



TISHA COX/Colby Free Pres

Ryan Sturdy, recreation director, checked hoses at the Colby Municipal Pool this morning. City employees are getting the pool

ready for summer. The pool will be filled within the next few weeks for the opening day on Saturday, May 28.

## Pool nears opening, lifeguards needed

By Patty Decker  
Free Press Editor

Preparations are underway for Colby's municipal pool to open Memorial weekend and lifeguards are still needed, said Ryan Sturdy, director of the recreation department.

The actual opening date for the pool, he said, will be on Saturday, May 28.

So far, eight people have applied for the lifeguard positions, but Sturdy said ideally they need 12 full-time guards and three to four part-time.

"We are also looking into night swims or lap swim times," Sturdy said today. "From last season, we learned there were a lot of people interested is this type of swimming."

In order to apply for a lifeguard position, he said, all guards must be certified through the American Red Cross and full-time guards would be looking at a 30 to 40 hours per week. Anyone interested in guarding needs to call Sturdy at 460-4440. In addition to swimming, the city is offering a lot of other activities for young people once school

concludes for the year.

"We will be offering baseball, softball, tennis, swimming lessons, summer league volley and basketball and water aerobics," he said. The recreation department will even have Spanish lessons available to those interested.

Sturdy did want to mention that the format for swimming lessons will change this year from year's past.

"We will be offering three sessions for two weeks each — Levels 1-4 will come at 9:15 a.m. and levles 5-7 will come at 10 a.m.," he

said. Each class will last for 30 minutes from Monday through Friday.

With so many last-minute school concerts, sports and other events scheduled, Sturdy wanted to remind everyone that the deadline to register for most of the summer activities is Friday, May 13 at 5 p.m.

For a complete listing of summer events, registration forms or to ask other questions, stop by the recreation department office at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. 5th.

# Students get OK for trip to Chicago

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Colby School Board reversed a decision it made last spring at its Monday meeting. Colby Middle School students in the Technology Student Association will be going to the national convention in Chicago June 28-July 2 ,after all.

Last year, the board approved letting the students in the high school student association go but decided middle schoolers couldn't go because of the distance and cost.

However, after a presentation by four of the middle school students who qualified for the national competition, they decided to re-evaluate the decision each year on a case-by-case basis and gave approval for four middle school students to go to the national competition.

Board president Stan Molstad said that's how they should do it and they don't have blanket approval to go each year.

Board member Tracy Rogers said he still felt middle school field trips should stay local but he said the technology students will benefit

from the experience.

"We set the precedent with the wrestling team going to Dallas," Rogers said.

Middle school students Seth Bredemeier, Rachel Lamm, Christian Wilson and Jessica Leiker and Colby High School students Brian Saddler, Courtney Ress and Curtis Fulwider are all qualified for the national competition.

Advisor Lamoreaux Fulwider said the total cost of the trip is \$2,900.

The district is contributing \$554 for the trip, as well as its vehicles, she said.

Fulwider said the students raised money for the trip by working a concession stand this year, producing the senior video at the high school and selling American Cancer Society bracelets.

Getting to the national competition isn't an easy feat.

"They all had to qualify," she said, adding they had to meet state requirements at competition as well as the local requirement of placing first.

## Golden Plains graduation Sunday

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Golden Plains High School seniors will be taking their last steps as high school students this weekend.

Nine students are graduating during the ceremony scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday at the school gym in Rexford.

Secretary Vicki Allison said Leanna Schultz, the graduating

class' former middle school teacher, is the featured speaker.

A video of the senior class will be shown, along with special music. Allison said during the presentation, the seniors will give their mothers red roses in honor of Mother's Day.

Following the graduation will be an all-class reception sponsored by the Rexford Booster Club in the small gym at the school.

# Creation advocates criticized but win state board's attention

TOPEKA (AP) — They doubt that man and apes have a common ancestor. They argue against life on Earth originating from a primordial soup. They contend fossils, molecules and embryos challenge evolution, rather than support it.

Other scientists say the chemists and biologists who testified Thursday against evolution have their science mostly wrong.

But if scientists and science groups were critical of the case presented by intelligent design advocates, State Board of Education members weren't, and board members will be the final judge.

The board expects to consider changes in June in how Kansas students are tested statewide on science. A three-member subcommittee began hearings on how evolution should be taught Thursday, and had plans to continue them Friday, Saturday and May 12.

"It's intellectually stimulating," said board Chairman Steve Abrams, of Arkansas City, one of the three presiding members. "It's good information."

Similar battles have occurred in Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania in the past few years.

The Kansas board has sought to

avoid comparisons of its hearings with the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial in Dayton, Tenn., in which teacher John Scopes was convicted of violating a law against teaching evolution. But the hearings resemble a trial, with attorneys managing each side's case. In 1999, the Kansas State Board of Education, with a conservative majority — which included Abrams — deleted most references to evolution in the science standards. The next election led to a less conservative board, which adopted the current standards describing evolution as a key concept for students to learn before gradu-

ating high school. Last year, conservatives captured a majority again, and many scientists fear the board will adopt revisions supported by intelligent design advocates. The conservative majority includes the three subcommittee members, Abrams; Kathy Martin, of Clay Center, and Connie Morris, of St. Francis.

Intelligent design advocates said they only want to expose students to more criticism of evolution, giving them a more balanced picture of the theory attributed to 19th Century British scientist Charles Darwin.

"The way Darwinian evolution is usually presented is that the evidence is overwhelming, and there is

no controversy about it," said Jonathan Wells, a senior fellow at the Seattle-based Discovery Institute, which supports intelligent design research.

Intelligent design advocates question evolutionary science that says change in one species can lead to new species and that different species have common ancestors.

## Thomas County teachers honored

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and teachers in Thomas County received their due.

In the Colby school district Wednesday, the district provided snacks and refreshments for teachers at all three schools. That's just one of the activities to show the district's teachers they are appreciated.

The week started off with massages for staff at Colby Grade School, said secretary Rhonda Kropp. They were provided by students in the physical therapy department at Colby Community College. Tuesday, the Parent/Teacher Organization had a luncheon for the school's teachers.

At Colby High School Monday, teachers and staff found surprises in their mail boxes and were provided

snacks from the Student Council.

At Golden Plains in Rexford, the staff received personalized portfolios to everyone, said secretary Vicki Allison.

The school's National Honor Society also gave a breakfast for the staff last week.

Brewster superintendent Sherri Edmundson said teachers at her school received pencils and book-marks.

## Street projects to begin Monday

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The first phase of street projects around the new Wal-Mart Supercenter site will begin Monday, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

Signage around the road construction was placed today, and

Monday crews will be in full force in the area located south of Colby High School.

To avoid traffic congestion, the project was split into three phases and involves Franklin Ave. and West Willow Street.

The estimated date for completion is difficult to predict at this

time, she said, noting project delays associated with materials being delivered and weather.

In the meantime, she said, subcontractors have been lined up for the street project and the curb and gutter work will be provided by Tarbet. Grading and compaction are being done by the city and county.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

This was the scene Thursday noon in front of the Thomas County Courthouse where a number of Colby residents gathered to take part in the National Day of Prayer. The event was lead by Pastor Chris Shubert of Mingo Bible Church and was sponsored by the Thomas County Ministerial Association.

