



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Blood drive scheduled here in July

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby will host its third blood drive of the year next month at the American Legion, 1850 W. 4th, according to Donna Finley, executive director of the Thomas County Red Cross.

"The drive is planned for Thursday, July 26, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.," she said, "and those wanting to schedule an appointment can do so by calling me at 462-7161."

Area blood drives, she said, are vital to our region in that a minimum of 400 donors are needed each week to meet the needs of local hospitals.

In order to give blood, Finley said, a person must be in generally good health, at least 17 years of age and weigh 110 pounds or more.

"The Red Cross hopes that people will consider taking time out of their busy schedules to donate blood," she said.

"Your donation could help three different patients and with medical advancements constantly increasing, the need for blood is even greater than before."

In addition, blood is needed for patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other blood diseases, along with accident victims or people undergoing surgery.

"Together we can all save lives by planning to take part in this lifesaving effort," Finley said today.

## Wheat harvest underway



Harvesters for Frahm Farmlands were loading wheat near Levant Thursday night. The wheat harvest is expected to be in full swing in Thomas and surrounding counties during the weekend. Varying re-

ports on the crop are being received and some producers are wanting to cut a few more acres before giving an assessment. Roger Hale at the Harvest Office said he too anticipates things picking up Saturday.

JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

## College has full agenda

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

A full agenda awaits the Colby Community College Board of Trustees when they meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room of Thomas Hall.

Preparations will be made for the new fiscal year by electing officers, electing a representative to the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, and electing an ex-officio member to the Endowment Association.

They trustees will also approve depositories and authorized signatures for money; approve a lease agreement with Norton County Hospital for space for the nursing program; and approve a retainer for legal services. They will also approve transfer of balances of the Employee Benefit fund and Insurance fund. The trustees will discuss the budget and capital outlay, review paper bids, and review financing proposals for lease purchase of a bus.

Renaming of the agriculture building for a benefactor is also on the agenda. They will approve final payment of claims for the 2000-01 fiscal year, and consider a resignation, as well as negotiations.

This, and all meetings of the board of trustees, is open to the public.

## Inspectors say the wheat quality better than average

ELLSWORTH (AP) — Elevator manager Alan Doubrava knew this year's wheat was not going to be a bumper crop, but nobody in these parts expected things would be as bad as the experts were predicting.

On Thursday, the Kansas Grain Inspection Service and Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service issued their first wheat quality report, using data from 720 carlot samples taken from 28 counties.

The result is the first official confirmation of what elevator managers such as Doubrava and many others across the state have been saying since the Kansas wheat harvest began.

Early sampling shows that not only is the average test weight of 60.5 pounds per bushel higher than last year, but it is even slightly better than the 10-year average, the report showed.

Last year's crop averaged 59.9 pounds per bushel, and the average is 60.1 pounds per bushel, KASS said.

By nearly every yardstick used to measure the quality of this year's crop — at least what was left of it

after widespread abandonment — it is as good, if not better, than last year's crop.

Government estimates are that about 1 million acres of wheat were abandoned in Kansas this year.

Protein levels so far averaged 11.9 percent, the same as last year and only slightly below the 12.1 percent average.

In both southeast and southwest Kansas, about 72 percent of the crop sampled graded as No. 1 wheat.

Meanwhile, wheat harvest is nearing completion throughout much of Kansas.

About 85 percent of the crop has now been cut in Dodge City, 90 percent in Great Bend, 95 percent in Lyons and almost 75 percent in Liberal, according to state harvest offices.

Harvest is also progressing rapidly in other areas, with 45 percent cut in Garden City and 40 percent in Tribune.

Harvest is just getting underway in Colby, and should be in full swing by the weekend.

About 15 percent has been cut in Goodland.

## Contractor awareness program held here

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Contractors, public officials and equipment operators gathered in Colby earlier this week as a reminder to dig safely when working near underground lines.

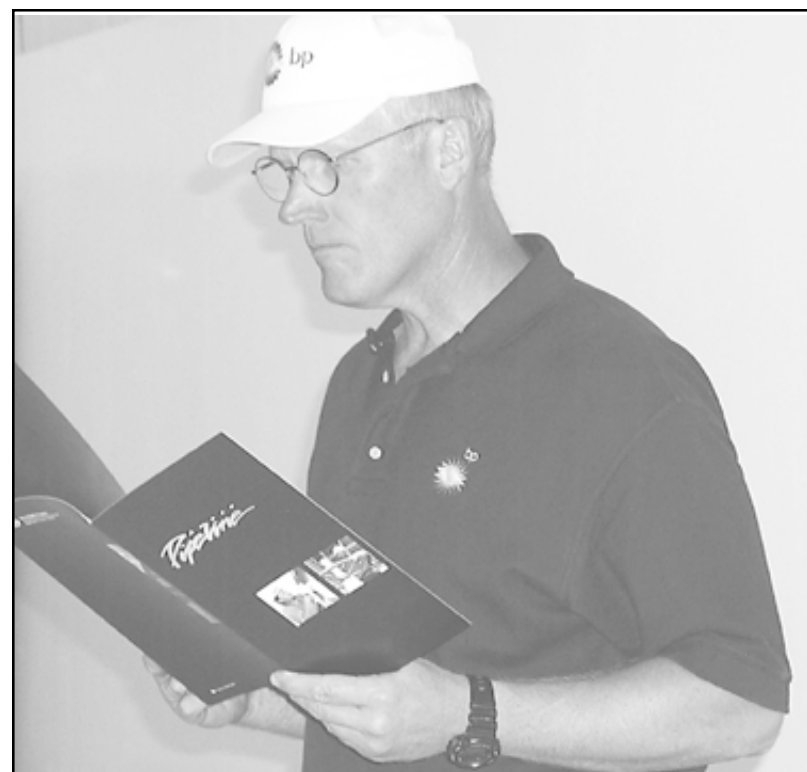
The program, which was held at the 4-H Building, was sponsored locally by Midwest Energy, Inc., Williams Gas Pipeline-South Central, and British Pipelines, formerly Amoco, with the Pipeline Group based in Midland, Texas, in charge of arrangements and the presentation.

"The main purpose of these annual meetings," said Robert Bruton with Pipeline Group, "is to emphasize the importance of calling 'Kansas One-Call,' before digging."

In addition, anyone who does excavation or digging needs to understand that it's the law, he said.

Bruton reviewed the successes of Kansas One-Call, located in Wichita, by noting that the program first started in 1980 as "Can-U-Dig-It," which was changed four years later in 1984 to its current name.

"Within the first year, the organization grew from four members to 90 members and legislation was passed in 1993 that designated a single notification center and required that all underground facilities, systems or structures



Greg Blanton, field specialist with bp Pipeline Company in Colby, and Louie Gilmore (not pictured) were among the sponsors.

of gas, electricity, communications, crude oil, petroleum products be members of the organization," he said.

By the end of 1993, the organization's membership had grown to 251 and today stands at more than

580 members. During the meeting, Bruton also discussed the different types of products that contractors can run into when digging and showed a variety of warning signs associated with certain types of pipelines.

"We want people to be familiar with various signs and types of products that could be underground so that we can avoid explosions and save lives," Bruton said.

Color codes were also discussed for locating utility lines. Red codes indicate electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables; yellow would indicate gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials; blue codes are for water, irrigation and slurry lines; orange for communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit including cable television and white for proposed excavation.

Kansas is one of 13 states where this type of program is held annually, Bruton said, but each year additional states are joining. The toll free number at the Kansas One-Call center is 800-244-7233.

"These programs have proven to be efficient and effective tools that allow companies to work together in achieving the required compliance goals by the federal government," he said.

More than 40 people from around the area attended the public education and contractor awareness program.

Sponsoring companies were also available to answer questions, distribute brochures and discuss their pipeline and underground utilities in the area.

## Family grows tired as hostage crisis continues

ROSEHILL (AP) — The parents of missionary Martin Burnham, kidnapped along with his wife more than a month ago, said their own exhaustion during the ordeal must pale with what their son and daughter-in-law are enduring during their captivity in the Philippines.

"It's been tiring. We don't get a lot of sleep," Oreta Burnham said Wednesday. "But you can only imagine how exhausted Martin and Gracia are."

Martin and Gracia Burnham were abducted on May 27, taken by Muslim rebels from a resort where they had gone to celebrate their anniversary.

When they first heard the news, Oreta Burnham and her husband, Paul, thought only that they were in for a frightening few days.

The Philippine military was already closing in on the Muslim rebel abductors, and the mission headquarters was working for a quick release.

It still hasn't come.

Accounts from other hostages who escaped or have been released have given Paul and Oreta Burnham a vague idea of what Martin and Gracia Burnham are going through.

As the heavily armed rebels and the Philippine military play cat-and-mouse through thick, mosquito-infested jungles, the hostages are forced to walk long hours — often at night — through rough terrain.

Both Martin and Gracia Burnham are rumored to be suffering from ma-

laria, a disease that induces high fever and chills.

The rebels say they have killed several hostages — two bodies were found this week — and the group claims to have beheaded the only other American hostage, Guillermo Sobero of California. His death has not been confirmed.

Just this week, a leader of the group called a radio station and threatened to harm Martin Burnham specifically.

That would be a tough environment



## Thumbs Up!



- ✓ Gary Walker and Cindi Kriss — for your service to the school board.
  - ✓ Bruce Lindskog and Linda Orth — good luck in your new assignments.
  - ✓ Mary Oard — 2001 Harvest Countdown \$100 winner.
  - ✓ Brian Horney — Thomas County's newest Kansas Highway Patrolman.
  - ✓ Karen Davis — on your selection to attend the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, and sharing your experiences with Free Press readers.
  - ✓ Prairie Heritage Day and Great Race committees — on a super job!
- (Please call us at 462-3963 to have an individual or group mentioned in this weekly salute. The birthday greetings are in the My Turn column on page 2.)

## Briefly

### Weather: No change

No change is seen in Colby's weather picture now through Monday, according to the forecast issued at 11 a.m. today by the National Weather Service. For tonight, clear skies will bring temperatures of 60-65 and winds out of the south will register 5-15 mph. Saturday, all sun, high 90-95 and south winds 10-20 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms and temperatures 60-65. Sunday and Monday, lows in the lower 60s and highs 90-95. Thursday's high in Colby was 99 and the overnight low this morning was 61. There was no precipitation, leaving the month's total at 0.41 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 87 degrees. The records for

June 29: 106 in 1970 and 44 in 1908. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Colby sirens to sound

The city of Colby is planning to test the tornado siren warning system, weather permitting on Monday and Tuesday as part of work being done on the dispatch communications system, according to technology director Mike Albers. The tests will be at random during the day.

### Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet Monday

at 1 p.m. in the commissioners room of the courthouse. The first item will be discussing an overlay on the courthouse parking lot with Charles Schwanke; Sandy Swob will discuss household Hazardous Waste issues at 1:30; Larry Jumper, landfill director, will report on his meeting with KDHE at 2; and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator John Lygeros will discuss a siren at 3.

### Landfill, offices to close

The Thomas County landfill will be closed on July 4th, according to Larry Jumper, supervisor. All county offices will also be closed, according to Thomas County Clerk Tracey Perkins.

### Pool to close early on Fourth

The Colby Municipal Swimming Pool will close at 4 p.m. on the Fourth of July, according to pool officials. The pool will reopen at its regular times on Thursday. In addition, swimming lessons on the Fourth will be canceled and make-ups will be done Friday, July 6 at the same times.

### No Free Press July 4th

The Colby Free Press will not publish a newspaper on the July 4th holiday. Employees will be given the day off to spend with family and friends. "Normal operations will resume at 8 a.m. Thursday, July 5 — whatever normal is in newspapering," said Tom (TD) Dreiling, publisher.

