



10 pages

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## Trojan grad wins first at nationals

By Andy Heintz  
Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkanas.com

Colby college sophomore Scarla Nero took first out of 19 women in the 10,000-meter run with a time of 37 minutes and 17.66 seconds in the National Junior College Athletic Association Outdoor Track and Field Championships on Thursday at Gowan Stadium in Hutchinson.

Nero's first place finish earned 10 points for the Lady Trojans' track and field squad, helping them finish eleventh out of 30 teams with 20 points. She accounted for 16 of her team's 20 points at nationals, which ran from Thursday through Saturday.

Nero got six more points for Colby by snaring third in the 5,000 meter-run with 19:05.47. The Lady Trojans' remaining points came from freshman Lisa Faimon's fifth place finish in the high jump. Faimon leaped five feet and five inches.

Nero said her 10,000-meter time beat her previous best time by 15 to 20 seconds. Coach Crystal Berndt said Nero was in the middle of the pack at the start of the race, but she and Robin Ray of Cowley Community College in

Wichita wriggled out to the front of the pack in the last mile. Nero was behind Ray until the last 300 meters when she passed her with a good kick and eventually finished the race about eight seconds ahead of her opponent. Ray came in second with 37:25.88.

Nero said she goes into every race with the goal of beating her personal best time. She attributes her ability to improve her time on doing a lot of long-distance running to build up her stamina. She said improving on her past times is easy when she has lots of competition.

She will join her older sister Tanya Nero – a former runner for Colby – on the Wichita State University track and field team next season. Berndt, who has coached both Nero sisters, said Scarla would give Tanya a run for her money.

Other results from nationals include sophomore Hifiti Kahssay finishing 10th in the 10,000 with 39:59.20 and 24th in the 5,000 with 21:10.51. Faimon came in 13th in the heptathlon with 3,582 points. The coach said Faimon did the heptathlon on Thursday when the weather was windy and rainy.

Sophomore Jessica Schmidt finished 19th in the javelin with a

## So many books, so little cost



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Else Keil was one of many to browse the Pioneer Memorial Library's Memorable Book Sale, which began today and continues through Saturday. Melany Wilks, library director, said all books – well over a thousand of them – are half their normal

sale price for the remainder of the week. The selection is good, and the prices are better. Wilks can be seen on the library web site at [www.colbylibrary.com](http://www.colbylibrary.com) telling about the book sale.

## Veterans' groups plan Memorial Day service

Each year on Memorial Day volunteers from the Veterans of Foreign Wars post, the American Legion Post and the Colby National Guard publicly honor the memory of veterans in a ceremony at Beulah Cemetery on South Country Club Drive in Colby. This year's ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. There will be seating for the public.

After the veterans parade, there will be a posting of the National Colors by the Colby Honor Guard.

Legion Commander Don Morton will give opening remarks, followed by prayer.

The VFW Ladies Auxiliary and the American Legion will present wreaths for veterans of all wars from the days of World War I to the current conflict in Iraq and names of deceased veterans will be read.

Don Morton will speak. After a closing prayer, the Honor Guard will give a 21 gun salute, a bugler will play taps and the flags lining the avenue into the cemetery will be raised.

Following the ceremony the public is invited to the American Legion for coffee, tea and rolls.

## Some restaurants, stores to remain open for holiday

By Vera Sloan  
Colby Free Press  
vsloan@nwkanas.com

All government offices including county, state and federal will be closed on Monday to observe Memorial Day, but a few businesses will remain open for the convenience of the public and travelers.

Dillon grocery and Walmart will observe regular open hours. All stores in the Oasis Travel Stores will be open – including the Loft – and Smoffee's, the new downtown coffee and lunches store will

open at 6:30 a.m. and will close at 2 p.m. The Kansas Country Store in Southwind Plaza will be open.

The Thomas County Landfill will close on Saturday at noon and remain closed all day Sunday and all day Monday. It will reopen Tuesday morning at its regular hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 1 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Colby Public Works Department will be closed on Monday. The residential sanitation route will be picked up on Tuesday. They ask that customers will

have their grass and trash to the curb by 8 a.m. Any questions can be answered by calling the Public Works office at 460-4420.

The Colby Free Press will not print an issue Monday and the office will be closed. The office will open regular hours Tuesday.

Convenience stores, gas stations and restaurants that will be closed on Monday include the High Plains Co-op station at 405 W. 4th St. City Limits Bar and Grill, H&B Meat Market, Montana Mike's, Senior Progress Center, B-Hive, Twisters and Gambino's Pizza.

## Advance clown entertains, spreads word for the circus

By Vera Sloan  
Colby Free Press  
vsloan@nwkanas.com

If everyone is a child when the circus comes to town, then Colby will be full of children on Tuesday, June 8, when the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus comes to town through an invitation by the Colby Kiwana's club.

The big tent will be located across Franklin Avenue from the Colby High School on the grounds of the future MAC site. Two ninety minute performances, one at 5 p.m. and the other at 7:30 pm. will delight old and young alike.

Skeeter the clown said there will be lions, tigers, ponies, birds, jugglers, single trapeze acts, clowns, five to six unicycles going most of the time, and a balancing act called "Rolla Bolla."

"Anyone who likes skate boarding will love Rolla Bolla," she said on Wednesday morning when she visited Kid's Port.

Skeeter noted that the Siberian tigers in the circus are among those that are on the endangered species list. The way to tell a Siberian from others, she said, is that they are dark orange, light orange and white. She also added that it's not just the fur that is striped, but



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Austin Miller was brave enough to try to balance a peacock quill on his hand, with encouragement from Skeeter the clown, on Wednesday morning at Kid's Port.

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## Briefly

### Garden needs gardeners

The community garden is looking for volunteers. The gardenn, located at the K-State Experiment Station on the west side of Colby, needs volunteers to help grow fruit and vegetables. The food grown will go to the Genesis Thomas County food bank and the Extension's Kids A Cookin' program as well as to the volunteers who put in their time and energy. For information, call Orvella Romine at 460-8177 or Clint Milliman at 460-4582.

### Basketball camps start Tuesday

The "Be Your Best Basketball Camps," will hold two camps in Colby and Rexford in early June. The Colby camp will be from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for first through fourth graders and 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for fifth through eighth graders from Tuesday to Friday, June 4, at the community building. The Rexford camp will be from 2 to 4 p.m. for fourth through

eighth graders from Monday, June 14, to Thursday, June 17. To enroll call Shelly Hoyt at (785) 675-1938 or e-mail to shoyt33@hotmail.com.

### Church camp will be Tuesdays

Colby Wesleyan Church plans a free summer day camp for kids 4 to 12 called "Tuesdays @ 10." From 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday from next week to July 2, children are invited to share in fun, games, crafts, projects and God's love at the church, 320 W. Pine. Lunch will be served. Call the church office at 462-8391 for information or to register.

### Firemen plan to test hydrants

The Colby Fire Department will start testing fire hydrants Tuesday, beginning with Hill Street. Assistant Fire Chief Sean Hankin said the testing will take about a month. The work may temporarily disrupt some water lines near the hydrants. For information, call Hankin at the Colby Fire Department, 460-4454.

### Chautauqua to have youth events

Area youth of all ages are encouraged to attend "Making Murals with Folktales: How Butterflies Were Made," a free Chautauqua workshop at 10:30 a.m. next Thursday at Pioneer Memorial Library. Preschool-age children must be accompanied by an adult. Wanda Schell will present the workshop. "Dear Eleanor, Dear Michelle," and another free program will be presented by Paige Gawith from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, June 4, at the library. It is for children ages 8 and older. For information, call the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

### Vacation Bible School next week

Trinity Lutheran Church's Vacation Bible School will be from 9:15 a.m. to noon Tuesday to next Fri-

day at the church. The school is open to kids age 3 (potty trained) through fifth grade. Parents can register now or at the church the first day of the classes. For information, call Trinity Lutheran at 462-3497.

### Brewster alumni to gather

The Brewster Alumni Reunion will open Saturday with a parade at 10 a.m. downtown, followed by an alumni assembly at 11 a.m. and lunch at 12:30 p.m. put on by the Brewster Lions Club. For information, call Lonnie Selby at (785) 694-8009.

