



COLBY FREE PRESS

Three lucky 13's



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Kylie Reitcheck told her mother, Connie, that the number 13 was very lucky for her at Sunday's annual Sacred Heart Carnival and Raffle. Kylie said she won at the Bath and Kitchen Walk when the wheel landed on 13 twice and again in the calk walk, when the number 13 appeared. The estimated gross amount of money generated from the event, and before expenses, was nearly \$21,500, said Dave Evert, principal of

Sacred Heart School. "We had a wonderful turnout," he said. "It takes everyone in the church to make this work and special thanks should go to Terina Schmidt, chair of the carnival this year." Evert also recognized the top three students selling chances for the drawings, which were Jacob Hutfles, 91 1/2 books sold; Josh Ryan, 80 books; and Preston Krzycki, 65 books.

Hospital offers new sleep disorder service

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby's hospital is offering a new service to help people with sleeping disorders and it's the only one of its kind in a nine-county area, said Tama Unger, director of fund development at Citizens Medical Center.

"Sleeping disorders are a widespread problem," she said, "and studies have found that about 12 percent of the nation's population suffer from some form of sleeping disorders."

The idea of bringing a sleep diagnostic service to the hospital was initiated by Somnograph, based in Wichita, which offers contracted services to medical facilities, like Citizens Medical Center, while also providing equipment, training, and technician support. "If someone believes they are suffering from a sleep problem," said Duke Naipohn, chief executive officer of

This new service offers an intensive study that can help people who have been suffering from a variety of sleeping disorders."

Tama Unger,
fund development director

Somnograph, "they should first talk with their physician about the possibility of having a sleep study performed."

Should the doctor determine there is a problem, they can then refer the patient for a study, he said. The next step, after the referral, would be to call the hospital for an appointment to spend the night at Citizens Medical Center, which has established a two-bed lab for sleep diagnostic purposes, Unger said. "Some forms of sleeping disorders,"

Naipohn said, "have potential health risks that include hypertension, heart disease, stroke, social dysfunction, excessive daytime sleepiness, as well as an increased risk of accidents while at home, work or driving."

One of the most common sleep disorders, Obstructive Sleep Apnea, is characterized by loud snoring, witnessed irregularities in breathing, sleepiness and falling asleep at unwanted times, he said.

"This new service offers an intensive study that can help people who have been suffering from a variety of sleeping disorders," said Unger.

When calculating the population in the nine-county area at 35,000 and, of those, figuring 12 percent are affected by sleep problems, that's 4,320 potential people suffering, Unger said.

As a community-based medical facility, she said, the hospital is concerned about delivering as many quality services as possible to the rural area. "It was for this reason," she said, "Citizens Medical Center decided to expanding its services to include the sleep diagnostic services."

Somnograph currently supports sleep labs in 31 medical facilities across the state and a total of 64 facilities throughout the United States.

To find out more about this new service at Citizens Medical Center, call 462-7511 or talk with a physician.

Flap over redistricting map certain to bring change; debate nears in Senate

By JOSHUA AKERS

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Revisions appear inevitable for a congressional redistricting bill awaiting debate in the Senate.

The proposal for redrawing the state's four U.S. House districts faces opposition from both parties — and from the state's four congressmen themselves. "It's not dead, but it's certainly going to change," said Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, who drafted the map and got it endorsed by the Senate Reapportionment Committee. Chief features of the map include the expansion of the 1st Congressional District along the northern tier of coun-

ties to the Missouri border and the redrawing of the 3rd District, now represented by Rep. Dennis Moore — the only Democrat in Kansas' congressional delegation.

The 3rd District would lose the city of Lawrence — part of Moore's political base — to the 2nd District, and would stretch from southern Leavenworth County into southeastern Kansas.

But many Republicans, too, have found fault with the map, saying it doesn't reflect their goals nor those of the party and the state's three GOP congressmen.

"The congressmen don't like it because it changes their districts too

much," said Sen. Ed Pugh, R-Wamego.

Even the chairman of the Senate Reapportionment Committee doubts the map will be popular.

"We're trying to find out where the votes are," said Sen. David Adkins, R-Leawood. "I don't expect the Senate to enthusiastically support the committee's work product."

Kansas' four congressional districts, as well as its legislative and Board of Education districts, are being redrawn to adjust for population changes reflected in the 2000 census.

Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, a committee member who voted against the map, said he doesn't think the plan pleased Kansas' three Republican con-

gressmen — Jerry Moran of the 1st District, Jim Ryun of the 2nd, and Todd Tiahrt of the 4th.

Huelskamp said that after the panel's vote, someone from the National Republican Campaign Committee called him to ask, "'What's going on in Kansas?'"

"They can't believe there would be anything that would justify jeopardizing Republican congressmen," he said.

Huelskamp said he also spoke with Ryun, who was not pleased with the map. Beyond wanting to have both Forts Leavenworth and Riley in his district, Ryun hasn't said what he prefers in a map. He also has said he would be pleased to represent Lawrence.

Southwestern Bell seeks Colby backing for broadband bill

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

There's a new law currently pending in the Kansas Legislature that Southwestern Bell officials said they would like to see supported by rural communities, such as Colby and Goodland.

Randy Tomlin, president of Southwestern Bell from Topeka, along with other Bell officials, met with Colby leaders on Friday to talk about Senate Bill 606, *Building Kansas With Broadband*, and the benefits it would have in attracting and preserving businesses, along with improving the quality of life through high-speed data in hospitals, schools and local governments.

The meeting, requested by Tomlin, was held at the Thomas County Office Complex, and coordinated by Gerry Fulwider, director of the Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce. Among those in attendance were Carolyn Armstrong, city manager; Phil DeYoung, technology coordinator for Colby Public Schools; Mike Albers, technology director for the city; and Nancy LePell, Darell Pabst, Kurt Stephens, and Larry McDonald, who own or operate businesses.

Tomlin's purpose, and on behalf of Southwestern Bell, was explaining why the bill would be good for Kansas and Colby.

While Fulwider said he remains undecided about the bill, Tomlin was not.

"Everyone benefits from the proposed legislation," Tomlin told community leaders Friday. "Consumers benefit, businesses benefit and, most importantly, towns like Colby benefit. This is the right law, the right time and the right move for Kansas."

"Before I decide one way or another about this bill," Fulwider said on Saturday, "I will need more information and an opportunity to investigate it further."

Tomlin reiterated that this legislation would mean a commitment by Southwestern Bell to make broadband available in any community in their service area with a minimum of 500 customers. While Fulwider said he believes areas like Colby and Goodland will soon have the broadband capabilities to compete in the global economy, he also has concerns about other smaller communities in northwest Kansas — like Rexford or Gem.

"Southwestern Bell is a good supporter of our schools and has given financially to various causes," he said. "On the other hand, S&T Telephone Cooperative is coming to Colby." Fulwider said that the Brewster-based communications company will soon be in direct competition with Southwestern Bell by offering telephone,

long distance, Internet and cable television to cities below 1,000 people and those with upwards of 5,000 to include Colby and Goodland.

S&T will also be competing with Eagle Cable TV in Goodland and Time Warner Cable in Colby, along with dozens or more Internet companies.

S&T's president, Steve Richards, nearly one year ago said he believed the cooperative was at the same crossroads it was when formed in 1952 in order to provide critical telephone services in the Brewster area.

Southwestern Bell didn't provide telephone service to rural cities, so the farmers and ranchers of Brewster formed the S&T Cooperative, he said.

Similar to the reasons Southwestern Bell supports the new bill, S&T officials also believe they are helping to drive economic development to this region by offering those same capabilities.

"We are going to make a significant investment in building the telecommunication's backbone to these communities," Richards said at the S&T annual meeting almost a year ago. "Prices will be competitive and S&T will offer customers telecommunication packages with one price for telephone, long distance, cable television and Internet service."

Fulwider said that S&T has already purchased land in Colby and will be building east of the former Blu Ribbon Bar-B-Q on Davis Avenue. "Construction for the new building will be underway in a few months," he said.

As the economic development director of Thomas County, Fulwider said he can't help but be thrilled about that. "It reinforces a feeling of unity and sense of ownership in the county, which is not to say that Southwestern Bell hasn't been good to us in the past."

Tomlin said that Southwestern Bell's position on the pending bill is not about hostility toward other competitors. "We believe this new law could open up the market by setting prices to attract competition and stimulate investment." Southwest Bell officials said they see the delivery of broadband as bigger than any one company or constituency. "It's about a stronger economy and empowering Kansas with tools for the 21st Century."

In addition to this bill spurring economic development, he said, it wouldn't cost the state or Colby any money, and it would shift the focus of state regulation from setting prices to the more appropriate role of overseeing consumer protection and service.

"Letting the marketplace set prices will attract competition and stimulate

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Briefly

Weather: Near zero tonight

Now through Wednesday, at the soonest, put an extra blanket on the bed and more logs in the fireplace, according to the forecast for the Colby region from the National Weather Service. Tonight for example, clearing skies will drop temperatures to near zero with north winds 10-20 mph. Tuesday, mostly sunny but continued cold and windy; highs only in the lower 20s and northwest winds 20-30 mph with gusts to 40 mph. Tuesday night, partly cloudy with lows in the middle teens. Wednesday, cloudy with highs in the middle 30s. Thursday will bring a tad bit warmer temperatures, cloudy to partly cloudy conditions, with early morning lows in the middle teens and highs in the lower 40s.

Colby's high Sunday was only 40 and the overnight low this morning was 14. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 42 degrees. Snowfall up to 8 a.m.. today was 2.2 inches with a moisture content of 0.03 inches, pushing the month's totals to 4.7 inches of snow and 0.22 inches of precipitation. The records for Feb. 25: 77 in 1917 and —20 in 1960. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

Brewster to hold special meeting

The Brewster Board of Education will hold a special meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters

in executive session. All meetings are open to the public; however in an executive session, once discussions are completed behind closed doors, the board must return to regular session before action is taken.

Lawmakers, candidates to Colby

Sen. Stan Clark and Rep. Jim Morrison are inviting everyone to a town hall meeting on Monday, March 4, at the City Limits Restaurant, 2227 S. Range, with a dutch treat meal starting at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Both Clark and Morrison said they will share their perspective about some of the important issues before the Kansas legislature this session and want to hear from others on these and other issues. Joining them will be state treasurer and governor candidate Tim Shallenburger and former state representative Phill Kline, who is a candidate for attorney general with plans to visit with area residents about their candidacy and vision for leading Kansas.

Sebelius here Tuesday

Kathleen Sebelius, state insurance commissioner, has included Colby as one of her stops around the state Tuesday at which time she is expected to announce her candidacy for the Democratic nomination for governor. Sebelius will be meeting the public at a reception in her honor at the Ramada Inn starting at 3 p.m.

