



14 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

Friday

April 13, 2007

50¢

Volume 118, Number 60
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Fair board approves new seating

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The seating in the Thomas County fairgrounds grandstand is getting a facelift. The fair board approved to replace half the wood benches in the grandstand with aluminum seating at its meeting Thursday.

The benches in the middle section and those across the top of the stands will be replaced. Cost will be about \$10,000, and the aluminum is being from Tower Extrusions in Olney, Texas.

The work will be completed sometime before the Thomas County Free fair this summer.

Board member Brad Skolout said the estimate to replace all of the seating was \$20,000.

Board president Mark Anderson said the work should be considered.

“We will need to do this at some point,” he said.

Board member Bill Shields said they could look at painting the wood seating again, but member Stan Strange said it would be cheaper in the long run to replace the existing

seats.

The board estimated it would cost \$2,500 to \$3,000 for painting, which would have to be done again in a few years.

In other business, the board approved a contract for the stock contractor for the fair rodeo.

A \$12,500 contract with Rumford Rodeo was approved. The rodeo company will provide the stock, pick-up men and other needs for the two-night rodeo performance.

The board also discussed purchasing a building to provide more space for livestock housing during the fair.

Strange said there are, at last count, almost 30 4-H members in the horse program and the fairgrounds may need more stalls for the horses.

Board member Darrel Dible said there are temporary buildings available starting at \$5,000. Depending on the configuration, it could be used for bucket calves or horses.

No decision was made on the issue.

April snow brings May flowers?



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

The calendar might say spring, but the weather outside doesn't reflect it. Randy Wilson of Colby removed snow from his windshield today in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Up to seven inches of

snow are expected today. Colby public schools, Heartland Christian School, Brewster, Golden Plains, as well as schools from Goodland to Quinter were closed because of the weather.

Former presidential candidate to speak in Colby Tuesday

By Debbie Schwanke

Colby Community College

The Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby Community College will host Ralph Nader 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center located on the college campus. The topic of Nader's speech will be global warming.

Honored by Time magazine as “One of the 100 Most Influential Americans of the Twentieth Century,” and recently as “One of the 100 Most Influential Figures in American History,” by The Atlantic, consumer advocate and 2004 presidential candidate for the Green Party, Ralph Nader, has devoted his life to giving ordinary people the tools they need to defend themselves against corporate negligence and govern-

ment indifference.

Recently the subject of the critically acclaimed documentary, An Unreasonable Man, he has also written his introspective book, The Seventeen Traditions about the earliest days of his own life, where he revisits 17 key traditions he absorbed from his parents, his siblings, and the people in his community, and draws from them inspiring lessons for today's society.

He will be available to autograph copies of the book immediately following the talk.



Nader

Nader's foray into public life began in 1965 when he took on the Goliath of the auto industry with his book, Unsafe at Any Speed, a shocking exposé of the disregard carmakers held for the safety of their customers.

The Senate hearing into Nader's accusations and the resulting life-saving motor vehicle safety laws catapulted Nader into the public sphere.

Nader quickly built on the momentum of that success.

Working with lawmakers, he was instrumental in creating the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Laws he helped draft and pass include the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Meat and

Poultry Inspection Rules, the Air and Water Pollution Control Laws and the Freedom of Information Act.

Working to empower the average American, Nader has formed numerous citizen groups, including the Center for Auto Safety, Public Citizen, the Pension Rights Center, the National Coalition for Universities in the Public Interest, and the student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) that operate in over 20 states.

In his latest citizen initiative, he is working with alumni classes, including his own at Princeton University and Harvard Law School, to expand their efforts beyond parties and reunions to community projects that systemically advance social justice.

Believing that Republicans and Democrats are so close ideologically he calls

them “tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum,” Nader organized the Green Party's first presidential campaign in 1996 to challenge the “duopoly” of the two-party system. He received 700,000 votes on a limited campaign budget of \$5000 and he ran again in 2000, receiving 2.8 million votes.

His goal is to build the foundation of a third political party and a robust progressive political movement that rally around issues rather than empty slogans and figureheads. Among his best-selling books are Winning the Insurance Game; Why Women Pay More and Getting the Best From Your Doctor. There is no charge to attend. The Max Pickerill Lecture Series is funded annually by anonymous donors.

For information, contact Lecture Series Director Tom Moorhous at 460-5534.

Kansas students plug into Colby

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Colby High School was bustling today with students from across Kansas.

Colby is hosting the Technology Student Association state conference for the first time. The conference began Thursday and will run through Saturday.

Lamoreaux Fulwider, vo-tech education teacher at the high school, and advisor for Colby's technology association, said all of the schools that planned to come were attending.

Middle and high school students, 241 of them, are competing in challenges and attending activities.

“It's predominantly high school,” she said.

The association's motto is “Learning to live in a technical world.”

Fulwider explained the association offers students hands-on learning in technology. It incorporates math, science, communication and fine arts.

During the conference, students will compete in challenges ranging from problem solving to



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Seth Bredemeier, left, and Rachel Lamm, right, members of the Colby High School Technology Student Association, prepared for a problem solving challenge today at the high school. Colby is hosting the state technology association state conference through Saturday.

imaging technology to computer aided design.

For example, in problem solving, students are given 10 to 15 items to create a vehicle that will move forward. However, instead of grading it on how far it moves, it would be judged on how far it moves in a straight line.

Twenty Colby students are in the group — 13 from the high school and seven middle school students. “We have so much fun learning,”

she said. Her students helped organize the conference, which took a year to prepare for.

“It took three years to get it here,” Fulwider said.

She gave a presentation at the state conference in Olathe last year, and the board of advisors decided to hold the event in Colby. Fulwider is on the state board of directors for the Technology Student Association.

Colby students' work will be on display during the conference.

Chelle Shoemaker designed the program and Jessica Leiker designed the conference pin.

Fulwider said the pins are a popular item, and students trade them when they go to nationals.

She said the conference has been a success so far, with so many volunteers helping.

The community, parents, businesses and Northwest Kansas Technical College are all helping with the conference.

College president in leadership class

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Colby Community College President Dr. Lynn Kreider was selected as one of 40 Leadership Kansas class members for 2007.

“It was an honor to be chosen for this class,” Kreider said. “Members of the college board of trustees encouraged me to join this group of state leaders and I look forward to meeting them and learning more about our fine state,” he said today.

“Leadership Kansas, a flagship leadership growth program of The Kansas Chamber of Commerce, will have six statewide conferences featuring a variety of experts in the critical issues facing Kansas business and government,” said John Federico, executive director of the program.

“Individuals chosen for Leadership Kansas have records of success in their businesses and communities and have a desire to strengthen their state, communities, and em-

ployers,” he said.

Candidates are chosen based on leadership contributions in their professions and communities, Federico said, along with their willingness to contribute to Kansas' future progress.

This year's class will graduate in October following participation in a number of programs planned throughout Kansas to inform the class of key business and government issues facing the state and to inspire them to become activists in creating future solutions.

Leadership Kansas program informs leaders about the challenges and opportunities facing business and inspires them to become active in their community and state.



Kreider

See insert
in today's
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