



COLBY FREE PRESS

School board gives nod on field trips

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Out-of-district field trips for the 2005-06 school year were on the agenda at Tuesday's school board meeting held at the administration building.

Included on the list was a request from Colby High School dance team sponsor Ashly Guy for the team to attend a national competition in Orlando, Fla. March 10-12, 2006.

The board approved the request, along with the rest of the field trips, but not before Guy told the board about how the team got invited.

She said they attended a camp in Colorado Springs, Colo. this summer and were offered a bid to the national competition.

"It's a very good opportunity for them," Guy said.

"They worked very hard. There are very few teams in the state of Kansas that get asked to go."

The competition is invitation only.

Guy said she was only asking for permission for the team to do fund-raising and also for the district to provide transportation to

the airport in Denver. She said the team will pay for the trip themselves and will only miss about a half-day of school next spring.

Nine dancers are on the team but Guy said if they hold fall tryouts, they might add three more.

They would be able to go with the team to the competition but would not be able to dance.

Board member Joel Powell asked if the team had been invited before.

Guy said they were last year but the girls weren't interested in going. She added this Saturday, the team will be traveling to a competition at Six Flags Elitch Gardens in Denver. She said they placed well at the same event last year and have a good chance of making it into the finals at nationals.

Dance team member Katie Henry also spoke. She said the team has worked hard to get where they are. Henry said it's "prestigious" for a Kansas team to be chosen because dance isn't considered a sport in this state.

The board heard from even more students during a curriculum presentation on the Technology Student Association.

Sponsor Lamoreaux Fulwider thanked the board for the opportunity to do the presentation and showed a DVD by club president Courtney Ress.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Technology Student Association member Shelly Shoemaker talked about her experiences at the national Technology Student Association gathering in Chicago last year at the Colby School Board meeting Tuesday. The board heard a curriculum presentation on the group, which included a video by president Courtney Ress and members of group talking about what they have learned.

and what they've learned at both state and national events.

In other business, the board approved:

• Emergency substitute license

requests for Charlene Kaus and Eugene Rothfuss.

• A supplemental contract for Rothfuss as assistant girls tennis coach.

'Celebration on the High Plains' Saturday

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Looking for something to do this weekend that won't require driving?

The fourth annual Celebration on the High Plains might fit the bill on Saturday.

Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce director Mary Ann Downing said there are a couple of big changes this year — it's being held at the Prairie Museum of Art and History instead of at Southwind Plaza and there will also be a chili cook-off.

The change was made, she said, because the museum offered its facilities and has a grassy area which she called "audience friendly."

The celebration is still an all-day family event.

"Everything will start at noon," Downing said. "There will be various activities throughout the day."

Paul Heskitt will be on hand from 12:30-2 p.m. followed by a historical re-enactor performing as "Calamity Jane" from 2-3 p.m. Aces and Eights will take the stage at from 3:15 to 5:15.

Lip Riddle will be on for an hour

from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Following them will be No Parking who will perform until 8 p.m.

After No Parking, the national anthem will be sung by Teighlor Light.

Before the anthem, motorcycle riders will bring in the flag, which will be displayed on stage.

At 8:15, headlining act Heather Shelley from Scott City will be the evening entertainment.

Downing said Shelley was the \$100,000 Colgate Country Showdown national champion.

She was chosen as the main act

because she's an up and coming country star as well as a western Kansas native.

"It's a nice tribute to her and western Kansas," Downing said.

Besides the entertainment, children's activities and a watermelon feed are included, along with a motorcycle, antique tractor and engine display.

The first annual "Fire on the Prairie" chili cook-off will also be part of the activities.

Downing said cooking starts at 1:30 p.m. At 5 p.m., recipes will have to be turned in there will also

be a public chili tasting.

The winner of the cook-off will be announced at 6:45 p.m. Concessions run by the chamber and Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau will be available. There will also be a beer garden for attendees 21 and older.

Tickets are available at the chamber offices, Dave's His Shop, People's State Bank, both Farmers and Merchants Bank locations, Colby Bowl and Fun Center and First National Bank.

For information, call the chamber at 460-3401.

Thomas County stands ready to send help in Louisiana

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

A request from Louisiana for help with law enforcement has been answered by the Thomas County Sheriff's Office. Deputies from Thomas County will be going down to assist.

Undersheriff Jason Moses said the state's emergency management office sent out a request for help with law enforcement as the state starts to clean up after Hurricane

Katrina last week. Louisiana has requested

more than 1,000 law enforcement officers to help with enforcement during post-hurricane clean-up efforts. The requests in Kansas are being coordinated through the Kansas Division of Emergency Manage-



J. Moses

ment Emergency Operations Center, the Louisiana's own operations center, the Louisiana Sheriff's Task Force and a program called the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

He explained it's all to ensure that resources are used only when necessary.

"We plan to deploy some people to Louisiana for assistance," Moses said. They will be sending two cars with two people each and Moses plans to be one of them.

He doesn't know when they'll be leaving or what they'll be doing because they're waiting to find out. Moses said they will be doing what is asked and also providing equipment if necessary.

They also don't know what part of the state they'll be working in when they go.

"We could be used in any part of the state of Louisiana from now until approximately the 16th of October," Moses said.

They're currently on stand-by with Louisiana due to the "mass response" from law enforcement.

"It is very important to have a documented response to the disaster to avoid confusion and to keep from overwhelming limited resources," he said.

Moses said if and when they go they'll have to be self-sustaining for four days, providing their own food, water and shelter. They will also take any equipment they can spare that might be needed.

Homestead added to historic list

BALDWIN (AP)—A farm overlooking what is presumed to be the site of a pre-Civil War battle between pro- and anti-slavery forces has been added to the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

The property was homesteaded in the 1880s by Robert Hall Pearson, who took part with abolitionist John Brown in the Battle of Black Jack near Baldwin on June 2, 1856. It was one of a series of skirmishes in the dispute over whether Kansas should enter the union as a slave or free state.

In May of that year, pro-slavery forces attacked Lawrence, destroying offices of a newspaper and burning a number of buildings, including a hotel. Later, Brown led a group of free-staters looking for a pro-slavery militia under the command of by Henry Pate.

The two forces met along Black Jack Creek, and after three hours of fighting Pate and 28 of his men surrendered to Brown.

“What’s the interesting thing to me is why did he come back to that spot?”

Dale Nimz, historic preservation consultant

Pearson went on to serve with the Union Army during the Civil War, later returning to the Baldwin area and acquiring the land where he farmed and raised cattle.

"In the 1880s, he built a house that overlooks the site that is presumed to be the battlefield of Black Jack," said Dale Nimz, a historic preservation consultant.

"What's the interesting thing to me is why did he come back to that spot? Was it a coincidence? It could have been. Was it that he could look out his window and imagine being in that battle? Maybe. But he didn't provide any reasoning."

The property was accepted for

the state registry because the house that Pearson built is a significant example of housing from that era.

"When Robert Hall Pearson built the house in the 1880s, it was pretty typical," said Nimz.

"But now it's uncommon. There were many houses built during that time. But there are relatively few that have been preserved and are in good condition."

Pearson was born in 1828 in England, and his family moved to Pennsylvania when he was 4.

He had worked in Wisconsin, Missouri and Iowa, then went to California with other gold prospectors in 1851.

Motorcycle Mary



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Mary McCune, known as "Motorcycle Mary," a motivational speaker from Pratt, spoke to seniors at Colby High School today about finance. Bringing McCune to the community to speak was the class project of last year's Leadership Thomas County class.

