



Photo provided

Colby High School students judged livestock during a recent contest sponsored by the Norton County FFA.

Colby FFA Chapter plans banquet

By **Patty Decker**
Free Press Editor

Colby High School's FFA Chapter has scheduled it awards banquet for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, at the Colby Ag Shop, 240 N. Copeland.

Shawna Howell, advisor and teacher, said the banquet is open to anyone interested and visitors will have an opportunity to hear recaps of the year, enjoy a meal and take part in "great family fun."

"This will be a potluck meal," she said, "so we ask that those coming bring a dish or dessert



Schmidt



Rundel



Schwarz

along with table service."

Among its accomplishments, the FFA judging team has placed high in many recent events to include a trophy and second place as a team during the Northwest District Live-

stock Invitational.

Individual scores at the invitation for the senior team saw Brady Rundel with a first place medal and John Schmidt, 10th place medal. The Greenhand team placed fifth with Grant Jennings leading the team in points while Tanner Corder followed closely behind him, she said.

"I am very proud of these kids," Howell said, "because they have

worked hard to earn this."

In addition, the livestock judging team also brought home a second place plaque from the Norton County FFA contest.

"The competition was stiff," she said, "and we only fell short two points of winning the contest." As the team prepares for state competition set April 29-May 1 in Manhattan, Howell said she believes the team is prepared.

Individual results included Schmidt and Rundel getting fifth and sixth places, respectively.

For questions about the chapter, banquet, or state competition, call Howell at 460-5300.

Military News

Damon M. Palmer

Army National Guard Pvt. Damon M. Palmer has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, Palmer studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training. He also was involved in

drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises. He is the grandson of Robert Palmer of Atwood, and son of Robert Palmer of Franklin, Ken.

Palmer is a 2004 graduate of Franklin-Simpson High School, Franklin.

Failing plan on repairs raises concern

TOPEKA (AP) — A package for tackling long-delayed building repair problems at state universities failed Wednesday to clear a House committee, raising questions about whether legislators will pass a plan this year.

The House Appropriations Committee ended its discussions without endorsing a bill, after members raised the possibility of giving the universities a one-year infusion of cash and studying the issue further this summer and fall.

Still, the Senate planned to debate a plan Thursday fashioned by its Ways and Means Committee that would provide \$525 million to the universities over five years.

The Board of Regents, which oversees the higher education system, estimates that the six state universities have a \$663 million backlog of repair projects. The board also contends the backlog will grow unless lawmakers allocate an additional \$69 million annually, starting with the budget year beginning July 1.

The House committee considered a proposal to increase the universities' maintenance budgets by \$30 million a year and to give them \$200 million in low-interest loans from the state.

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.
THERESA L PERKINS, et al.
Defendants.

Case No. 07CV13
K.S.A. 60
Mortgage Foreclosure
Division 1

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court in and for the said County of Thomas, State of Kansas, in a certain cause in said Court Numbered 07CV13, wherein the parties above named were respectively plaintiff and defendant, and to me, the undersigned Sheriff of said County, directed, I will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand at 10:00 AM, on 05/18/2007, at the Main Door of the Thomas County Courthouse, the following described real estate located in the County of Thomas, State of Kansas, to wit:

ALL OF LOT EIGHT (8), BLOCK SEVEN (7), PINE HILL ADDITION TO THE CITY OF COLBY, KANSAS, AS SHOWN BY THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

SHERIFF OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

Michael Boyd #21325
Attorneys for Plaintiff
12400 Olive Blvd. Suite 555
St. Louis, MO 63141
(314) 991-0255
(314) 991-6755 Fax
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
(Published in the Colby Free Press April 26, May 3, and 10, 2007.)

After warm March, cold April wipes out many fruit crops

ST. LOUIS (AP) — One look at Janet Sager's peach and apple trees would make anyone understand why her outlook for this year's crop is — in a word — rotten.

Two weeks after a cold snap savaged tender buds, blooms and early fruit in the southern Illinois orchard she tends with her husband, the apple trees "look like they've had a blowtorch to them," she said. The couple found just one live bloom on a lone peach tree, and their strawberry crop was obliterated.

"This is the first time I can recall that we've ever had all of them wiped out at the same time," Sager, 65, said from her home near Kell, in Marion County, Ill.

"Sometimes, you might lose a peach crop, but you still might have apples or strawberries. Not this year." Fruit farmers across southern Illinois say they're seeing the worst damage in a half-century — perhaps ever — after a warm March gave way to a prolonged April freeze. "No one remembers the landscape being blighted like this," said Elizabeth Wahle, a University of Illinois extension service horticulturist who has viewed the damage and talked to growers. "Hopefully, just like the flood of 1992, this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

Early reports from states affected by the Easter weekend freeze show whopping losses.

U.S. Farm Service Agency offices in North Carolina, for example, said an estimated \$111.7 million in crops was lost across that state, with almost \$27 million of that in vegetables and fruits.

In Texas, grape grower Neal Newsome said he lost 80 percent of this grape crop from a cold snap he described as "too much, too long." The freeze also caused serious losses for crops of pecans, peaches, watermelons, cantaloupe and pumpkins, Texas Cooperative Extension agent Jed Elrod said.

In Arkansas, extension agent Blair Griffin said 300 acres devoted to peach production in Johnson County are "100 percent lost."

The financial toll in Illinois won't become clear until after May 9, the cutoff for the state's counties to report damage figures to the U.S. Farm Service Agency, said Doug Bailey, the agency's chief program specialist in Springfield, Ill.

The numbers then will be sent to Gov. Rod Blagojevich and perhaps to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike

Johanns, who could make low-interest emergency loans available to eligible producers.

Illinois' peach orchards were among the hardest hit by the freeze, and Bailey said it is "pretty much

a foregone conclusion in southern Illinois that the peach crop is gone."

Wahle said it would be "a really rare case" if any southern Illinois peach growers can salvage any

fruit. Last year, growers in more than 40 states produced 1.3 billion pounds of peaches, according to the Columbia, S.C.-based National Peach Council. Illinois ranked ninth last year, accounting for 22.7

million pounds.

Editor's note: Associated Press writers Betsy Blaney in Lubbock, Texas, and Margaret Lillard in Raleigh, N.C., contributed to this report.

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ATTENTION...

Colby High School, Brewster High School, Golden Plains High School and Heartland Christian School

Senior Parents & HOMESCHOOLERS




**Hurry in parents!!
Deadline is May 7th!!!**

The Colby Free Press is now planning the Senior Graduation Tab and will be giving parents a chance to put a baby picture in along with a short message from the family for a small fee.

We will automatically feature your student's picture and information, but this will be your chance to put in a baby picture to show how much your senior has really changed over the years!

Call Crystal, Emily or Kristi @ 462-3963 for more information or stop by the office at 155 W. 5th in Colby.


WHITNEY COLETTE ADAMS




I plan to attend Colby Community College and play softball

PARENTS:
Richard & Peggy Adams

It's been a real hoot, Whitney - go get em girl, and Godspeed. Love, Mom & Dad





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