



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Yellow and red clad apron wearers are ready to 'Roll'

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

During the fall, you know the leaves will turn color and fall from the trees, temperatures will cool down, frost will form, furnaces will begin kicking on.... and those guys in the bright yellow and red aprons will show up.

Bright yellow and red aprons?

Yep, they're baaaaack!

Starting Friday and continuing through Sunday, you will see these guys — members of the Colby Knights of Columbus — handing out specially marked Tootsie Rolls while seeking donations for people afflicted with mental deficiencies. Proceeds, according to Dick Parnell, Colby's Tootsie Roll chairman, will go to Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas. In recognizing that mental retardation has no boundaries of race, re-

ligion, or social status, Parnell said, "the Knights of Columbus across the state of Kansas have donated many hours or their time and energy to help those special citizens and they would like to express their sincere gratitude to you for all your past donations and encourage your continued support."

Additionally, Parnell said, "When you see these friendly gentlemen in their bright yellow and red aprons, please be generous so we can continue to aid these special people."

If you are not contacted by a member of the Knights of Columbus, donations may be sent to the local K of C Council, in care of Dick Parnell, Tootsie Roll Chairman, 2820 N. Range, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Parnell said to make checks payable to "Tootsie Roll Program Fund." He said contributions are tax deductible.

## Candidate brings campaign to Colby

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

David Adkins, Republican State Senator from Johnson County, brought his campaign for attorney general to Colby this morning, meeting with a small group of residents at the Deep Rock Cafe.



David Adkins

The current attorney general, Republican Carla Stovall, has announced she would not seek another term.

Asked about the timing of his announcement, so soon after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Adkins said, "It's hard to know what timing to use."

He said the decision by Rep. Jerry Moran not to seek the Republican nomination for governor had a lot to do with his decision.

"Everything changed (with Moran's decision)," he said. "We thought we knew where all the checkers were, now it's a completely different game."

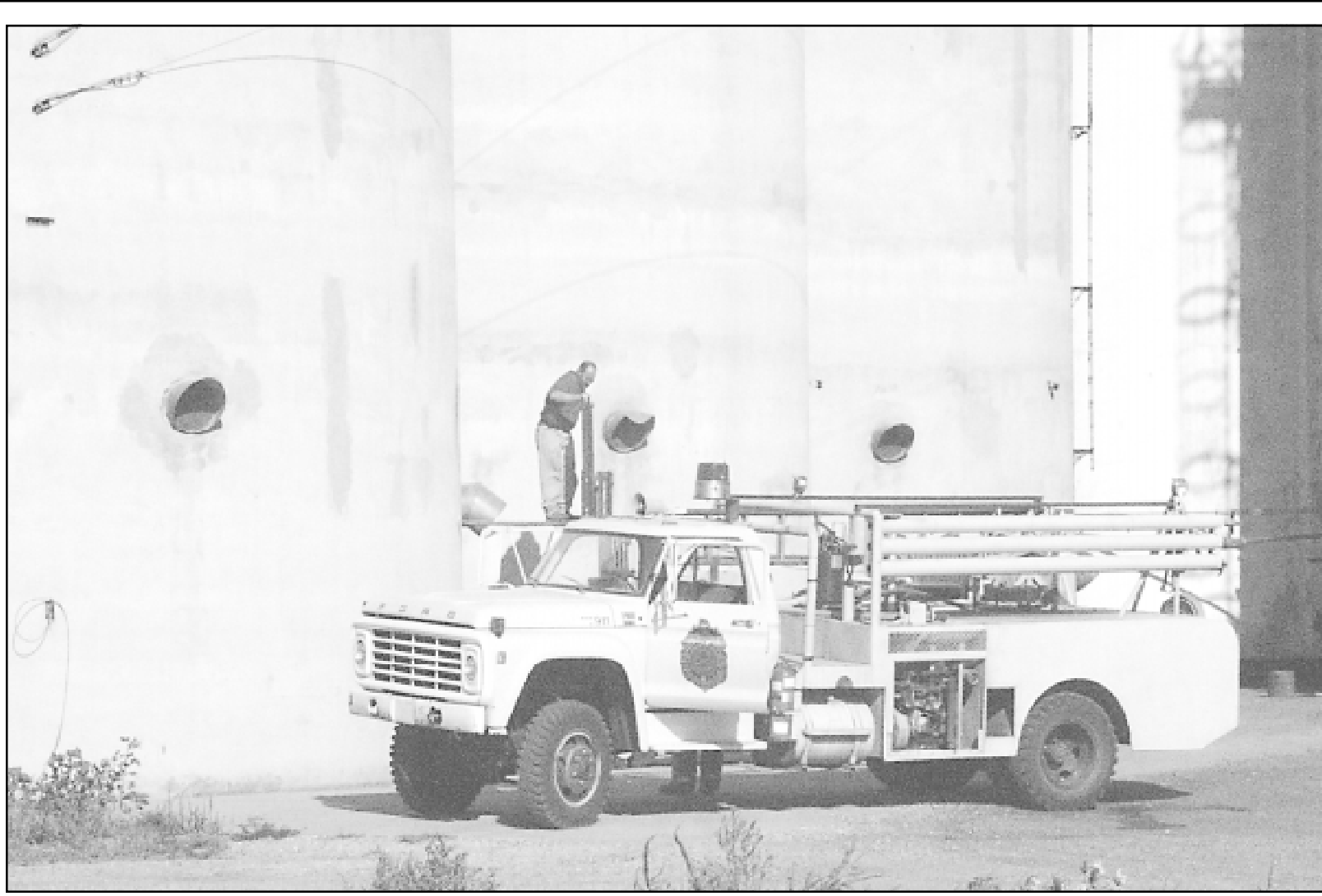
Moran's decision left the governor's race wide open for potential candidates like Stovall and Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer and makes it more difficult for "down ballot" candidates like the attorney general and insurance commissioner to draw media attention. Although he is the first to announce, Adkins said, "(The attorney general race) will be a contested Republican primary."

Adkins is running on a platform of "making Kansas the safest place in the nation."

Adkins has served in the Kansas House and Senate since 1992, chairing the House Appropriations, Legislative Budget and Taxation Committees. He chairs the Senate Reapportionment Committee and is vice-chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He will chair the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice in 2002.

Adkins is a fifth generation Kansan and the son of a retired state trooper. He voted for the death penalty.

He and his wife Lisa are parents of a baby daughter, Nell, born in June. The primary election will be held in August 2002 and the general election in November 2002.



SHARON CORCORAN/Goodland Daily News

Firefighters from Brewster, Goodland and Kanorado converged in Edson to combat an elevator fire Tuesday afternoon. Firefighters were on scene for about four hours. The fire was believed to have started by a machinery malfunction.

## Firemen win four-hour battle at Edson

By SHARON CORCORAN

The Goodland Daily News

EDSON — Smoldering sunflowers in the Sigco Sun grain elevator in Edson Tuesday afternoon kept firefighters from three departments busy for over four hours, before they were finally able to get a handle on it and extinguish the blaze at 4:30 p.m.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson and Deputy Robert Lamb arrived at 12:42 p.m. with the rural fire department arriving minutes later. Fireman Roger Studer climbed the outside ladder on the elevator to get to the top of the head house to assess the fire. He couldn't use the man lift because the power had to be shut off.

Fireman Chris Bauman said the smoke was so bad they couldn't see what they were doing and had trouble moving around with their equipment.

The fire began, Whitson said, when a bearing became stuck in the pulley on the main lift shaft inside the elevator. The lift shaft picks grain up, he said, and puts it in indi-

vidual tubes in the elevator. When the bearing caught fire, the sheriff said, the pulley lifted it to the top of the elevator taking the fire with it.

Sunflowers normally smolder in several places, Rural Fire Chief Ken Griffith said, and in this case there were many hot spots that were hard to get to.

Water doesn't penetrate grain, so is not effective alone in putting out a fire in grain. Firefighters used foam to penetrate the sunflowers and seal the fire so it couldn't get any oxygen, said Goodland Fire Chief Dean Jensen.

Firefighters had to pull a hose to the top of the elevator on the outside to fight the fire from the top.

As firefighters sprayed foam in the main leg of the elevator, small pieces of foam floated through the air like dozens of plastic bags tossed out of a window. Water hit the ventilator in the top of the elevator, causing mud and pieces of sunflowers to rain from the sky.

At about 2:45 p.m. firefighters noticed smoke coming from the top of the far west silo and became concerned that the fire had transferred there. The silo is ordinarily used to store tilling,

but was empty.

The rural fire department called the Brewster Fire Department for back up at about 1:25 p.m. and the Goodland City Fire Department at 1:42 p.m. The Kanorado Fire Department was called at 1:55 p.m. for standby then was sent out at 2:36 p.m.

The rural fire department brought out more water at 2:36 p.m. and the Sherman County Public Works truck was also used to supply water. The air crash rescue truck was called at 2 p.m. and an ambulance arrived at the same time. The ambulance was called just in case, Emergency Medical Technician Leslie Farley said, but they helped three firefighters suffering from smoke inhalation.

Brandon Sparks, a senior at Goodland High School, brought drinking water out to the firemen when he got out of school at 2 p.m. His dad is the assistant to the rural fire chief, Sparks said, and when he heard about the fire he wanted to help out. Sparks gets out of school early for a work program, he said, and was able to deliver drinking water to the men then.

Stacy Dinkel and Roberta Bretz,

chairpersons for the Red Cross Disaster Relief program, brought refreshments for the men at about 4:40 p.m. They had wanted to come earlier, Bretz said, but were told to wait. The women brought water, iced tea, cheese and crackers and popsicles.

The Brewster Fire Department left shortly after the fire was put out at 4:30 p.m., but the remaining trucks and crews did not disperse until about 5 p.m.

They were fortunate it wasn't wheat in the elevator, Brewster Fireman Rex Jamison said, as wheat is more volatile than sunflowers. If it had been wheat, he said, an explosion would likely have occurred blowing the top off of the elevator.

"They really dodged a bullet there," Jamison said.

As manager of the Co-op in Brewster, Jamison said he will be taking more precautions to prevent a fire there.

"If I learned one thing today," he said, "it's that I'm going to buy a hose and keep it on top of the elevator so if there is a fire, firefighters won't have to pull one up."

## Getting a helping paw



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Jim Berens of Colby got some exercise cutting the grass with Goliath, his dachshund, in tow. Berens said Goliath usually didn't need the leash when his wife cut the yard.

## Briefly

### Weather: Typical fall

More cool than warm, is what the National Weather Service sees for the Colby region. Tonight, mostly clear, lows middle 30s and southwest winds 5-10 mph. Thursday, mostly sunny, breezy, highs upper 60s to around 70 and southwest winds 5-10 mph, increasing to 15-25 mph as the day progresses. Thursday night, partly cloudy, lows in the lower 40s. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, slight chance for showers, lows in the 30s and highs in the upper 50s to the lower 60s. Colby's high temperature Tuesday was 81 and the overnight low this morning was 41. Precipitation for the month remains at 0.03 inches. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 67 degrees. The records for Oct. 10: 96 in 1920 and 25 in 1970. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### All people needed for special day

Organizers of the first "A Day In My Community," are urging all Thomas Countians to take part in the Oct. 11, 2001 Kansas Family and Community Educators' writing event. Karen Larmer, area coordinator, asks that people interested in writing a journal of their thoughts and life on Thursday, pick up a form at either the Prairie Museum of Art and History, Pioneer Memorial Library or the Thomas County Extension Office. Forms can be returned to any of these three locations from Oct. 12 through Oct. 22 or they can be mailed to: A Day In My Community, General Delivery, Colby, Kan., 67701. For questions, call Larmer at 462-3610.

### 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."

### Rec department needs pumpkins

The City Recreation Department is once again sponsoring a pumpkin carving event for area children at 5:30 p.m.,

Tuesday, Oct. 16 at the Colby Community Building, C.W. Cheney, director, said the recreation department is needing pumpkins for the event and anyone interested can drop off pumpkins at the office, 285 E. 5th St., between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Cemetery donations sought

Donations are still being sought for the Beulah Cemetery archway, said Dale Deaver, cemetery board member. The idea for the archway was prompted, he said, to give the location a more distinguishable appearance. Those wanting to contribute to the \$1,800 project can send donations to: Dale Deaver, Box 43, Levant, Kan., 67743.

### Holiday items needed for sale

Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is planning its second annual recycled holiday sales and is looking for donations of new or good used holiday items, said Carolyn Miller, one of the organizers. Donations can be left at 545 Woolfer Ave. between Saturday, Oct. 27 and Thursday, Nov. 1. For those with questions or to make other arrangements, call 462-7777 or 462-6898. The actual sale will begin on Friday, Nov. 2 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 3, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 545 Woolfer Ave.

### Blood drive planned next week

Colby Community College is sponsoring a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the student union, said Wanda Davis, organizer. Red Cross officials are urging anyone who can donate to do so. Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh 110 lbs. or mor. For questions or to make an appointment, call Davis at 462-4797.

### 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.

