



COLBY FREE PRESS

Business growth continues with L-S Plaza taking shape

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

While a lot of work remains to be done on the new storefronts in the L-S Plaza, next to the Wal-Mart Shopping Center on South Range Ave. in Colby, some changes are starting to take place.

Cellular One has already moved in and the owner of the Sears franchise thinks he might be able to move earlier than planned.

According to Kristina Hemel, sales clerk at

Cellular One, the time was just right to move on Wednesday.

"We kept both offices open," she said, "and moved everything in one day."

Hemel said the primary reasons for moving were space and the greater traffic potential because of the interstate and other stores.



K. Hemel

"We have more room, so our technician isn't installing phones outside," she said. The company's technician comes in on Thursday's from Hays to do installations and some repairs.

"We are having our Grand Opening on Aug. 18," she said.

Allen Nichols, franchise owner of Sears, said he is hoping to be able to move the projected opening date of Oct. 16 — up a couple of weeks.

"Right now were still at Oct. 16, but things

are going very well," he said. "We're going to have a grand opening on Nov. 4."

Nichols is an area native, having grown up in Goodland and a graduate of the Goodland Technical College and Colby Community College.

Nichols was confident the other stores would fill quickly. "I think (the plaza) is going to be a big part of Colby's growth."

Curt Stephens, developer of the area, agreed, "This thing is going to keep filling up."

Stephens said some national chains were interested in the open storefronts, as well as a couple of area businesses.

Stephens said he was "very close" to filling the Stage storefront with a national chain.

Kansas Truck Center, a Freightliner trucks distributor out of Omaha, Neb., has moved a warehouse distribution center into the Stephens Construction building at 1260 S. Country Club Drive. "They want to open a sales counter, eventually," Stephens said.

Smaller census adjustment raises validity questions

TOPEKA (AP) — Questions have arisen quickly about the validity of the population figures the Legislature is supposed to use to redraw members' districts.

Inaccurate figures could cause some communities or regions of the state to be underrepresented in the Legislature, while some would be overrepresented. Lawmakers plan to redraw districts next year. The secretary of state's office released the numbers Tuesday. They represent an adjustment of data released by the U.S. Census Bureau earlier this year. The difference between the two is in how students and military personnel are counted, and the adjustment cost about \$460,000.

Under the Kansas Constitution, students and military personnel are supposed to be counted "in the district of their permanent residence," rather than in the towns in which they are stationed or attending classes. Students and military personnel who consider their permanent homes to be outside the state aren't counted at all.

The effects of the adjustment varied from county to county but decreased the population figure for the entire state by more than 16,000, or about 0.6 percent. But this year's adjustment is less significant than the one done 10 years ago, which dropped the state's population by more than 32,000, or 1.3 percent. In addition, the number of responses from students and military personnel about where they considered home decreased significantly. One official acknowledged those institutions may not have done as thorough a job in making sure questionnaires from the secretary of state's office were answered. For example, responses from the University of Kansas decreased dramatically. For 1990, the university had more than 22,000 responses to questionnaires for the secretary of state's office. This year, the figure was less than 8,400.

"Those numbers don't make any sense," said Rep. Mike O'Neal, R-Hutchinson, co-chairman of a joint legis-

lative committee on redistricting.

Critics of the census adjustment contend that it disenfranchises other Kansans and doesn't count others where they live and require services for most of the year. Supporters, like O'Neal, contend people should be counted in the communities they consider home.

The tradition of counting students and military personnel differently than the U.S. Census Bureau is long-standing, and voters added the policy as an amendment to the Kansas Constitution in 1988.

"This great deviation, especially off of 10 years ago, will raise a lot of questions in legislators' minds about the validity of this adjustment," said Rep. Troy Findley, D-Lawrence, a redistricting committee member.

The secretary of state's office said the adjusted population figure for 2000 is 2,672,257, compared to the census figure of 2,688,418.

For 1990, the secretary of state's office decreased the state's population from 2,477,574 to 2,445,380.

Gov. Bill Graves expressed confidence in the count. He said he believes the difference may be that more college students consider themselves residents of their college towns, rather than the towns they left to attend classes.

"You might say as students are maturing at perhaps a little younger age," he said. Ten years ago, the secretary of state's office received nearly 141,000 responses to its questionnaires. This year, the figure was less than 115,000.

Mike Brassel, project manager for the secretary of state's office, noted that the institutions are responsible for distributing the forms.

Todd Cohen, spokesman for the University of Kansas, said it mailed questionnaires to every student to send back with their tuition and fee payments. However, 10 years ago, students had to pay their fees in person and were handed a form to fill when they reached the end of the enrollment line.

"Definitely, you get a higher response that way," Cohen said.

Parading into the new millennium



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

This year's version of the Thomas County Fair Parade, held Tuesday afternoon, again attracted hundreds of spectators and participants. Parade results were not available at press time. **TOP:** Reed Shoaf, left, and Brady Strange led a group of American Youth Soccer players

and volunteers. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Nathan Quagliano drove the Millennium tow-truck, pulling his brother, Casey. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The "Garrett Gang," Linda, daughter Penny Nemechek and grandson Parker took their pony cart through the parade.



For the first time in its history, the Colby Jaycees are giving away a car and \$1,500 in cash as a fundraising event to benefit many worthwhile causes in the community.

Local car giveaway to benefit many

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby Jaycees are giving away a 2000 Pontiac Grand Prix with cash prizes for second and third place in an effort to help one Colby woman with mounting medical expenses and to support the Kansas Jaycee Cerebral Palsy Ranch near Augusta.

According to Lori Haber, coordinator of the fundraising event, this is the first time the local organization has tried giving away a vehicle.

"We want to help many organizations at the same time and thought that this might be a good way to do that," she said Tuesday. The majority of the proceeds for the \$20 donation toward winning the car will go to help Adaline Delzeit, who is fighting cancer, and for children who have

cerebral palsy. Other organizations that will benefit from the fundraiser, she said, include Colby's Youth on Board organization, Sacred Heart School, Puddle Duck Preschool and Heartland Christian School.

"There are only 2,000 tickets on sale for the fundraiser," she said, "and they are available at Farmers and Merchants Bank, GoldBank, Sunflower Bank, First National Bank, Colby Bowl, Montana Mikes, Holiday Inn Express, Horlacher Jewelry, Wark's Embroidery and Best Western."

The drawing is planned for Saturday during the Thomas County Fair races, she said. "We still have a lot of tickets to sell and encourage people to support this effort and help a lot of people and organizations at the same time."

Briefly

Weather: Forget heat relief

Tuesday's forecast for some relief from the heat for today and Thursday just isn't going to happen, according to the latest prediction from the National Weather Service. The forecast high for today was supposed to be in the 80s, but that has been changed to around 100. And Thursday's forecast high, originally to also be in the 80s, will instead be around 95-100. And Friday's high will be somewhere in the 90s. The lows tonight and Thursday night are expected to be between 65-70. Winds will be out of the south-southeast around 10-20 mph during the period and thunderstorm chances are set at 30 percent through Friday. Tuesday's high in Colby was 98 and the overnight low this morning was 65. There was no precipitation during the past 24 hours. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 85 degrees. The records for Aug. 1: 108 in 1935 and 46 in 1925. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Mural celebration Sunday

Literally hundreds of hours of work by artist Ken Mitchell and area volunteers will be unveiled on Sunday with a new mural at the Bedker Memorial Complex at Colby Community College. The mural depicts education scenes from the past century, including the old Colby High School and other schools from Thomas County. The unveiling ceremony will be from 2-4 p.m. Mitchell and many of the people who helped will be on hand.

Relay for Life needs help

Relay for Life still needs volunteers, according to Bob Coleman, one of the local organizers. Teams and volunteers are still needed for the activities that will start on Aug. 10

at 7 p.m. at Dennen Field. Classic Karaoke will provide music and there will be Tae Kwon Do demonstrations, along with Colby Police Officer Scott Sitton and his K-9 partner, Capone.

The event will start with a victory lap, honoring those who have survived cancer. There will be a luminary service for those still suffering and those who have died from cancer. Anyone interested can call Coleman 462-2724.

Preschool plans open house

An open house enrollment is planned at Puddle Duck Preschool, 520 W. 5th, from 4 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 8. According to Amy Jennings, director, there are class openings for children in the 3- and 4-year-old age groups. For information or questions, call Jennings at 462-2603 or 462-8388.

Thomas County Fair 2001 Schedule of Events

- Tonight** — Farm Bureau Insurance Pedal Tractor Pull, 4 p.m. Registration; 5-6:45 p.m. Pull 5:30 pm. Free Barbecue - Come and Enjoy it 7 p.m. Antique Tractor Show and Shine Awards 7-11:30 p.m. Antique Tractor Pull
- Thursday - August 2**
- 8:30 a.m. 4-H Dairy, Bucket Calf, Breeding Live-stock Show
- 8:00 p.m. Demolition Derby
- Friday, August 3**
- 9:00 a.m. 4-H Round Robin
- 3:00 p.m. Buyers' Appreciation BBQ; 4-H Live-stock Sale
- 7:00 p.m. RACES Cruiser Classic

