



COLBY FREE PRESS

Time on his hands



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Cory Crouse of Commercial Sign secured a retention ring to the west clock face at the Thomas County Courthouse Wednesday. Work is being done to repair the faces. Each face will be getting the aluminum rings which will help hold them in place and make them more secure. Over the years, the wooden rings holding the faces in place have moved downward about an inch and a half. The repair work is a joint project between Commercial Sign, The Tool Box and Colby Glass.

Lantern Park Manor

New administrator not new

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Lantern Park Manor's new administrator isn't new.

Larry Booth of Colby is on his second stint in that post. He previously served the facility from 1983 to 1993.

He replaced Kent Voorhies who left earlier this year to pursue other endeavors.

Booth hadn't been active in that capacity until a local doctor recommended him for the administrative position at Lantern Park this time around. He interviewed and was later offered the job.

Booth was working as the interim pastor at Hoxie Presbyterian Church until their new pastor arrived and was between jobs when the Lantern Park offer came.

Many changes have taken place since his first round at the facility, but much is still the same, and he's happy to be back, adding it was "like coming home."

"I jumped in," Booth said. "I'm enjoying it."

Lantern Park, he said, is an adult long-term care and skilled nursing facility. It's also Medicare certified and offers physical therapy in a separate wing of the building. However, they're currently trying to find someone to offer that service because they don't have a contract in place yet, but are trying to negoti-

ate a new one.

With a new administrator in place, there are also other things going on in the near future, and owners Premiere Health Care of North Hollywood, Calif. have some ideas in mind.

"They have a lot of plans for the facility," Booth said, including landscaping and some interior redesign and remodeling.

He said the administrator is the executive that everything funnels back to. He oversees an average of 40 staff members and the 46 current residents.

"We have quite excellent staff here," Booth said, adding they do an "excellent" job and make his job easier and possible.

He said they also provide a good environment for residents, with an efficient, well-trained staff.

One of the main differences, Booth said, is in patient care. He said there's a better program in place now. He said how residents are assessed, treated and cared for is much more effective and geared toward each individual.

Before, it was mainly based on observation, but now it's more pre-



L. Booth

cise and based on each person's needs.

"The quality of life for residents has improved a great deal," Booth said.

The place also has a good activity program, he said. Residents are as involved as they want to be. There also isn't as much television watching as before because more people participate in what's going on instead.

Booth himself will be providing some of the activities himself in the near future. Because he performs, he'll be playing music and singing for the residents and will also be looking for other entertainment.

Besides his administrative duties at the facility, Booth is a musician and song writer. He said it's a hobby but he's also made a living at it. He's been involved in the Pickin on the Plains bluegrass festival since its inception. Booth is also an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

He and his wife Jo have been married 15 years. They have six grown children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Booth is glad to be back at the facility and said it's a "great pleasure" to see the same people every day. And he encourages people to stop by and visit.

"The coffee pot is always on at Lantern Park," he said.

112 Area site hottest spot in the state

By Tom (TD) Dreiling

Free Press Publisher

KGCR Radio just west of Brewster in Sherman County was the state's hottest radio station Wednesday.

And it had nothing to do with music.

Nothing.

But it had everything to do with the weather.

"KGCR is a monitor station for the National Weather Service," said station manager James Claassen, "and we depend on the temperature gauge supplied by the weather of-

fice to record the vitals at our site."

Wednesday's temperature at the radio station was 112 degrees, a record for the date, and it was the hottest place in the state of Kansas.

Not far behind that 112-degree reading was Atwood with 111.

Coming in at 110 were both Oakley (4 miles west of town) and Benkelman, Neb.

Goodland, Wallace and McCook, Neb. were at 109 for the day.

Hill City cooked with 108.

Quinter had its own form of a barbecue at 107.

And Oberlin sweltered in 106.

The area's *cool* spot — cool? — was the Oasis on the Plains/Colby with 105.

Sharing that mark was Burlington, Colo.

Colby did enjoy a shower during the heat of the day which did nothing but create the area's largest spa.

The rainfall amount was 0.04 inches, recorded at the Northwest Research-Extension Center on the city's west side.

That gives the town 1.54 inches of rain for the month to date.

And the forecast? Well, you'll find that on page 3 today.

Colby School Board names new president; other officers

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Tracy Rogers changed seats at the Colby School Board's reorganizational meeting on Monday, moving up to the presidency by vote of the board.

He replaces Stan Molstad. Rogers was vice president. Also elected to a board post was the group's newest member, Janice Frahm, who will now serve as vice resident.

Besides the elections, the board approved committee appointments, cost of book rentals and the price of school lunches.

Appointments included: Gerry Fulwider will continue as the representative to the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center and Frahm will be the alternate; Rogers, Coordinating Council, alternate Molstad; Agent for receipt of vouchers, Superintendent Kirk Nielsen; Kansas Association of School Boards Governmental Relations Network, Fulwider, alternate Joel Powell; Northwest Kansas Vocational College area advisory board, Rex VanHorn, alternate Dewey Augustine; District Steering Committee for School Improvement, Augustine; Building Committee, Kevan Taylor, alternate Molstad.

The board also improved some increases, among them substitute teacher daily rate. It went up \$2, going from \$77 per day last year to \$79 this fall.

The mileage reimbursement rate was established at 40 cents per mile, an increase of three cents over last year. Textbook rental fees were approved, with the rental fees being set at \$38 for kindergarten through



T. Rogers



J. Frahm

12th grade. Kindergarten was switched from \$18 to the \$38 because students will be going to school full-time this fall. Book rental for grades 1-12 increased \$2 over last year.

Breakfast prices remain the same but the board approved a five-cent increase in the price of lunches.

Weight training fees for district students and the cost of drivers education didn't change.

Weight training fees remain \$20 and drivers education, \$160 per student. DeYoung explained students pay that cost and the district gets \$80 per student in state aid.

The \$160 is what she called a "textbook fee" that covers the cost of instruction. It pays for the classroom portion and six hours of driving instruction. The course is administered online through the Buhler school district.

The board approved the official depositories for the district.

Official newspaper for 2005-2006 is the *Colby Free Press*.

They also appointed school officials, including Jo DeYoung, board treasurer; Deann Shields, board deputy treasurer; Marilyn Reed, board clerk; Janel Andrews, board deputy clerk.

Several out-of-district student requests were also on the agenda. The board approved the following students to attend Colby Public Schools this year, but their parents have to provide transportation. They are Dalton, De'andra and Destiny Garcia; Zachery Hinnergardt; Mallory and Miranda Kern; Case and Colton Rundel; Ashley and Callie Siruta; Morgan, Paige and Corbin Stephens and Laura Sweet.

They also approved a request for Hailey and Paige Fryback to attend school in Colby, but they will receive transportation.

In other business, the board approved:

- Student and teacher handbooks for the 2005-2006 school year.
- Appointed John Gatz the board attorney for the coming school year.
- An emergency substitute license for Lucy Wood.
- The resignations of Sandra Lobato, paraprofessional and Karen Deibert, media clerk.
- The hiring of Mary Beth Flanagan as Colby Grade School secretary and Lesley Rogers, custodian.
- Supplemental contracts for Matt Simms, Colby High School assistant football coach; Maria Castigliano, Colby High School volleyball C-team coach; Mitch Beims, Colby Middle School eighth grade head football coach; Ashley Latham, middle school eighth grade volleyball head coach; May Beth Flanagan, assistant eighth grade volleyball coach.
- The board also went into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss the progress on negotiations. No action was taken.

Serving God



PATTY DECKER/Free Press Editor

Josh Brooks from Littleton, Colo. worked in 100-plus degree temperatures at Tami Goldsworth's home on West Summit yanking out tree trunks in the back yard. Brooks, along with 40 other young people from Colorado are in Colby this week helping with beautification efforts at various locations. The teenagers are with the Church of Christ youth group from Littleton and this week are painting interior and exterior structures, mowing yards, pulling tree trunks, and more to help those who cannot physically handle this type of work. Considered mission work, the young people are taking no money. "We are servants for the week," one member said about helping others in Colby.

