



COLBY FREE PRESS

We Believe



FILE PHOTO

Members of the Colby High football team sit on a float during the Homecoming parade held last month. The football team plays its last home game of the regular season 7 p.m. Friday against Hugoton. In an effort to create community support for the team and to help end the team's 20-game losing streak, a parade of all Colby football players and the school band will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday in downtown Colby. The parade route begins at Fike Park on Franklin Avenue, head south, and will turn right onto Third Street to Dennen Field. Fans are encouraged to walk behind the

team and the band along the route to Dennen Field where a pep rally will be held at about 7:30 p.m. Former Eagle players and fourth through sixth-grade players are encouraged to be in the parade. Residents along the parade route are asked to have their porch lights on. After the pep rally, transportation will be available for fans from Dennen Field back to downtown Colby. The parade and pep rally was organized by various Eagle fans with support from school administration and the city of Colby. The theme of the parade and pep rally is We Believe.

County OKs new vehicles for sheriff

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office is getting two new patrol cars. The Thomas County Commissioners approved the purchase at their meeting Monday.

A bid from Taylor Motors of \$47,840 for two 2007 Dodge Chargers was approved.

Sheriff Mike Baughn and Undersheriff Jason Moses were at the meeting to discuss a recent inspection by the Kansas State Fire Marshall Office.

Baughn said the office needs new patrol cars.

Two new cars were purchased more than a year ago, and buying two more would get things "back on cycle."

Four bids were received. Taylor Motors of Colby submitted a bid of \$23,920 each for two Dodge Chargers.

Odessa Ford of Odessa, Mo., also submitted a bid on two Chargers at a price of \$21,255.25 per car.

The other bids were for two Ford Crown Victorias.

Tubbs and Sons Ford submitted a bid of \$21,850.50 each.

Another dealership's bid was \$23,850 each.

Baughn recommended the Chargers instead of the Fords because they are more fuel efficient. And the last two Crown Victorias purchased have had transmission

problems.

He also said even though Taylor's bid was \$5,000 more for the Chargers, it will be easier to get the cars serviced locally.

Chairman Ron Evans had concerns about the disparity between bids.

"Five thousand is a pretty significant number," he said.

Baughn explained they will be able to recoup some of the difference by selling two older Crown Victorias at a sheriff's sale.

That was acceptable to commissioner Paul Steele, who said it looked like the sheriff had planned all the financing.

Another purchase was also on the agenda, although the commissioners tabled that decision.

The county commissioners will decide next week on what kind of building for household hazardous waste.

Landfill supervisor Larry Jumper gave a presentation on bids for the new building, which will be constructed at the landfill.

But who will actually do the construction has been a matter of discussion.

At the Sept. 29 meeting, the commissioners talked about doing the work in-house or bidding it out.

Jumper sent out bid specifications to several businesses, but only received back one bid from Stephens Construction in Colby.

The bid was for a 40-by-50-by-12-foot building at a cost of \$54,000 or \$49,000, depending on the heat source for the building, Evans said.

Heat work could be done by the contractor, and the building could be finished by county employees.

The county has received a \$66,000 grant from the state for construction, but must match it with \$44,000.



M. Baughn



R. Evans

Extra \$94 million boosting governor

TOPEKA (AP) — The state collected \$94 million more than anticipated in September, good news for Gov. Kathleen Sebelius as she touts Kansas' economy as a reason enough for a second term.

Republicans and anti-tax activists repeatedly have questioned the Democratic governor's optimistic assessment of the economy. GOP challenger Jim Barnett has proposed a series of income and estate tax cuts to stimulate what he describes as a sluggish economy.

Sebelius has cited better-than-

anticipated revenues as evidence Kansas has a robust economy.

"We're encouraged that our revenues seem to keep growing, and we're very proud of the progress that has been made, and we hope that this continues," Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said Tuesday. "We've been very clear about the way we see the economy."

Barnett argues that the economy isn't as strong as Sebelius says and questions whether the state can afford a plan approved this year to

phase in a \$541 million increase in aid to public schools over three years. While September's unexpected revenues may help with that problem, they don't solve it, said Barnett spokesman Rodger Woods.

"The school finance bill that passed and was signed by the governor, the increased revenue projections still aren't going to be enough to pay for it," Woods said.

The latest revenue figures were in a report from the Kansas Legislative Research Department. The state expected to collect \$461 mil-

lion in general revenues in September but collected more than \$555 million instead — a 20 percent difference.

For the current fiscal year, from July 1 through Sept. 30, revenues were \$1.3 billion, or nearly \$112 million more than anticipated. The difference was 9 percent.

"I think the economy is doing much better," said Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer. "Things are definitely in a very stable environment."

Northwest Kansas Recycling group sponsors logo contest

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization is looking for a logo and is sponsoring a logo contest among the nine counties it serves.

"We want something that reflects recycling in northwest Kansas," said Lynette Koon, the organization's coordinator, "and preferably with the name of our group on the logo somewhere."

The contest is open to all residents in Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, and Wallace counties.

There is no age restrictions.

The entry deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 15, which is also America Recycles Day.

The winner will be announced in December and also receive \$100.

In addition to the winner being recognized by the board of directors, the logo will also be used on the organization's vehicles, letterhead, equipment, and signs.

"We want an icon describing who we are and we want to be able to use that on everything associated with the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization," Koon said.

In offering some help to prospective contest participants, Koon said, the group is looking at the nine counties working together to pro-

vide recycling opportunities in northwest Kansas.

"We are seeking a logo that would be specific to us," she said, "similar to the way the 'Three R's' are used in the national recycling logo."

Regarding the way the logo is submitted, Koon said, there are few restrictions.

"Something that can be reproduced or is scannable will work," she said.

As for the size of the drawing or submission, she suggested it can be on an 8 x 10 sheet of paper or something close to those dimensions.

Some board members are: Roger Jensen and Joy Anderegg, Cheyenne; Jean Roberts and Charles Peckham, Rawlins; Marilyn Horn



LEFT: National Recycling, Inc. sample logo. MIDDLE: University of Colorado Recycling Services sample logo. RIGHT: Maryland Recycling Coalition sample logo.



For questions, Koon can be reached at 460-6598 or E-mail: koonsters@st-tel.net; messages can also be left at the recycling center, 465-8157.

Sensing high stakes, voter excitement good

WASHINGTON (AP) — Politics is a water-cooler topic, a dinner-table subject, an issue to discuss after Sunday services, and this year the interest of American voters is at its highest level in more than a decade.

That renewed attention could translate into higher voter turnout on Nov. 7, according to an Associated Press-Pew poll.

Seventy percent say they are talking politics with family and friends, and 43 percent are debating the issues at work.

Among churchgoers, 28 percent share their political views, a number that rises to 34 percent among the congregations in the South.

The relationship with politics is

not unrequited.

Americans have heard from the candidates and campaigns through phone calls, e-mail or one-on-one.

In turn, they've participated more in the political process, attending campaign events, circulating petitions and making political donations.

"Politics comes up fairly frequently in my workplace," said Christine Adkinson, an operating room nurse in Lakeland, Fla.

"Most of the physicians are Republicans and some of my fellow nurses, we are mainly against the war in Iraq and Afghanistan — we have quite lively discussions."



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

May I help you?

Nathaniel Taylor, left, waited for Bonny Brown to blow bubbles during a speech screening at the early childhood screening Tuesday at Colby United Methodist Church. The screenings are for children up to 5 years old and are sponsored by the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center. The screenings are to see how a child's development is progressing.