



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Park party



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Mild temperatures brought a nice size crowd to Fike Park in Colby on Thursday to hear Shawna Eberle at the second picnic in the park of the season. The picnics will feature area entertainers on Thursdays at noon through July 26.

## Colby man flown to Denver following grain bin accident

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

A farm accident west of Colby sent 21-year-old J.R. Mattson to Swedish Hospital in Denver in critical condition Thursday night.

Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore said Mattson, of Colby, was part of a work crew repairing a grain bin at 1274 U.S. 24, near Levant, when he fell into the bin.

Although McLemore said he wasn't sure how far Mattson fell, he described the injuries as serious.

Access to the bin was made more difficult by a panel that had been welded shut. Co-workers attempted to cut it open with a torch, but had to abandon the attempt because of the danger from sparks.

Colby Fire Department rescue squad members used hydraulic tools to pry open the hatch, and gain access for Thomas County Emergency Medical Services personnel.

"It was pretty straightforward after we got the hatch open," McLemore said. Mattson was transported by Thomas County ambulance to Citizens Medical Center and was later flown to the Denver hospital, where he is listed in critical condition.

McLemore also had high praise for two Marine recruiters who were at the scene recruiting.

"Sgt. Ross and S/Sgt. Jensen were both level-headed and a lot of help," he said. Ross and Jensen also helped out at the scene of a one-car rollover north of Colby on Tuesday.

"I'd like to find out who their commander is and tell him," said McLemore.

Thomas County Sheriff and Kansas Highway Patrol also assisted in the accident.

Officials at Swedish Hospital earlier today said Mattson was still in the intensive care unit and his condition was unchanged.

## More fair plans announced following board's meeting Thursday

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

An item of food for the Genesis Food Bank will be the price of admission to Family Night at the Thomas County Free Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 1.

The fair board decided at their Thursday night meeting to continue the practice which was initiated last year. Any nonperishable item, canned goods, paper products, beans, rice, and such, is suitable, as long as it has not been opened.

The first two nights of the fair, July 30-31, will be rodeo.

Wednesday night will be Family Night; Thursday night, Aug. 2, will be the Demolition Derby put on the Lions Club, and Friday night Aug. 3, will be races.

Activities at the fair on Wednesday will include an antique tractor show and shine from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; station-

ary engine display from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. (or later), with awards given for best of show, oldest tractor, people's choice, and others.

The free barbecue sponsored by Farmers and Merchants Bank will be at 5:30 p.m.; and the antique tractor pull will be at 7 p.m. Registration is from noon until pull time. Nancy Rundel is correlating activities.

In other business:

•Trudy Wildeman told the board the Rodeo Queen and Princess Pageant will be Friday, July 27, and she hopes to use the small arena.

She has purchased the saddle, which will be awarded to the rodeo queen, and it is on display at Sunflower Bank at this time.

She said she had inquires from girls from different areas of the state who are interested in participating in the contest, and asked the board what area to

include.

The board said they wanted girls who will be available to represent the county at different area events, and decided to limit participation to the area of the state from Hays on west, south and north to the borders of the state.

Wildeman said the Thomas County Queen and Princess, Vickie Cheney and Amy Wilson, were chosen queen and princess at the Beef Empire Days PRCA Rodeo in Garden City. Cheney won the horsemanship, speech, and modeling categories.

•Rosalie Seemann will be the grand marshal for the fair parade, which will be Tuesday of the fair.

The theme is *Generations — Looking into the New Millennium*.

•John Anderson said plans were on schedule for the free barbecue Wednesday night at the fair.

He said they served 3,200 people last year and expected about the same this year. He will cook 3,000 pounds of meat.

Brent Wiedeman of Farmers and Merchants Bank said the bank is planning to sponsor the barbecue, and will provide 1,500 cups with logo and Pepsi Cola will donate the rest.

Bank employees will help with the barbecue, and donate \$1,000 to help with the cost of the meal and free watermelon.

The fair board accepted his proposal.

•Extension Agent Dennis Chandler said the fair books are available at the Extension office.

Most of the 4-Hers have picked up their fair packets. The entry cards have been redesigned.

Solomon Valley 4-H Club is looking for a project to help with the fair.

•Nancy Rundel volunteered to type the 2002 budget to be presented to the county commissioners.

•David Pabst said the 4-H Horse Club is going to paint the arena.

He said the new bathrooms had been fixed, but some maintenance was needed on the old bathroom.

The members will get together to work on it.

•Gary Garrett said he has the posters for the rodeo. It will be at 8 p.m. on July 30 and 31. He asked members to distribute posters. Justin McKee will be the announcer again.

He said he would like some reminder of Albert Garrett who died during the year, and had been instrumental in getting rodeo started in the county.

•The board discussed the fact that they do not have a carnival.

They said it would be nice to have some local group start a home-owned

carnival such as some of the neighboring counties have.

Laura Cook, secretary, said she had received inquires from local groups wanting to set up booths with games for children.

The board said that sounded good, and Nancy Rundel suggested having some local entertainment.

•The board considered downsizing the number of law enforcement officers on the grounds, because of not having the carnival.

•They voted to have ticket prices the same as last year — \$8 for adults and \$4 for children every night except for the races which will be \$10 and \$5.

•The board elected Mark Anderson as vice-president.

Anderson replaces Mark Miller who advanced to president due to the death of David Keller.

•Bills were paid.

## Great Race stop here to feature Navy Band

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

The Great Race is coming to Colby again, and Leilani Thomas said she is excited about having the group in Colby for a second time on June 23.

"The called us and said they enjoyed their visit in 1998," she said. "We are on their route and they wanted to stop

again."

The Great Race is an annual precision-racing event. The course is already pre-run and an optimum time is set. Racers are scored on how close they come to the set time for each leg.

There is one catch, according to sponsors. All racers run in pre-1960 cars. Many of the racers are also "vin-

tage" and most own their own cars.

Colby will be a luncheon and fuel stop for the race.

Thomas said the show will kick off at 11:15 a.m. with the U.S. Navy Band and a ceremony including awards for local dignitaries and a resource library donation to the Pioneer Memorial Library.

Thomas is also looking for hosts for the drivers and navigators. Hosts will attend a luncheon catered by Dillons with their driver.

Cost is \$30 and they are available on a first come first serve basis.

Anyone interested can call Thomas at 462-3401 or visit the bureau office at 350 S. Range.

## Wheat harvest mostly good in southern Kansas

By ROXANA HEGEMAN

Associated Press Writer

ANTHONY (AP) — Heavy-laden grain trucks rumble through this small southern Kansas town this time of year as they have for decades during wheat harvest. But this year, there are fewer acres to harvest.

The wheat cut during the first week of harvest has high yields and is of good quality, which has heartened farmers.

"It is yielding better than I expected — and parts of it will be as poor as I expected," said farmer Butch McCray, who has let his cattle graze off his poorest acres.

He is debating whether to harvest some fields or just collect the crop insurance on them.

The Anthony Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company — which owns the nine elevators in the area — said it has taken in 1 million bushels of wheat

with yields of between 32 and 60 bushels per acre so far.

**It's (the wheat) yielding better than I expected — and parts of it will be as poor as expected.**

Butch McCray,  
farmer in Anthony

Last year, the company took in a total of 5 million bushels of wheat in this region. The elevator expects to take in 75 percent of that amount this season — and anticipates harvest to be mostly in the Anthony area next week if it does not rain, Co-op manager Dan Cashier said.

At the northern edge of town, the custom harvesters have set up a crowded camp at the local trailer park. They come here year after year following the wheat harvest northward from Texas to the Canadian border. Most of them cut for the same farmers each year. If they are lucky, they can pick up extra cutting jobs along the way to help pay high fuel bills.

But this year, they are not finding that extra work, said Connie Cox, coordinator of the state harvest office in Anthony. Two or three crews are still looking for wheat to cut.

Nearly all the wheat in the area is ready for cutting, she said.

"Everybody seems very laid back right now," Cox said. "The anticipation of getting harvest started and the urgency of getting wheat cut doesn't seem to be in the air."

Custom harvester Roger Benyshek of Golden, Colo., runs a single combine following the harvest from Kansas to North Dakota. He decided not to even try to cut in Oklahoma after hearing of the poor crops down there.

Benyshek has been scrambling to find cutting jobs after his main customer in Kansas decided last fall it was not worth taking a chance planting wheat during a drought. This spring, that same farmer opted to not to plant anything.

What wheat Benyshek has cut — mostly around the Danville area — has been good.

## Fathers let Father's Day wishes be known to all

Public officials in Colby and Thomas County were asked what special thing they wanted for Father's Day this year by various staff members at the *Colby Free Press*. The following were some of those responses:

Colby City Council members had several wishes, some light-hearted and some more serious, for Father's Day.

They included:

•Darrel Follis had a more serious request. "One of our sons has an incurable kidney disease," he said. "We are hoping for a kidney transplant."

•Mayor Warren Hixson said he was satisfied, but would like a new industry to come to Colby.

•Francis Britton said he would be happy if the kids came home for a visit.

•John Bremenkamp said, "I'd like to be 30 years younger!" He added that he would like to know then what he knows now.

•Ken Bieber said he would be satisfied with a visit from his grandchildren.

•Eugene Wieland, who has children still at home, said "Peace and quiet!"

•Bill Keck joked, "That's a hard question for a man who has everything!"

•Herb Sunderman said his greatest wish was to have the kids home.

•Mark Beringer, whose son and daughter-in-law are expecting, said, "To have a healthy grandbaby."

The Thomas County Commissioners, Ron Evans, Glen Kersenbrock, and Duane Dawes, say for Father's Day they would like someone else to take over the landfill — jokingly. On a more serious note, however, they said the county is doing its best with the landfill, and hope it works out.

Another Father's Day wish they had was for a safe and prosperous wheat harvest which will benefit everyone in Thomas County.

"I would just like to have the day off to do whatever I want to," said Colby School Board President Stan Molstad.

Gerry Fulwider, executive director of the Thomas County Colby Chamber of Commerce and director of Thomas Economic Development, said his wish involved his son. "I would like Curtis to let me win for once playing video games, but not tell me he is letting me win."

## Briefly

### Weather: Warm

The weekend weather outlook for the Colby region calls for partly cloudy skies, warm temperatures and little, if any, precipitation. Tonight, clear, low 50-55 and light winds. Saturday, partly cloudy, high middle 80s to around 90 and northeast winds 5-15 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy, low in the upper 50s. Sunday and Monday, thunderstorms likely Sunday with the high in the lower 90s, and dry Monday with the low 55-65 and the high in the 90s. Thursday's high in Colby was 77 and the overnight low this morning was 44. There was no additional precipitation, leaving the month's total at 0.09 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-

inch depth is averaging 74 degrees. The records for June 15: 109 in 1946 and 35 in 1989. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### College board to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Thomas Hall Administration Building. They will discuss an Internet access agreement with Southwestern Bell, and contract/salary consideration for non-unit employees. They will be updated on resignations, pay bills, and discuss any other

item any member wishes to discuss. The meeting is open to the public.

### Landfill hours noted

Thomas County landfill hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. The landfill will have more compost to give away in about three weeks.

### Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 1 p.m. Monday in the commissioners room of the courthouse.

Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, will discuss personnel operations at 1 p.m.; Dennis Chandler, Thomas County Extension Agent, will bring the annual budget request at 1:30; Nina Carpenter will give the Thomas County ADAC budget request at 2; and Randy Dick, of Kaw Valley Insurance will give a health insurance proposal at 2:30 p.m.

### Taxes due next week

Thomas County Treasurer Donita Applebury said today that the second half of the 2000 property taxes are due in the treasurer's office by Wednesday, June 20. For information or questions, call 462-4520.

