



COLBY FREE PRESS

Booths, games, activities encouraged

Absence of carnival brings plea from fair board

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Fair Board is inviting groups, individuals and organizations to participate in the fair by bringing booths, games and activities. In the absence of a carnival this year, the board is hoping local service organizations and other groups will provide activities for people of all ages who would normally attend the carnival.

This is an opportunity for a fund-raiser for

an individual or an organization, while providing a service to the community, according to board president, Mark Miller. He hopes there will be something to appeal to all ages. While there is normally a charge for booth space, inside and out, there will be no charge for the outside gaming area.

Those interested should contact Laura Cook, board secretary, at 462-6961 after Monday, to reserve space and receive approval for their activity. Inside booth space is reserved on a

'first-come' basis. The board did not know if there were any inside spaces still available.

The board had been considering having another activity to replace the carnival, but plans jelled when Gene Sicard said he wanted a booth for fund-raising for the American Youth Soccer Organization. He asked if he could have two outside booths in addition to one inside. David Pabst said the board wants to encourage people to have game booths for kids, and told Sicard to contact Cook on Monday. She will collect

requests and the board will plan the layout by fair time. 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.

Those attending the Wednesday's Family Night are asked to bring a donation for Genesis. Any nonperishable item, canned goods, paper products, beans, rice, and such, is suitable, as long as it has not been opened.

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

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JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Ed Guy polished his latest pride and joy, a model train in his front yard. Guy has finished the tracks, but still has a few more things to do.

Colby man's hobby is building trains

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Ed Guy likes to work with his hands and that has resulted in several projects for the owner of Central Radiator Services, Colby. The latest one is a model train in his front yard.

When asked about the scale, Guy said the train in his front yard at 1745 Harvey was "Ed Scale"

"G scale is normal garden scale,

but this is a little bigger than that," said Guy.

Guy started the project last winter, using various scrap materials laying around the shop. Projects like this aren't new to him. On his front porch are bird feeders in the shape of a house and a church building.

"I used sandpaper for shingles, and I have to replace it with balsa," he said. "I'd work on it about an hour or so

each night before I went home," he said. The bell came from a decoration his wife had and the track spikes are square nails.

"About everything was something I found that almost fit," he said.

"I spent more time thinking about what I could use than actually building."

Guy even made the springs for the coal car. He made the track ties out of

an old pallet.

Although children like the model, it doesn't move. "I made the wheels solid so it couldn't be moved," he said.

The display isn't done either. Guy is working on a tanker car right now and has a gondola, a train station and a caboose in the works.

"You've got to have a caboose," he said.

Marshals directed to protect abortion clinics on Saturday

WICHITA (AP) — Attorney General John Ashcroft's decision to provide U.S. Marshals to help protect abortion clinics in Wichita is another sign that the country has caved into the abortion industry, a leading anti-abortion activist said.

Ashcroft on Thursday directed the U.S. Marshals Service to come up with a plan to help Wichita police provide security during a week of protests, which start Saturday.

The reprise of the 1991 "summer of mercy" protests, which resulted in 2,700 arrests, begins Saturday.

The marshals' plan calls for several deputy marshals from outside Kansas to be available to protect clinics if necessary.

"It takes a village to kill a child," said the Rev. Flip Benham, director of Operation Save America, which is coordinating the protests. "What we're seeing is the federal marshals, the government, hospitals all covering up for the abortionists and botched abortions.

"The churches are remaining silent. ... The whole nation is guilty and this is further evidence."

Ashcroft's announcement followed complaints from abortion rights groups that the attorney general, who opposes abortion, wasn't doing enough to protect clinics from violence. A 1994 federal law prohibits anyone from blocking entrances or damaging clinics.

Hundreds of people are expected in Wichita for a week of events sponsored by Operation Save America, including demonstrations at the abortion clinic of Dr. George Tiller.

Tiller has been a target of protests for the past decade and was shot five times by an anti-abortion activist in 1993.

Marshals are providing door-to-door protection for Tiller, said Justice Department spokesman Mindy Tucker.

At a news conference Thursday in Washington, abortion rights activists urged Ashcroft to take action against anti-abortion terrorist threats.

"This administration needs to send a clear signal that violence will not be tolerated and terrorists will be brought to justice and that signal must be sent now," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Calls to abortion rights supporters in Wichita on Thursday were not returned.

During a news conference Thursday, Wichita Police Chief Norman Williams said his officers would be ready to make arrests if any laws are violated during the protests, which are scheduled through July 21.

He said barriers and fences would be put up around Tiller's clinic in east Wichita, and people are being asked to stay behind the barriers. Tiller is one of the few doctors in the country who performs late-term abortions and has been a frequent target of anti-abortion activists.

The city also denied Operation Save America's request for a permit to hold two-hour parades twice a day around Tiller's clinic.

"Clearly, if they're having a parade at a time, it's going to interfere with the clinic," city spokesman Mike Taylor said Thursday. Interfering with a company's ability to do business is one of the criteria that can be used to deny a parade permit, Taylor said. And the parades would also have violated the law guaranteeing access to clinic.

Committee continues hearings on legislative, congressional districts

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators gave a cool reception Thursday to two congressional maps presented by Lawrence officials designed to keep the city in the 3rd District.

During a public hearing at the Statehouse, members of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce passed out their maps, which keep a majority of

Douglas County in the 3rd District with Johnson County, while splitting Wyandotte County and moving Miami County in the 2nd District.

The Special Committee on Redistricting may have another hearing Sept. 6 and will meet Sept. 25 to draft a plan so each of the four congressional districts will be as close as possible to an

ideal population of 672,105, said it's co-chairman, Rep. Mike O'Neal.

O'Neal, R-Hutchinson, called Douglas County and Lawrence "ground zero" in the redistricting battle because of population shifts in the 2nd and 3rd districts. He said the committee reviewed 10 plans but hasn't reached any decision on which is best.

"We've got a hodge podge of plans," O'Neal said. "It's hard to predict what they ultimately will favor."

Douglas County is viewed as key to the new maps and whether Republicans are able to unseat Democrat Dennis Moore in the 3rd District. Moore, a former Johnson County prosecutor, has benefited from the county's strong

Democratic base.

During the hearing, Ann Gardner of the Lawrence chamber said, "We believe that a 3rd District that includes Lawrence and metropolitan Kansas City represents a strong community of interest in a number of respects."

She cited the University of Kansas system, with a satellite campus in

Johnson County and the medical center in Wyandotte County as one example. However, Rep. Bill Reardon, D-Kansas City, said the plans would face opposition in Wyandotte County and the courts as drawn. He said state law — and an overwhelming vote of the people — created the Unified Government of Wyandotte County in 1997.

Thumbs Up!

- ✓Roger Hale — enjoy retirement.
- ✓Shannon Myers — 'Picnic in the Park' entertainer July 12. (There are two more picnics scheduled, July 19 and 26.)
- ✓All Organizers — of last weekend's activities that brought thousands of people to Colby.
- ✓Gary & Sue Webb — on your service to Colby Community College.
- ✓Williams Gas Pipeline — on your donation of computers to Sacred Heart School.
- ✓Jay Donelan — on your '36th mission.'
- ✓'Relay for Life' — good luck with this year's event.
- ✓Darci Wederski — your service to the college was appreciated.
- ✓Ed Guy — watch out for the train!

State's oldest WWI vet reaches the age of 104

BALDWIN CITY (AP) — Anyone who has lived more than a century is bound to have encountered some tough times.

But 104-year-old Clarence Rusk says the secret to longevity is embracing the difficulties as well as the blessings that come in life.

Rusk, the oldest known World War I veteran in Kansas, comes from an era when 8-year-old boys carried pistols and young men readily enlisted for

war.

He has witnessed three centuries, and Wednesday he recounted stories of a changing Midwest and his views on life as he celebrated his birthday with well-wishers at Baldwin Care Center.

"I believe the secret to a long life is being satisfied with whatever you are doing," he said.

Rusk lived in the Lawrence area for much of his life, but moved to a Baldwin retirement home last year.

He has difficulty hearing and seeing, but no trouble remembering.

He can recount memories of being raised on a farm with nine siblings in Talala, Okla., where he was born in 1897.

He left the ranch when he was 21 to enlist in the U.S. Army.

"I went with a buddy of mine; we had a couple of drinks apiece and signed up," Rusk said.

"I got home and told my mother

what I'd done and she jumped two feet."

Rusk didn't get to see much action, though.

After training 60 days in New Mexico, he boarded a train headed for the East Coast, where a Europe-bound ship awaited.

But while he was on the way, the Armistice was signed. So the train was stopped and troops were sent home.

Briefly

Weather: Warm, not hot

Cloudy, about a 20-30 percent chance for thunderstorms, southerly winds 10-20 mph, highs in the middle 80s and lows in the 60s can be expected in the Colby region through Monday. Colby's high Thursday was 93 and the overnight low this morning was 67. The thunderstorm that pretty well skirted west and south of Colby, did deposit 0.03 inches of rain last night, bringing the month's total to 0.33 inches. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 88 degrees. The records for July 13: 111 in 1934 and 44 in 1987.

(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 Thomas Hall Administration Building. They will meet with a representative of Ranson Municipal Consultants, LLC representative; discuss a grievance hearing; consider changing meet-

ing dates in August; and consider renaming the agriculture building to honor a donation from the Carr Estate. They will approve an agreement with Norton County Hospital to lease classroom space for the nursing program.

Archery shoot planned Sunday

There will be an archery shoot beginning at 1 p.m., Sunday, at the archery range located one-quarter mile north of Colby on Franklin. Everyone is invited, whether they are members of the club or not.

Commissioners meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 1 p.m. Monday in the commissioner's room of the courthouse. Bob Luck will discuss opening a road south of McDonald's at 1 p.m. Sue Taylor will bring the proposed 2002 budget for the Prairie Museum of Art and History at 1:30.

County employees will discuss concerns about insurance at 2. Dawn Nichols is on the agenda at 3. Larry Jumper, landfill director, will bring the proposed landfill budget at 3:15 p.m.

