and Bill Miller, Jr., both Republicans, are also seeking that seat.

Also up is Commissioner Glen Kersenbrock's District 2 seat. Kersenbrock hasn't yet decided if he will run for re-election and no one has shown an interest in the position as of today.

Democrat Perkins has filed to run for re-election and also as committeewoman in Ward 4.

Susan Guill, a Republican, is running for Menlo Township treasurer and Independent Jerry Baird has filed to run for Lacey Township Trustee.

Also on the ballot will be Under-

sheriff Mike Baughn.

Baughn, a Republican, seeks to replace Sheriff Tom Jones, a Democrat. Jones said he isn't running for re-election.

Others who filed earlier are Republican Lyman Bear for Brewster-Barrett Township trustee and Wilbur Henry, a Republican for Rovohl Township trustee.

Other county seats up for voter approval are held by Register of Deeds Maybelle Moore, Republican; County Treasurer Doneta Applebury, Democrat; and County Attorney Laurence A. Taylor, Democrat.

No one has yet filed to run for those positions, including the incumbents.

Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby, 121st District, is seeking re-election. He serves Thomas, Sherman, Graham and Sheridan counties.

Republican State Sen. Stan Clark of Oakley is also seeking re-election to his 40th District seat and will have primary opposition from Dan Rasure, 21-year-old Goodland resident.

The district covers 18 counties.

It's all about music

Thursday will be a busy day at Colby High School, even without classes. While some students will be getting the day off, others from across the state of Kansas will be converging in Colby to take part in the annual Kansas State High School Activities Association large group music contest. As in

previous years, state qualifying bands and choirs from many state high schools will be taking part in the contest.

Anyone planning to attend the contest is welcome and performance schedules will be posted at the high school with doors opening at 8 a.m.

Briefly

Pancake feed, entertainment set

The Colby Bluegrass Committee is sponsoring a pancake and sausage feed, Saturday, April 24, at the Colby Community Building. Serving will begin at 7 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m. The cost of the event is free-will donation with proceeds going toward funding the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival on July 16, 17, and 18. Live music will begin at 9 a.m. during the pancake feed.

Kindergarten performance next week

The Colby Grade School kindergarten class will perform "A Day on the Farm" at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 22, at the Colby

Grade School auditorium. The performance is open to the public. There is no admission charge.

Vendors wanted for Chautauqua

Food vendors are needed in June during Chautauqua, said Leilani Thomas, one of the committee members. Any groups or organizations looking for a fundraising event might want to consider this opportunity during the week of June 11 through June 15.

Food service is needed each evening from 5 to 7 p.m. with beverages and sandwiches offered. Some suggestions for a food booth might include sloppy joes, hamburgers, polish sausages, bierock or casserole items.

Dessert items such as pie, brownies or cookies can also be

served. Groups interested in being a Chautauqua vendor are asked to call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643 or write to 350 S. Range #10.

Senior dance approaching

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program annual recognition night will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 21 at the American Legion in Colby. The theme is "RSVP Jungle Jam-boree."

The dance is open to all seniors and the Ramblin' Andy Family Band will provide entertainment. Tickets are available at the RSVP Office, P.O. Box 803, Colby, Kan. 67701 or call (785) 462-6744. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

