

Winning first in state was a ‘first’ for forensics team

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

For the first time in its nine-year history, the forensics program at Colby High School saw two students taking the Class 4A state championship title on Saturday, May 1, in Topeka.

Taylor Miller, senior, and Regina Heier, junior, received first place honors in *Improvised Duet Acting*.

“As a whole, the entire Colby High School forensics team had a successful weekend,” said Nancy Rundel, head coach. In addition to Taylor and Heier, Josh Cox and Alisha Talsma also qualified for state.

“Between these four students,”

Rundel said, “they qualified six entries for the tournament and ended up 18th out of 50 as a squad.”

She said all the Colby participants faced tough competition with 40 to 50 entries in each event.

Those six entries and placings included Heier in 3rd place for her Oral Interpretation of Prose; Miller took a 12th place in Serious Solo Acting; Alisha Talsma, who also had two entries, received a 13th in *Oral Interpretation of Prose* and 15th in *Original Oration*; and Cox taking 10th in *Serious Solo Acting*.

In the sixth entry, which was the *Improvised Duet Acting*, Millersaid on Friday, he was nervous and excited waiting to find out how he and

Heier had finished in the event.

“We were going to be happy with a 3rd place,” Miller said.

He also explained what *Improvised Duet Acting* entailed at the state competition.

“Regina and I first needed to draw a topic and then we were given 30 minutes, (to work something up before beginning)” he said.

The two came up with a comedy skit with both of them participating on a game show.

The name of the show was, “Who Wants to Win a Car?” which was a spin-off from the “Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?” game, Miller said.

Both Heier and Miller built their

scenario around the theme and added in their own brand of impromptu humor.

After finishing their improvised acting, the two had a long time to wait for the winning team.

As the judge called out the names from sixth to first place, both Heier and Miller said they first were hoping not to be the sixth, fifth or fourth.

When the judges called third and it wasn’t them, Miller said they got even more excited. In the end, the duo won in that event.

Also in Topeka, eight other Colby High School students performed at the State Speech and Drama Festival held at Washburn Rural High School.

Awards from the festival, which was also held the same weekend, went to Hannah Zimmerman, 2nd division in *Prose*; David Kinderknecht and Hannah Zimmerman, 1st Division rating in *Improvised Duet Acting*; Jessica Morton, 1st Division ratings in *Prose* and *Ex-temporaneous Speaking*; Robyn Schmid, 1st Division rating in *Prose*; Jennifer Horinek, 2nd Division rating in *Poetry*; Valarie Higerd, 2nd Division rating in *Poetry*; Rebecca Muirhead and Henry Lamm, II Division rating in *Improvised Duet Acting*.

After nine years of coaching, Rundel said she was again thrilled with how well the team competed and finished their season.

Levant Church plans ‘SonGames’ bible school

The Levant Community Church is having its bible school from Monday through Thursday, June 7-10 beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at noon. Captive Free will be joining

the Levant Church by providing music, puppets, crafts, skits and great lessons and yummy snacks too, organizers said. Every child is welcome to join in for the 2004

SonGames with transportation provided from Colby or Brewster if needed. For other information, or registration form call either the Levant Church at (785) 586-2376;

Connie Kough, (785) 462-7658; Debra Bear, (785) 694-2289; Brenda Swafford, (785) 460-7975; Janet Pinkelman, (785) 694-2720; or Melissa Horney, (785) 694-2803.

Host families wanted for cultural exchange program

Pacific Intercultural Exchange is looking for host families in the Thomas County area.

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester and year program

Happenings

New play group begins

There’s a new play group recently formed for mothers and young toddler-age children to give them all a chance for interaction. Michelle Mettlen, is one of the coordinators.

The group meets at 10 a.m., Friday, at the Colby United Methodist Church. For questions, call Mettlen at 460-3310.

homestays and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families.

Executive Director John Doty said the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18, are English-speaking, have their own spending

money, carry accident and health insurance and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their American families.

Students from Germany, Russia, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Macedonia, Hungary, Korea, Gha-

na, Mexico, Italy, Paraguay, Australia, Yugoslavia, China, Belgium, Vietnam and other countries are participating in the program.

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Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Alice Faye Steiger, Deceased.

No. 04-PR-13

NOTICE OF HEARING

The State of Kansas To All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this court by Robert D. Steiger, praying that: the foreign will of Alice Faye Steiger, deceased, dated April 12, 2001, be admitted to probate and record in this court; no administration of this estate is necessary; the will be construed; and the following Kansas real estate owned by the decedent, situated in Thomas County, Kansas:

Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section Twenty-three (23), Township Eight (8) South, Range Thirty-one (31), West of the 6th P.M.;

Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township Eight (8) South, Range Thirty-one (31), West of the 6th P.M.;

Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Section Thirty-six (36), Township Eight (8) South, Range Thirty-one (31), West of the 6th P.M.

and

Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section Twenty-seven (27), Township Eight (8) South, Range Thirty-one (31), West of the 6th P.M..

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before June 4, 2004, at 10:00 AM in the District Court, in the city of Colby, Thomas County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

ROBERT D. STEIGER
PETITIONER

Donald Surmeier
Petitioner

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(Published in the Colby Free Press on May 12, 19 and 26, 2004)

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