



COLBY FREE PRESS

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The Menlo Class of 1962 (above, from left), Jack Neal, Joyce (Mannebach) Rhon, Marvena (Cousins) Chance and Donnie Murphy shared a hug. Bill Tiegreen (right), coach of the Menlo basketball team that went to state in 1951, talked to Dee Hovda, a Menlo graduate who is retiring as teacher and coach in the Colby Schools this year. Someone brought a brick (below) from the school house, long torn down, to display.

REX KLAURENS
and DARYL WICHMAN

Menlo alumni share last reunion

By Hazel Duffey
Menlo School Alumni Secretary

About 150 Menlo School alumni, families and friends met May 27 at the Colby Community Building for a catered lunch. After much discussion, the group agreed to discontinue having annual reunions.

Co-chair Donald Murphy extended greetings and co-chair Rex Klaurens introduced the committee in charge. Vera Sloan offered a prayer.

Following lunch, Murphy con-

ducted a short business meeting. Committee members were Rex Klaurens, San Antonio, Texas; Murphy, Leavenworth; Leona Feldt, Hoxie; Dorothy Strick, Lakewood, Colo.; and Mrs. Sloan, Colby.

Loreda (Duffey) Wagner gave a history of the Menlo school from 1890 to 1963.

After discussion, the group decided to move the Menlo trophies from Rexford to the office of the Menlo Frontier Ag (formerly Menlo Co-op) elevator. A thank you goes to Frontier Ag

for its donation and for taking the trophies for display.

Former Menlo teachers attending were Bill Tiegreen, Lenexa, Sloan, Colby.

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Woman facing drug charges freed

By Christina Silva
The Associated Press

NOGALES, Mexico (AP) — An Arizona woman held in a Mexico jail for a week on a drug-smuggling charge was freed and traveled back to the U.S. after a court reviewed her case, including key security footage, and dismissed the allegations.

Yanira Maldonado, 42, walked out of the prison on the outskirts of Nogales and into her husband's arms late Thursday. She and her family members could be seen crossing through the Nogales port of entry into Arizona in a small sedan shortly after midnight, *The Arizona Republic* reported.

Maldonado spoke briefly after her release, thanking U.S. State Department officials, her husband, her lawyers and prison workers who made her stay comfortable.

"Many thanks to everyone, especially my God who let me go free, my family, my children, who

with their help, I was able to survive this test," she said.

Maldonado also said at a news conference later that she still loves Mexico, and the experience will not stop her from returning in the future to visit family there.

"It's not Mexico's fault. It's a few people who did this to me and probably other people, who knows?" Maldonado said in comments aired on KSAZ-TV. "I'm still going to go back."

The family's lawyer in Nogales, Jose Francisco Benitez Paz, said a judge determined Thursday that Maldonado was no longer a suspect, and all allegations against her were dropped.

Maldonado's release came hours after court officials reviewed security footage that showed the couple boarding a commercial bus traveling from Mexico to Phoenix with only blankets, bottles of water and her purse in hand.

U.S. politicians portrayed her as a victim of a corrupt judicial

system and demanded her release, with Arizona congressmen saying they were working closely with Mexican authorities.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who previously said he has had "multiple conversations with the deputy Mexican ambassador," today welcomed Maldonado's release.

"Though I'm sure this last week has been a nightmare for her, I'm thankful that Mrs. Maldonado's clear innocence was proved and

that she is now home safe with her family," he said in a statement released by his office.

The judge had until late today to decide whether to free Maldonado or send her to another prison in Mexico while state officials continued to build their case. Prosecutors could appeal the ruling.

Maldonado was arrested by the Mexican military last week after they found nearly 12 pounds of pot under her seat.

Spring field day Tuesday in Colby

Though as yet there is no formula for growing wheat without moisture, there is still something to be gained by keeping up with the latest research.

Management of wheat in northwest Kansas will be the theme of the 2013 spring field day Tuesday, June 4, at the Kansas State Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby.

Starting with registration at 9 a.m., the program begins with a welcome from Bob Gillen, research leader and department head from Hays, at 9:30 and wraps up with a free lunch at noon.

Presentations include:

- Guorong Zhang, Hays, wheat breeder, on wheat variety performance trials.
- Rob Aiken, crop scientist from

Colby, on wheat response to tillage practices in a wheat-sorghum fallow rotation.

- Aiken on continuous wheat: how tillage and nitrogen affect yield and water use.

- J.P. Michaud, entomologist, Hays, on wheat stem sawfly: an emerging threat to wheat in northwest Kansas.

- Lucas Haag, agronomist, Colby, on intensive cropping options: forage, grain and green fallow.

Visiting the plots is included in the sessions, so participants can get a first-hand look at what the agronomists are seeing.

The center is at 105 Experiment Farm Road in Colby (west and south of Dennen Field).

For information call 462-6281.

Near miss for funnels in storm

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkansas.com

Almost an inch rain fell in the Colby area Wednesday and Thursday night and a tornado touched down briefly in nearby Logan County as thunderstorms passed through the area.

George "Pappy" Lies, emergency manager for Logan and Gove counties, said a funnel cloud touched down briefly about six miles south of Russell Springs.

"It appeared out in the middle of nowhere and basically it did no damage," Lies said.

The report of the funnel came in to the National Weather Service about 8:45 p.m. Wednesday, and Lies said a 911 call came in of a tornado about five miles north of Park, in Gove County to the east, and that straight-line winds unrelated to a tornado damaged buildings in Russell Springs itself. Parts of roofs were ripped off and limbs up to eight inches in diameter were brought down there.

Storm chasers reported two rope tornados to the National Weather Service that night near Grainfield and Grinnell, but Lies said he had no confirmation of them.

Daniel Robinson, a meteorolo-

gist with the Goodland weather station, said most of the rain and all the damage was reported Wednesday, he mentioned no damage in Colby itself.

Up to three inches of rain fell in Logan County near Monument on Wednesday, and in southeast Thomas County between one and two inches was reported. Rainfall was closer to three-quarters of an inch in town, and between half and a quarter of an inch in the northwest part of the county.

Storm spotters and emergency responders were busy Wednesday night looking for heavy winds or worse. Funnel clouds were reported in Cheyenne County five miles north of Bird City at 6:40 p.m.

Hail between the size of a nickel and a quarter was spotted here, and nickel sized hail was reported in southwest Sherman County. Emergency dispatchers in Goodland had reports of six power poles downed by heavy winds about 10 miles northwest of town.

Thursday night, Robinson said, .08 of an inch of rain was reported south of Colby, .27 inches in Oberlin and .04 in Goodland, and a trained spotter reported up to 2 inches seven miles northwest of Atwood.



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Metal bridges were added May 16 to complete the walking trail loop just north of the Aquatic park. With the finishing touches added on May 23 to the playground near the parking lot, the city is wondering what to call the park.

Naming contest underway for park

With a playground, walking trails and trees now ready to use just north of the parking lot at the Colby Aquatic Park, the city is wondering what to call the new recreation area.

The Thomas County Coalition is running a contest through next week to come up with a name for the new park. The group will take submissions from anyone with an idea for a name until 5 p.m. on Friday, June 7. Stop by the office at 460 N. Garfield Ave., by Puddle Duck Preschool, call 460-8177 or send an e-mail to tcc@st-tel.net.

Megan Carmichael, coordinator for the coalition, said members have been working on the walk-

ing trail around the park, which is why they were tasked with collecting submissions for a name.

"We will pick the top three that we like the best," she said, adding that they will take the suggestions to City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 18.

The council has been referring to the area as "South Franklin Park" during meetings, but the members decided at their last meeting that the park needs a better name.



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