



COLBY FREE PRESS

Ice isn't nice



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

The Kansas Highway Patrol responded to two two-car accidents at 9 a.m. today near the Sherman County line on Interstate 70.

The wrecks were three-tenths of a mile apart and were the result of icy conditions. A full report was not available at press time.

Rexford voters narrow the list

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The only primary in Thomas County held Tuesday was for the position of Rexford mayor.

The candidates were Dennis L. Allison, William J. Dible and Michael L. Johnson. Allison received the most votes with 16. Dible had 15 and Johnson received 13.

"The top two advance to the general election," said Shelly Harms, Thomas County clerk.

Rexford's mayoral race was the only contested race, she said.

The race will be decided in the April 3 general election.

In Rexford, running for city council are Betty J. Nickols, David Williams, Nancy Dahl and Dwight Williams. Dahl, David and Dwight are incumbents.

In Colby, voters will decide who will sit on the Colby Community College board of trustees, Colby School Board and city council.

The terms of Colby College board members Larry McDonald and Don Kready, who were elected in 2003, as well as Mark Winger expire this year. Winger filled out the remainder of former board member Larry Arehart's term.

Winger and McDonald filed for re-election. William Biel and Arlen Leiker are vying for Kready's seat. Kready did not re-file for his position.

On the Colby School Board, the

terms of members Stan Molstad, Dewey Augustine, Kevan Taylor and Joel Powell are up.

Molstad and Powell filed for re-election and Raymond (Omar) Weber also filed to run for the school board. Three people are running for four seats.

Colby City Council has several terms expiring.

They include Mayor Ken Bieber; Ward I Councilman Pat Mallory; Ward II Councilwoman Bev Eicher; Ward III Councilman Jim Brown and Ward IV Councilman Jim Tubbs.

Bieber and Jim Smith are running for mayor.

Brown, Mallory, Eicher and Tubbs all filed for re-election.

In Brewster, Gene Schoenberger, Mike Baughn, Stacey Edmundson and Ronald Ribordy have all filed to run for city council. Schoenberger and Ribordy, and Mayor Baughn are seeking re-election.

Brewster school board candidates are Willard Crumrine, Don Allen, Bonnie Holm and Rod Gilley. Gilley, Holm, Allen and Crumrine are incumbents. Board member Lonnie Selby will not run for re-election.

Members on the Rexford School board are up for re-election. They are Terry Moss, Jeremy Schlitz, Jay Todd, Brent Ginther, Mark Miller, Joe Broeckelman, Paul Bruggeman and Leroy Spresser.

Miller, Bruggeman, Todd and Spresser are incumbents.

With snow melting, Colby council spring street repairs next

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

A decision to buy additional snow removal equipment was voted down by the Colby City Council.

Instead, council members opted to look at repairing streets this spring following the heavier than usual snowfall and ice which damaged streets.

City Manager Carolyn Arm-

strong said she and Public Works Director Chris Bieker researched prices on tractors, snow blowers and snow melters.

"Since we do not have this type of equipment included in the budget, we will have to take it out of the municipal equipment reserve with repayment beginning in 2008," she said.

In addition, the 2007 budget would need amending.

In other council business:

- The council approved paying \$3,983.07 to Tom Sloan of Colby for damage to 13.48 acres of corn and \$1,416.04 to Vernon Flanagin/Ron Thiel Trust for damage to 6.88 acres of wheat.

- The payments were made due to crop damage from the city's sewer construction project.

- John Gatz was appointed city attorney to replace Dave Starkey

who resigned to take a position with the state.

- A 2007 Chevrolet Blazer was purchased from Taylor Motors for the police chief at a cost of \$19,200.

The current 1997 Blazer will be used as the airport courtesy car and the 1998 Crown Victoria at the airport will be sold at the next auction.

- Approval was given to Ordinance No. 1421 through and including Ordinance No. 1426.

The Colby Planning Commission reviewed those ordinances last summer, Armstrong said.

Those ordinances state the licensing requirements for various trades.

The building contractors must be licensed by Jan. 1, 2008, and no test is required.

The remaining trades must be licensed by Jan. 1, 2009, and must provide proof of a passing grade of

75 percent on the appropriate Thomson Prometric Exam. Goodland Vocational Technical Institute will be a testing site for the exams.

- Bids for a new street sweeper will be opened at 2 p.m. March 15.

- Councilmen Jim Brown and Mark Beringer were appointed to work with Bieker and Armstrong on the investigation of one-man sanitation trucks.

Business questions sheriff vehicle repair

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Action taken outside the board room was questioned by a local businessman at Wednesday's Thomas County Commissioners meeting.

Rex Van Horn met with Thomas County Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and Byron Sowers to ask why one of the sheriff's vehicles was repaired using an estimate higher than his.

"There isn't anyone more qualified," Christiansen said. "I want your business," Van Horn said.

A 2006 Ford Crown Victoria used by Deputy Marc Finley as a K-9 Unit was damaged Feb. 13 on Interstate 70 while Finley was investigating an accident.

An Aurora, Colo., man, Franklin B. Henderson, 44, drove into Finley's car and caused \$8,500 damage to the car. Finley and his passenger received minor injuries, but his dog, Reveille, was not hurt.

Commissioners discussed repairing the car and estimates at the Feb. 20 meeting.

Van Horn asked the commissioners why Thomas County Mike Baughn had the car repaired by Butch's Body shop when his estimate was \$143.14 less.

Steele told Van Horn he talked with Undersheriff Jason Moses, Deputy Jane McDougal and Baughn, the commissioners asked to see if the car could be repaired.

"We did not ask for or receive bids," Christiansen said. "All we asked for was to go out and see if the car could be repaired."

Christiansen said the commissioners did not know why a higher estimate was chosen.

He said when the three law enforcement officers met with the commissioners, they talked about two estimates submitted to the county clerk's office. Those two estimates were Butch's Body Shop and Van's Body and Frame, Inc. Christiansen said the commissioners were under the assumption the work would be done by one of those two companies.

"There was a third estimate that we didn't even know anything about," Christensen said.

The third estimate was submitted at the law enforcement center by Lyle's Body Shop in the amount of \$5,344.72. That was about \$1,500 less than the other two bids.

Steele said his more than 40 years experience working with employees and the public taught him about estimates and bids.

"We did not approve a bid," Steele said. Steele said the Kansas Supreme Court said sheriffs have the authority to buy equipment and set payroll without conferring with the board of county commissioners.

"However, I believed that this board is the proper venue for complaints," Steele said. "Because this is where they can be aired and the public can be apprised if there are complaints. This is the venue for complaints, but the venue for correction of something that the public deems incorrect is with that elected official. We have elections every four years and there is when the public can hire somebody else or they can say they retain the person in office."

College play starts Friday

The Colby Community College drama department will perform the family comedy "Card Play" by David Foxton 7:30 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday in the Frahm Theatre located on the CCC campus.

"Card Play" deals with a big card game.

Play director Deb Bickner explains the plot that uses cards as characters.

Some of the smaller cards uncover a plot to throw the game and they try to set things right.

In the meantime, the stuttering Queen of Hearts tries to get all of the cards involved in her cooking contest.

Will the dishonest cards be successful or will right prevail over wrong? Will there be enough entries for the cooking contest?

"This fast-paced comedy has something for everyone-good guys and bad guys, chase scenes, disguised identities, and a couple of jokers," Bickner said.

Cast and crew of students and community members involved in "Card Play" include Carlo Figlio (Lamar, Colo.), Casey Buganski (Woodston), Dante Brown (Virginia Beach, Va.), Tina Schmid (Colby), Jarett Finley (Atwood), Wendy Bugbee (Ulysses), Gabe Moore



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Free Press

Dante Brown of Virginia Beach, Va., and Tina Schmid of Colby were among the many players rehearsing Tuesday for "Card Play," at Colby Community College.

(Oberlin), Marcy McDonald (Ness City), Robyn Schmid (Colby), Julie Colling (Winona), Cory Grantz (Goodland), Weston Bugbee (Ulysses), Cameron McLaughlin (Colby), Ron Redick (Colby), Bridget Bickner (Colby), Justin Engel (Colby), Jessica Spoo

(Frankfort), Shannon Lare (Phillipsburg), Daniel Blake (Goodland), and Greg DeRee (Wichita).

Tickets for the Colby performances may be purchased in advance at the Campus Bookstore or at the door.

An additional performance will

be held for Western Plains Arts Association members on 2 p.m. MST Sunday at the Goodland High School auditorium.

WPA membership cards will only be honored at the Goodland performance. For information, call Bickner at (785) 460-4783.