



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Committees' task: find ways to slow decline of aquifer

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

For the next five months, two select committees, primarily made up of western Kansas officials and appointed by the Kansas Water Office, will work together to develop ideas in slowing the general decline of the Ogallala Aquifer.

Those serving on the management committee locally include Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong and First National Bank President Larry McCants, Goodland, said Al LeDoux, director of the state's water office.

The technical advisory committee from the local area includes Wayne

Bossert, manager of Groundwater Management District No. 4 in Colby, Lou Hines, Western Sprinkler Irrigation, Colby, and Keith Karnes, crop manager, Oakley.

"Both the management committee and technical committee will meet jointly from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23 at the Quartejejo Museum in Scott City," LeDoux said.

"The management committee is made up exclusively of western Kansans whose livelihoods are directly affected by what happens to the Ogallala," he said.

In explaining the role of the management committee, LeDoux said their

purpose will be in exploring a lot of management ideas, with emphasis on what's practical and in the best long-term interest of western Kansans and the state as a whole.

Local committee members said they will be open to any ideas that might seem far out, but in 50 years from now could be acted on.

Members of the technical committee will include many western Kansans, LeDoux said, with expertise in the geology, hydrology and hydraulics of the Ogallala Aquifer and Kansas water laws. The creation of the two committees, LeDoux said, came as a direct result of more than 50 meetings

across the state on the proposed two-pool water concept.

"We learned from the more than 50 meetings we conducted on this proposed concept that everyone needs to be on the same page when it comes to data," LeDoux said adding that information, even though it is statistically correct and defensible, has to be balanced with localized facts and figures that are equally correct.

The proposed concept was one idea that served as a starting point for discussion many months back, he said. It was an outgrowth of the 1999 Kansas Legislature's passage directing the Kansas Water Authority to assess

Ogallala Aquifer groundwater resources and competing needs for water. At that time, scientists completing the report for the legislature projected that parts of the Ogallala, given past water decline trends, could lack sufficient water to support irrigation and other large volume pumping within 25 years.

"The two-pool concept addresses the rate of groundwater depletion, provides time for transition to reduced use, protects some groundwater for future generations and matches management decisions to local aquifer conditions," LeDoux said. The meeting is open to the public with committee members re-

sponsible for evaluating aquifer management ideas to meet not only today's needs, but assure there is water for the future, LeDoux said.

Committee members encourage citizens to make recommendations or offer input when they attend the meeting in Scott City.

Results of the committees' work will be submitted to state's water office in November, who will then determine whether the recommended approach should be developed into a plan and considered by the public through the state's water planning process. For information or questions, call LeDoux at (785) 296-3185.

### Beach Blast



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Puddle Duck preschool teacher Wanda Spreser got into the spirit with Teryn Haremza at the school's Beach Blast on Wednesday. In addition to the garden hose, students, parents and teachers beat the heat with squirt guns, a wading pool, and water games.

## Applied science degrees awarded at commencement

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Many of the degrees awarded at the Colby Community College graduation on Saturday were not traditional degrees.

The associates in applied science degree program is for medical and other specialized training, according to Deb Schwanke, public information director at the college.

Schwanke said the majority of the applied science degrees awarded were in nursing, however emergency medical technicians, dental hygienists and some agricultural and business programs offer the option.

Grace Melvin, dean of instruction, said there are 12 programs currently offering applied science degrees. "They have about a 3/4-1/4 split between core courses and general education."

Traditional degree programs tend to be closer to half for each.

Here are recipients of this degree:

Associate in Applied Science from Colby — Kyle Anderson, Shelly Barton, Janice Boltjes, Janeth Borges, Tricia Carney, Melinda Cheney, Matthew Eggleston, Frederick Farr, Jessica Gaede, Lisa Johnson, Catherine Lang, Cary Migchelbrink, Tammy Mintler, Jessica Ploutz, Lenay Rundel, Darrell Surmeier, Kinsey Tipton, Kathy Tomlinson, Shane Van Eaton.

From Levant — Garrah Wederski.

From Selden — Parvis Gassanov, Michael Schlitz.

From Kansas — Tera Beyshek, Amanda Stegeman, Johnathan Stephens, Jane Waterman, Tiffany Daigh, Andrea Loewen, Kelly Cook, Amanda Holloway, Brandi Emmot, Ryan Duskie, Brady Schoen, Jolene Fraley, Christopher Demel, Angela Knipp, Audrey Schwartz, Kristal Yost, Theresa Klunk, Amanda Kuhn, Jennifer Panzer, Seth Fox, and Aubrey Lehmann.

Other Kansas graduates were: Susanne Allaman, Diane Baker, Jessica Bauer, Alicia Baumfalk, Mark Beims, Jerrod Burk, Erin Carter, Keith Darnall, Cody Freekan, Stephanie Fries, Brandon Hall, Manuela Hernandez, Lisa House, Kevin Humrich, Sebryna Hunt, Travis Jeffries, Timothy Kirschner, Rebecca Koel, Valeriano Luera III, Dallas Minnick, Karen Mitchek, Robert Moore, Cody, Oliver, Chrstina Paintin, Shavaun Phillips, Austin Pullins, Penny Pullins, Marie Sandoval, Tara Schultz, Dana Sitton, Jandir Smith, Justin Smith Danelle Stasser, Amanda Swager, Levi Turner, Sandy Vasquez, Jared Scheck, Tessa

Roemer, Karen rust, Eric Cersovsky, Jordan Basgall, Stuart Smith, Justin Thummel, Shannon Whitney, Kari Burnett, Chesea West, Elisabeth Rall, Meghann Rae Schamberger, Tony Fleckenstein, Brad Howland, Gary Baker, and Wesley James.

In addition, Jennifer Rosebrook, Chad Baker, Wade Becker, Brandon Elliott, Justin McElroy, Zachary Wesley, Darlene Koster, Tenille LEE, Tracy Goetz, Chrsitan Scheetz, Connie Thiele, Jamie Dirk, Leo Fitzmarice, Mark Hutchens, Michele Railsback, Ryan Roberts Dustin Robison, Rebecca Smith, Lori Williams, Jason Witt, Jamace Asbridge, Amanda Howard, Rudy Maier, Timothy Thornton, Christopher Wassemiller, Brdley Zerr, Valerie Vartels, Robin Hansen, Nancy Vath, Cameron Williby, Diane Holle, Malea Henke, Claton Rudman, Michelle Boese, Tracy Kinderknecht, Gina Mendicki, Joyce Bunch, Robert Bunch, Shanann Little, Kayla Ehling, Angela Byington, Melissa McCormack, Lori Drehbiel, Una Richmeier, Erin Josefiak, Alyssa Hunter, Angela Blickenstaff, Andrew Kuhlmann, Sara Houtman, Tyler Krieen, Jed Leibbrandt, Debra Ptoer, Eircka Wieck, Daneelle Rae Favinger, Christy Zimmer, Jeanine Thompson, Vickie Nolan, Amanda Lane, Travis Dinges, Scott Wellbrock, Sheila Desbien, Rosanna Lock, Greg Stohs, Amy Jerome, Justin Brin were Kansas graduates.

For Colorado — Jarrod Gallentine, Jeffrey Dean Bernard, Jr., Phillip Helm, Kathie Hollowell, Kimberly Adolf, Shawna Wisdom.

From Nebraska — Steven Moulton, Kimberlee Brooks, Paulett Sell, Jessica Waldmeier, Jared Stamm, Maxx Hanna, Patrick Harding, Marc Rasmussen, Katy Hromas, Larry Stagemeyer, Kyle Schoff, Nicole Hofstetter, Roger Kohmetscher, Russell Kohmetscher, Luke Bortner, Danielle Dueland, Teresa Holthaus.

One-year certificates from Colby — Kara Bartlett, Kandilyn Brooks, Nichole Feldt, Erica Laevenstein, Sheila Mason, Christine Suto.

From Gem — Misty Falco.

From Kansas — Jennie Moore, Renee Horinek, Tracy Swayne, Melisa Albin, Sarah Gutchewsky, Marily Der-ringer, Therese Newman, Kayla Bonner, Michelle Dellenbaugh, Christian Triplett, Nancy Carlton, Crystal Fischer, Area Irven, Noel Tier, Nicolle Vance, Nancy Binkey, Suzanne Jones, Misty Mead, Robin Anderson, Melissa Boyle, Lisa Barnett, Michelle Crocker. From Nebraska — Nicole Fanning.

## It's official

### Community foundation's sign goes up on Range

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Community Foundation's new digs are advertised now. The foundation has been in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, since January, but difficulties with scheduling prevented a new sign until Wednesday, according to board member Rick Dickman.

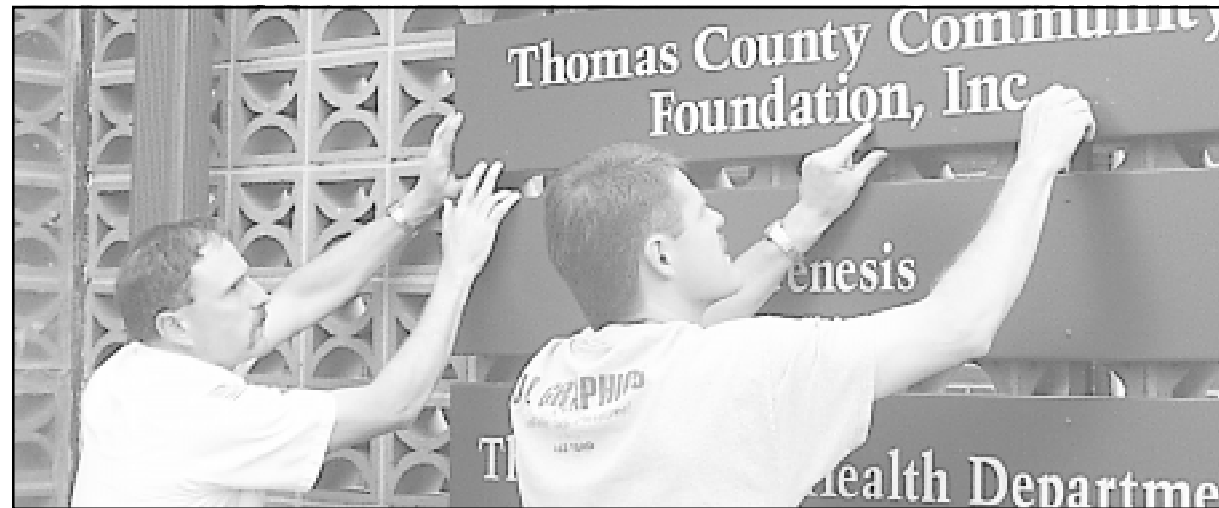
The sign was installed by Jeff Wagoner Wednesday afternoon, with board members looking on.

The foundation was organized with a view toward an inclusive, county-wide organization to help meet community needs, according to board president Cindy Black.

"Our motto is 'Forever Betterment,'" said Dickman. "We want to live up to that."

The foundation started with grants from the Kansas Health Foundation, including a \$300,000 matching grant to help pay for administrative and set up costs.

Community foundation board members pointed out they are not simply a



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Thomas County Community Foundation board member Rick Dickman steadied the foundation's new sign as Jeff Wagoner installed it at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, on Wednesday.

health foundation, however. They said the foundation will not be project driven. Instead, the money will be used as the community sees fit.

"Arts, historic preservation, new facilities and events are just a partial

list of things grants can be used for," said board member Cathy Harrison. "The money will stay in the county."

Board members are continuing a county-wide recruitment drive for donors and people who want to be active

in "making Thomas County a better place to live."

Anyone wishing to contact the foundation may call their office at 462-9152 or mail donations to P.O. Box 174, Colby, Kan. 67701.

## Briefly

### Weather: Just about right

Temperatures in the 70s and thunderstorms make up the Colby region forecast through the weekend. Tonight, cloudy, 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, low in the middle to upper 40s and northeast winds 10-20 mph. Friday, partly sunny, 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, high in the 70s and east winds 5-15 mph. Friday night, cloudy, 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, low around 55 and southerly winds 10-20 mph. Saturday and Sunday, thunderstorms, high 75-80 and low near 55. Wednesday's high in Colby was 89 and the overnight low this morning was 60. There was no additional precipitation, leaving the month's total at 2.32 inches.

The spoil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 78 degrees. The records for May 17: 102 in 1927 (the hot-

test May 17 on record in Colby) and 29 in 1976.

(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Landfill taking holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed Sunday and Monday, May 27-28, for Memorial Day weekend. However, it will be open on Saturday, May 26, according to Larry Jumper, landfill director.

### College board sets meeting

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the board room of the Thomas Hall Administration Building.

The agenda includes a program review, consider bus bids, medical insurance, review the comments received at the student-trustee dinner, pay bills, and resignations. They will also consider a swim club request to use the pool, discuss negotiations, and any other item any member may want to discuss. The meeting is open to the public.

### Crumbaker condition upgraded

Paxton Crumbaker of Brewster has been upgraded to serious but stable condition at Swedish Medical Center in Denver after a car-semi collision Saturday morning sent him and his passenger to the Logan County Hospital. Crumbaker, 20, was transferred to the Denver hospital in serious condition after he crossed the centerline and struck the trailer wheels of a semi, according to the Kansas High-

way Patrol.

His passenger, 19-year-old Sarah Heier, Colby, was treated and released at the Logan County Hospital. The driver of the semi, 29-year-old Mitchell Flinn of Oakley, was not injured. The accident occurred on U.S. 83 just south of Oakley.

### Choir concert tonight

The Colby High School Choir Concert will be today beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

### Middle school band to perform

The Colby Middle School band concert is planned for Tuesday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby High School auditorium. Everyone is invited.

