



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Dr. Alan Stevens (foreground) and Rodney Zimmerman showed off the gardening around the K-State Agriculture Experiment Station (above) to a crowd brave enough to endure some rain Wednesday night. They were at the Extension's horticulture field day, where Gary Wingard helped himself to some corn (left). Earlier Zimmerman told a larger group in the station's tool shed (above) how to grow fish and vegetables in the same water.

Horticulture gets a shower

By Sam Dieter

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Colby's K-State Agriculture Experiment Station staff braved the rain Wednesday night to put on its annual Research and Extension horticulture night.

About 60 people showed up for the event, which was moved into a tool shed at the ex-

periment farm because of rains during the afternoon. Four planned presentations were narrowed down to two.

Rodney Zimmerman, groundskeeper for the farm, and Alice Hill, who lives north of Levant, started the night off with a presentation on "Aquaponics." The term combines hydroponics, growing crops with their roots in the water, and aquaculture, raising fish to eat; it means growing crops in water that

has fish living in it.

"You can make your own system work," Hill said, "you don't have to fit your thoughts into somebody else's."

Those systems could be anything from a fish tank with vegetables grown on top to a large commercial operation. Both presenters had their own systems set up and

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Parking request gets vetoed

By Heather Alwin

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The development plans for the old hospital hit a snag Monday when the Thomas County commissioners decided not to give the developers a free, exclusive parking easement on county property.

The easement would have given the developer, St. Thomas Historic Residence LLC, exclusive rights to parking on the north side of the county's office complex lot to allow the company to meet the City of Colby's requirement that each apartment have 1.5 parking spaces.

After the commissioners' last meeting, Commissioner Mike Baughn participated in a conference call with the project's architect, the company's attorney, Mayor Gary Adrian, City Manager Tyson McGreer, City Building Inspector Rick Dickman and Road and Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock.

Based on recommendations from County Attorney Kevin Berens, Baughn requested modifications to the developer's original proposal, including language designed to ensure that the existing north access road to the fairgrounds would remain open.

"Subsequent to that meeting," Baughn said, "I have been con-

tacted by constituents with concerns wondering if St. Thomas Residence LLC had ever considered any alternatives in their planning."

Baughn said his constituents offered possible alternatives like utilizing the building's ambulance entrance as parking or modifying the front yard to match the parking area in front of Peoples State Bank.

"Personally, I have no problem with the easement," Baughn said. "My constituents feel otherwise."

Commissioner Byron Sowers agreed with Baughn, saying constituents had called him to express their disagreement with the proposal.

"Why not put the parking lot on their own property?" questioned John Bremenkamp, a former commissioner who attended Monday's meeting. "It would be much better for their (residents) to go in and out."

"I think the question from our constituents is why didn't the planners consider some of these alternatives rather than cutting into county property," said Baughn.

Adrian, McGreer and Dickman attended the commissioners' meeting to argue on behalf of the developer's request.

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Welcome rain soaks Colby

A brief set of rainstorms dropped over an inch of rain here Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service.

Clouds gathered on Wednesday and the skies opened up briefly right around 3 p.m. in the afternoon, with the wet weather continuing all night and today. Measurements that the Goodland Station of the National Weather Service received within about five miles of Colby indicate 1.3 to 1.38 inches fell here. Some measurements west of town were only about half to three quarters of an

inch. K-State Northwest Research and Extension collected .58 inches in the 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. The weather service measurements end at 7 a.m.

A slight rain Tuesday night left just a trace, but more rain could be coming. This morning, the weather service predicted 60 percent chances of thunderstorms and showers today and tonight, and a 70 percent Friday, with a slight chance until Monday. Temperatures are predicted to be between the 80s and high 50s.

Parade date changes for Colby Homecoming

The Colby School District has moved the day of the Colby High School homecoming parade up two days because of state regulations.

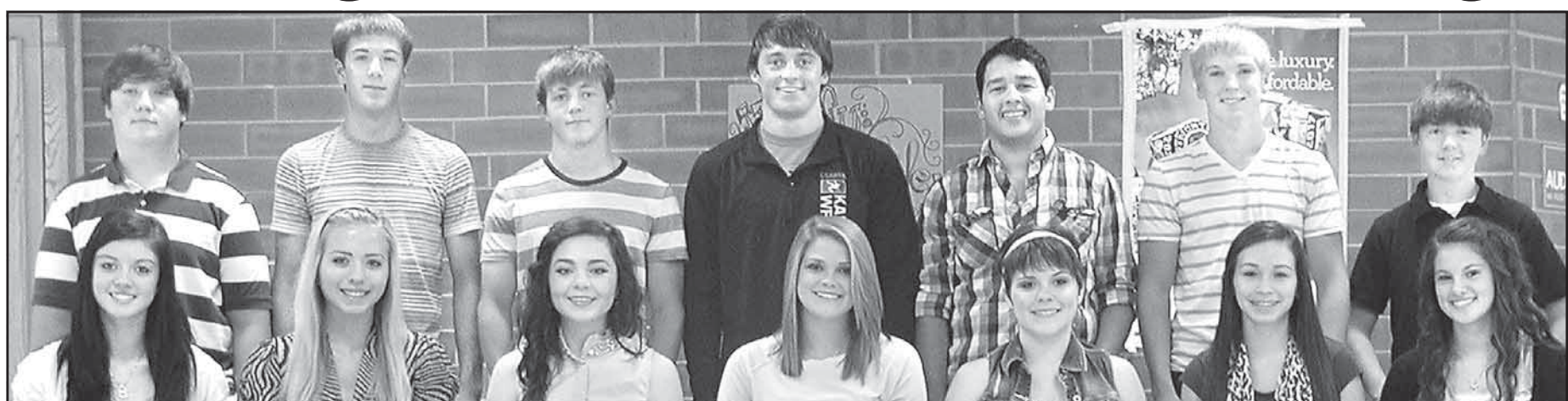
"We've had a hard time with homecoming this year," Superintendent Terrel Harrison said.

The day of the parade was moved up from Friday, Sept. 20, to Wednesday because the state counts students in all its districts on Sept. 20, Harrison said. The number of students in school that day and the length of time they are in class decides the amount of money the state sets aside for each district each year.

"We've never had anything fall on the 20th," Harrison said. "We didn't think it was going to be a problem."

When a group of administrators and counselors went to Oakley Wednesday morning to train for the state's count, they learned that the district is not allowed to change its schedule on that day. Since students need to be let out of school early to get ready for the parade, the date was changed for the second time.

Harrison said the school originally scheduled its homecoming for the second



This year's homecoming candidates stopped for a group photo this morning at Colby High School. The candidates in the back are, from left: Gage James, Michael Schiferl, Adam Giersch, Andrew Taylor, Austin Boehme, Bryce

Arnberger and Alexander Vap. The candidates in front are from left: Courtney Reilley, Karly Shull, Madison Tubbs, Madison Rogers, Cheyenne Miller, Ally Franz and Bailey Foss.

week in October, but that is the district's parent-teacher conference week. School is out Thursday afternoon and all day Friday that week.

"Two changes - we've never had this happen," she said.

Each class in the high school will deco-

rate floats on Wednesday morning from 8 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. at school. Students will have lunch and participate in some activities starting at 11:40 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m. the high school will be dismissed to prepare for the parade, which will start at Fike Park at 1:30 p.m.

and proceed to Dennen Field.

The senior jersey auction and bonfire will be on Thursday, and the cheerleaders will have a pep rally at 3 p.m. Friday at high school. The football team will take on the Ulysses Tigers at 7:30 that evening at Dennen Field.

The homecoming dance will be 8 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21. Cost is \$5 for an individual and \$8 for a couple.

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