



COLBY FREE PRESS

Councilman wants close monitoring on street patch test

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The City of Colby's public works department is trying a new product that, if successful, would work better on streets than the typical crack fill, according to information provided at last week's council meeting.

However, one council member, Darrell Follis, said that while he was interested in the process when it was first discussed, he believes the city might have gotten a bad deal on the cost.

"I was interested in the process, but after seeing a bill of \$18,000, I'm not so interested anymore and I think we got took," he said.

Citing his concerns, Follis said he couldn't understand why it would take 8,800 lbs. of patch seal or the equivalent of three and half pallets to do the test patch.

He also voiced displeasure in having to pay 67 cents a lb. for the product and \$2 a lb. to put it down on the street.

Armstrong said, she too was concerned about the price, adding that it was very expensive and labor intensive requiring special equipment to put the sealant down, but that it will take time to know whether it was a good deal or not.

"This is basically a test and we won't

know if it worked for at least a couple of years, at which time I may agree or disagree with your conclusions," she said.

"Well all I can say," Follis said, "is that we better monitor this closely and boy, if it doesn't stay in there it was a very high priced seal coat."

Lending to background information about the product, Armstrong said last week that the city became aware of this new advancement, which is supposed to be much better than the crack fill the city has been using.

"The advantage of this product is that it will stay in the street crack much longer and does a much better job adhering to the street," she said.

The seal product, known as stripe and seal, should not peel off or erode off and is supposed to stay in place better than other seal products.

"If it works and the city will be monitoring, it will avoid having to go with the more expensive mill and overlay method," she said.

The two streets involved in the test patch are Golden and Plains, between Hill and College Streets, in the industrial park. The company, Stripe and Seal in Hays, provided the special equipment to put the product down on the streets and PMSI of Wichita supplied materials.

State faces hard choices

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators now face the hard choices.

How many teachers will lose their jobs? How many first-graders will be crammed into a single classroom?

How many elderly Kansans won't get hot meals during the week? Will more parents of disabled children have to quit work to stay home with their youngsters? Will the courts be closed on some week days?

Legislators have been waiting for new revenue estimates before starting meaningful discussions on the budget to finance state government after July 1. They received those numbers Friday.

Most bills, lawmakers can ignore, and state government will go on. But they're not done with their work until the last appropriations bill passes — and the next budget balances.

"We have to have a budget by July 1, or everything shuts down," said Rep. Melvin Minor, D-Stafford, a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Legislators began the year facing a \$426 million gap between expected revenues and spending required by state and federal law. Creating much of the hole were promises that legislators made when times were good to finance highway projects and provide more money for higher education.

But with more pessimistic revenue estimates, the gap has grown to \$675 million, so legislators don't face merely a choice of raising taxes or breaking important promises.

They must decide whether to increase taxes — even though the state's economy is slumping and some families are suffering financially — or to cut services.

Most legislative leaders believe the solution will be a painful combination of the two.

Each number on paper represents a policy decision, and many decisions will affect individual Kansans directly.

If aid for education is cut, some public schools are likely to reduce their teaching staffs and have larger classes.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Thurston VanHorn of Colby (left) looked on as a long-time friend and gun dealer, John Kastner of Denver, (far right), checked the barrel of gun at this year's 41st Annual Collector's Show in Colby. Kastner said he has never missed the Colby show and was glad to see VanHorn and his wife, Lois, recognized in a special tribute on Sunday for their

dedication and commitment with the Colby Gun Show. Kastner, who owned a music school until retirement a few years ago, said he travels more than 12,000 miles a year, taking part in 18 gun and coin shows nationwide. Also pictured is Chad Niermeier, Colby, looking at some of Kastner's handguns for sale.

Collector's Show sees largest crowds ever

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Hundreds of people from Colby

and surrounding areas attended the 41st annual Gun and Coin Collector's Show held at the Community Building on Saturday and Sunday. Sponsored by the Thomas County Kiwanis Club, the event drew record-breaking numbers of people, said Rick Dickman, one of the coordinators with Kiwanis.



Kevin Breece

"I've been helping with the show for the past 18 years and this year's numbers are among the best I've ever seen," he said on Saturday.

In addition, the show attracted some 65 dealers from six states, with guns, coins, western artifacts and antiques for sale, displayed on more than 150 tables, which was also larger than last year.

"We have dealers from Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Iowa, and Colorado," said Kevin Breece of Grand Island, Neb., owner of Sun-husker Shows.

Breece said he has owned the Colby show for five years, having purchased it from Richard Hite, who was the previous owner.

"Prior to buying the show, I was very familiar with Colby," Breece said. "I've been coming here for the past 15 years and worked with Dave Sanders, who owned it before Hite bought it."

Breece gave a lot of credit to the people in Colby for their support of this event and particularly Thurston VanHorn for his 42-year commitment to making it the great show it is today. Van Horn and his wife, Lois, were also given special tribute on Sunday in appreciation for all their years of dedication to promoting the show.

The plaque was a gift by Breece, the

Colby Fire Department and Colby Kiwanis Club.

Before buying the collector's show, Breece said he knew about Colby from his job with the USDA in the National Resources Conservation Service.

"I became familiar with many farmers in the area as an irrigation specialist and did a lot of work with Dr. Freddie Lamm and Kansas State," he said.

The event, which got its start by VanHorn, Jim Kriss and the late Glenn Crabb, Chamber of Commerce director in the 60s, has become a traditional spring event, Breece said, and is always scheduled for the second weekend in March.

After Crabb stepped down from his position as Chamber director, Paul Leyland assumed the director's position and an active role in the gun show.

Over the years, Breece said he has watched the collector's show grow in reputation and attendance. "There are a lot more ladies and children coming then in year's past," he said, "and some

of these dealers have been coming here for more than three decades."

An avid hunter since he was 21, Breece said it takes a lot of work to get ready for a collector's show.

"We normally start preparing for the show around Thanksgiving by calling dealers, setting up advertising and coordinating other arrangements," he said. "We keep on going until we finally stop — usually around 7 p.m. the night the show ends, which in this case was Sunday."

Helping the local Kiwanis group with setting up and taking down tables for the event were members of the Colby Fire Department. The Trinity Lutheran Church sponsored a food concession in the basement.

One long-standing tradition at the gun show has always been raffling off a shot gun toward the end of the event and this year's winner was Jim Engel of Colby. The prize was a Remington 11-87 shotgun valued at \$650.

Annual aviation safety-education seminar draws more than 40 to airport

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Encouraging safety and heightening public awareness was the focus of this year's Aviation Safety-Education Seminar sponsored by the Colby Municipal Airport, said Mark Ostmeyer, manager. The annual event was held on Saturday at the airport with more than 40 pilots and others interested in aviation safety attending, he said.

"We have more than 100 pilots in the area and it's important to keep current on the latest rules and regulations by the FAA," he said.

Among the presenters were Dale Mleynek, Wichita Air Traffic Control Tower; Bruce Alred, Wichita Flight Standards District Office; and Dave Dewhirsch, chief executive officer with Sabris Corporation. Mleynek spoke

about runway incursions, which would involve situations leading to airplanes hitting other airplanes on the same runway during take-offs, landings or taxiing. Many examples were cited when this type of situation occurred. Ostmeyer said, to include a recent crash in Spain and one in China involving a plan taking off the wrong way and hitting another aircraft.

Dewhirsch emphasized the need for continuing education and talked about why airplane accidents happen. "He offered many kinds of situations where pilots can make costly mistakes on the ground or in the air," Ostmeyer said.

As the safety program coordinator with the FAA in Wichita, Alred discussed many aspects of flying safety as well to include new measures that are being taken following the 9-11 disaster.

Alred also spoke about the role of emergency medical services and fire department personnel on the scene following an incident or accident, adding what pilots should do when approaching this type of situation.

People attending the six-hour safety program came from Colby, Oakley, Grinnell, Russell, Monument, Grainfield, Hays, Atwood, Sharon Springs, Salina, Brownell, Oberlin, Hoxie, Leavenworth, Wichita, Burlington, Colo., and Johnson Lake, Neb.

"It's always a good idea to talk about aviation safety," Ostmeyer said, "and while programs like this one are geared to flyers, these events are open to the public."

Ostmeyer encourages the public to visit the airport or consider flying lessons. For information, call 462-4438.



(Left) Dave Dewhirsch, chief executive officer and flight instructor at Sabris Corporation in Wichita, spoke about airplane accidents and why they happen during an aviation safety-education seminar at Colby Municipal Airport on Saturday. (Right) More than 40 people attended the six-hour seminar.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Briefly

Weather: Very nice

The National Weather Service sees nothing major for the Colby area through mid-week, at least. Tonight, clear, lows in the middle 20s and west winds 5-10 mph. Tuesday, partly sunny, highs in the uppers 60s and southwest winds 5-15 mph. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 20s. Wednesday, partly sunny, highs in the upper 50s. Colby's high Sunday was 65 and the overnight low this morning was 16, climbing to 34 by 8 a.m. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 33 degrees. Precipitation for the month remains at 0.01 inches. The records for March 11: 87 in 1989 and -20 in 1948. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

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Tornado drill planned Tuesday

The National Weather Service Office in Goodland, along with other emergency broadcasting systems, will conduct a full-fledged tornado drill on Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. (CST) in Colby. The drill is also part of a statewide effort in conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Week, which began Sunday and concludes on Saturday, said Lyle Barker, science and operations officer in Goodland. As part of the drill, Barker is urging residents and businesses to practice safety procedures in the workplace and at home during the event.

Fair board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday in the 4-H Building to discuss plans for the coming fair, and to conduct routine business. The meeting is open to the public.

Storm spotter class slated

The National Weather Service in Goodland and the Thomas County Emergency Management will present a storm spotter and safety class in Colby on Tuesday, March 26. The training will begin at 7 p.m. in the Student Union of Colby Community College. It is free of charge and is intended for all age groups. For information contact John Lygeros Jr. or

the Goodland Weather Service at 785-899-7119.

Volunteers needed for tournament

The Colby High School Eagle Forensics team is hosting its home tournament on Thursday, March 21, in the commons area and 19 schools already have confirmed entries, said Nancy Rundel, head coach. There will be nine events in the tournament to include persuasive speaking, informative speaking, extemporaneous speaking, solo acting-serious, solo-acting humorous, duet acting, improvised duet acting, oral interpretation of poetry and oral interpretation of prose, she said. Arrangements are well underway, but community volunteers are still needed. Call 465-5300.

