



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Expenditure okayed, but . . .

## Commissioners not happy about purchase

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners found out late last week that the new communications system in the mobile command post needs an adapter/encoder which will cost \$700 to set off the tornado sirens.

John Lygeros, emergency preparedness director, said he tested the new system on Sept. 24, and could only set off two of the sirens in Colby from the mobile command post. He had expected the new equipment to interface with the old equipment, but was told by K-N Communications that the old encoder cannot be upgraded to work with updated tornado siren paging.

The commissioners balked at having to pay for more software, but decided it was necessary. "It's a needed item, but it's a shame we're held hostage to software," said Ron Evans, commission chair. The sirens can also be set off by telephone land line from the Law Enforcement Center and by certain other county officials.

Lygeros said he was working with the city and hoped to move the emergency command center from the basement of City Hall to the Thomas County Office Complex by March. The office complex will offer better parking and more space.

In other business:

- The commissioners met with Ken Ptacek, weed supervisor, to review recommendations of the auditors and found he was doing many of the recommendations.

- They approved a beer license for Bubba's Corner in Brewster

- They received a \$2,800 refund from the Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties for premium and investment income for 1993. The county's insurance had been partially

self funded with the company that year.

- They approved getting a bid on curb sidewalk repair in front of the courthouse.

- They went into a 30-minute executive session to discuss personnel with Vera Sloan, Mark Miller and David Pabst of the fair board, but took no action after returning to open session.

- At the Monday morning meeting, the commissioners met with landfill director Larry Jumper, who said the landfill is averaging 16.32 tons of municipal solid waste per week. This is well under the average of a maximum 20 tons per day permitted to keep the landfill open.

Jumper said he has been invited to speak at a landfill training seminar Nov. 7-8 in Hutchinson. He will take some staff with him, so they can learn more.

He scheduled a meeting of the Thomas county Landfill Advisory Committee at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the Thomas County Office Complex. The meeting is required in order to fill out some government forms. Miller and Associates, consulting engineers of McCook, Neb., will give an update on the landfill.

- The commissioners received a report from Chris Bieker, highway department supervisor, saying Carl Eymann of Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties conducted a safety meeting on Sept. 20. He showed a video about operating heavy equipment safely, and another on back safety, and led a discussion on getting in and out of equipment with slippery shoes and in wet conditions.

The commissioners will meet next at 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 8, in the commissioners room of the courthouse. All meetings are open to the public and input is welcome.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Area firefighters and emergency medical technicians rescued their "patient" from a tractor rollover during a rescue class Saturday.

## Rescuers learn agricultural safety here

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Approximately 20 emergency medical technicians and firefighters from the area gathered at the 4-H building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds on Saturday for an agricultural safety course, sponsored in part by Kansas State University.

Although the program teaches rescue methods, instructor Steve Evert said safety, both for rescuers and operators, comes first.

"A lot of rescuers in rural areas are also farmers or agricultural workers," he said. "We need to keep ourselves safe in both situations."

The program included about three hours of safety training including work-around hydraulics, power take-off units and operating machinery.

"Safety guards are there for a reason," Evert told the class repeatedly. Sev-

eral slides and stories showed class members what happened when safety precautions are disregarded.

"Don't move anything if you don't know what it does," was the advice given the class.

Many times, if none of the rescuers know how the equipment operates, family members or other farm employees may be able to help.

During the afternoon session, students were given a chance to practice their skills in mock-ups that included a tractor rollover, a hay-bailer accident and a person with their hand caught in a grain auger.

Evert said these simulated some of the most common farm accidents.

The classes are being offered throughout western Kansas and the instructors, including Evert are member of area fire departments and ambulance services.

## 'The Kready Bunch' to perform; proceeds to go toward area music programs

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A barbershop quartet show featuring Don Kready's entire family is planned for Saturday, Oct. 27, in both Quinter and Colby. The first performance will be at the Quinter High School auditorium at 2 p.m. and at Colby High School's auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

"The Kready Bunch" will include five different quartets to include Lasting Impressions, Very Light Opera Company, Classic Edition, Special Touch, and Out of Class. In addition to the five quartets featuring members of the Kready family, the Tumbleweed



Don Kready



Jo Kready



Donna Kready



Rick Kready



Jeff Kready

Chorus and Hi-Plains Harmony Chorus will also perform.

The idea for the special show was

prompted by Don's oldest daughter, Donna, who sings with Classic Edition.

"Things don't stay stationary indefinitely," she told her father, "and maybe this would be a good time to do something as a family while promoting music."

Don said that the family and other performers decided that any money made off the ticket sales for this upcoming event would be given back to area music programs.

Don and his wife, Jo, said they hoped to leave their children with an appreciation for music and over the years that has paid off.

Donna's quartet, Classic Edition, was the 1998 championship quartet of Sweet Adelines International. The quartet has been together since 1989 and recently replaced their lead singer in 2000.

The Kready's second daughter, Pat, performs with the Very Light Opera Company and this quartet won honors as the best comedy quartet and most entertaining quartet during the Aspen Barbershop Harmony Celebration in

1999.

Rick, the youngest son, sings with Special Touch and grandson, Jeff, performs with Out of Class.

Don sings lead in the Lasting Impression quartet and Bruce Bandy, also of Colby, is the tenor. Other members are Al Finkbeiner of Russell and Dick Woodall of Hays.

Jo Kready, while not singing in a quartet, will be appearing with the Hi Plains Harmony Chorus.

"Singing is something a person can use all of their life," Don said, "and we hope everyone will join us for this special show."

## Briefly

### Weather: Turn to cooler

A cool down is in the Colby forecast once we get by Tuesday's heat wave. Here is how the National Weather Service sizes up the Colby region's outlook this week: Tonight, clear, lows around 55 and south winds turning to the southwest 10-20 mph; Tuesday, sunny and hot, highs near 90 and southwest winds turning to the north 10-20 mph; Tuesday night, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 40s and brisk north winds 20-30 mph, gusting to 40 mph; Wednesday, sunny and cool, highs in the upper 60s; Thursday, continued cool with overnight lows in the upper 30s and highs in the lower 60s. Sunday's high in Colby was 82 and the overnight low this morning was 48. There was no additional precipitation, leaving September's total at 3.03 inches. The records for Oct. 1: 96 in 1899 and 21 in 1985. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Council to discuss street work

The Colby City Council will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in council chambers. Items on the agenda include improvement designs on Willow from Holiday Inn Express to the City Limits and sewer lift station at Willow and Sewell; discussion of Frontage Road south of the Ramada Inn; approval of storm sewer study by Penco Engineering; change of council meeting date in November; and approval of acquisition of Kansas Department of Transportation tower west of Colby. For questions or to receive a copy of the agenda, call 462-4410.

### Luncheon deadline nears

The Colby Chamber of Commerce Diplomats are hosting their annual Ladies Luncheon, Oct. 10 at Ramada Inn at noon. This year's theme is "United We Stand." All women are invited and employers are encouraged to send their lady employees to this luncheon. Cost is \$10 which includes a luncheon, entertainment and fellowship. Reservations are due by Thursday, Oct. 4. To reserve or for information, call the chamber office at 785-462-3401.

### College board to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. today in the board room of Thomas Hall. The agenda includes: audit report; discuss battery back-up for the phone system; magazine subscriptions for the college library; lease on a bus; bids for computers; and a change in meeting date. They are expected to go into executive session to discuss negotiations. The meeting is open to the public.

### Students to rake leaves

The Colby High School Service Club is planning a community-wide fall leaves clean-up day beginning the first weekend of October and continuing through until the second weekend of November, said Roni Dietz, adult advisor. "Residents interested in having students rake their yards are asked to call the school at 465-5300 and leave name, address and telephone number on my voice mail." This is one of community service projects the club is involved in, she said.

### Props needed for play

The Colby Community College drama department is searching for props for its play, *Heaven Can Wait*. "We are looking for old boxing or training equipment (preferably from the 1930s-40s), a 1930s style radio, an old saxophone and a furniture piece that could be used as a small bar," said Deb Bickner, one of the organizers. If anyone has any of these items and would be willing to loan them, call Bickner at the college, 462-3984, ext. 300.

## A family tradition



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Bob and Linda Mader of Colby have repainted and refurbished the sign at Phillips Park on the west side of town. Their son, Justin, put up the sign as an Eagle Scout project in 1988 and they thought it needed to be renewed. Justin majored in engineering at K-State after graduating from Colby High School. He is now a design engineer for a company in Yukon, Okla., a suburb of Oklahoma City. He designs plant equipment for custom-made trailers, such as for race cars or horse trailers with air conditioning. He and his wife Monica have two children, Levi, 11, and Mary Kate, 8.

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full-color weekly magazine

