



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Award shocks Colby resident

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A research technologist with the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center based in Colby was recognized for his work in crop performance evaluation and named this year's employee of the year within the Kansas State research centers.



Pat Evans

Pat Evans of Colby, who was nominated and evaluated by peers and supervisors in research centers across the state, was honored at a special ceremony late last week, said Rob Aiken, local coordinator of the center.

"I was shocked and gratified to receive the award," Evans said today. "There are five research centers in Kansas at Colby, Hays, Parsons, Tribune and Garden City with more than 30 people who could have been eligible for the honor."

In addition to those research technologists, Evans said there are also five experiment field and probably another 10 people who could have qualified for the award as well.

"This is quite an honor for all of us here and because of Pat's work, the evaluations are valued by farmers and the seed industry," Aiken said.

"These trials provide unbiased infor-

mation of crop development and yield for six major dryland and irrigated crops in the region," he said.

The commendation noted that because of Evan's innovative development of field equipment, careful management of crop performance evaluation trials and initiative in publishing sunflower performance results, the outcome has been regional and national recognition.

"He has created field equipment, helped equip the machinery with an automated data acquisition system and has completed course work in database management as well, which has helped the research group develop a database for field operations," Aiken said.

The sunflower performance trials were first established by Evan's predecessor, John Lawless, Aiken said, and he has continued to take the lead role in this work.

"Pat's relationship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service Sunflower Research Unit has gone a long way to establish the potential for sunflower production in our region," he said.

Kansas is currently the third largest producer of sunflowers in the United States.

Along with Evan's award, Larry Dible, plant technician, and Vicki Brown, research-center secretary, also received recognition for long-term service. Dible was honored for 25 years and Brown for 15 years of service during the ceremony, too.

## The leaders hear Moran



DAREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran (R-Hays) was among the special visitors speaking today to a group of about 35 Leadership Kansas class members at Colby Community College. Moran, along with Carla Stovall, attorney general, spoke to the students about issues affecting Kansans as related to health, education, agriculture and the budget. The class members arrived in Colby on Wednesday and left earlier this after-

noon, officials said. Some highlights of the class visit included traveling to the technical college in Goodland, touring the Prairie Museum of Art and History and later treated to dinner and a reception at the home of Lon Frahm, who is an alumni of the Leadership Kansas organization, on Thursday. This year's class was primarily made up of Kansans in the Wichita and Topeka areas.

## Sebelius promises leaner government, but won't make no-tax pledge

TOPEKA (AP) — Democratic candidate Kathleen Sebelius says the state has enough money to finance vital programs but is stopping short of promising not to increase taxes if she is elected governor.

Sebelius, the insurance commissioner, did pledge Thursday to start an agency-by-agency review of spending, though she wasn't specific about the details.

Sebelius addressed budget issues in response to reporters' questions following a Statehouse rally that attracted about 150 supporters. The

Republican-controlled Legislature increased taxes \$252 million this year to prevent cuts in education and social services.

"I believe that the resources are there to fund our strategic priorities," Sebelius said. "I'm not adverse to making tough decisions."

She said a review of agency spending is necessary because the state needs to have a better idea of how its spends tax dollars.

Sebelius then repeated a story she likes to tell on the campaign trail.

When she became insurance commissioner

in 1995, she learned her office had four employees guarding a vault in the basement of a state office building, even though the vault contained nothing of value. She said shutting down the vault saved \$1 million a year.

"I know that there are ways throughout agencies to shift dollars into strategic areas," she said. "You can't talk about whether the revenue is adequate until you know what is funded."

Asked whether she was making a no-tax pledge, Sebelius said: "I am not committing to anything other than the process I've just out-

lined. I believe the resources are adequate to move us into the future."

So far, Sebelius is the only Democrat running for governor in the Aug. 6 primary; four Republicans are competing for the chance to advance to the Nov. 5 election.

Republican candidate Tim Shallenburger, the state treasurer, already has pledged not to increase taxes if elected.

He hasn't offered a comprehensive budget plan but has said the state could save money by combatting fraudulent claims for medical ser-

vices. He also has questioned spending on computer projects and office furniture.

Another GOP candidate, Senate President Dave Kerr, has defended this year's tax increases as necessary to save public schools and said he is willing to make such tough decisions.

Wichita Mayor Bob Knight, also seeking the Republican nomination, hasn't said how he would have addressed the state's budget problems, but his running mate, House Speaker Kent Glasscock, helped pushed this year's tax increases through the Legislature.

## Sprucing up



DAREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Melissa Murray with the Colby Recreation Department worked this week on getting the Recreation Complex ready for summer events.

## Southwind Plaza is set for big grand opening

By TOM A. DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Saturday is the day Tuffy and Linda Taylor have been anxiously awaiting. It's the day their new business venture — Southwind Plaza — has its official grand opening just south of I-70 in southwest Colby.

The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. and from that

time on there will be a host of activities to keep visitors and shoppers of all ages occupied. The festivities continue to 9 p.m. Businesses located in the former White Factory Outlet include Kansas Country Store, Out West, Full Size Fashions, Amy's Fashions, Famous Footwear, Comstock Deli, Buffalo Country, Pirates Den, Lady Taylor's, Amy's ANX, Meat Market, and

the Girl Scouts of Sunflower Council.

The Taylors said those visiting the complex can expect to see or take part in, face painting, hair braiding, tasting fair, demonstrations, a presentation by Buffalo Bill, a cookoff, entertainment by the McLemore Family, tricycle races, 3-legged races, sack races, coin hunt, police dog demonstrations, free throw contests, sidewalk art contest

with chalk and a 3-on-3 open play.

A double-page spread on pages 3 & 4 in today's Free Press further details activities, bargains and good wishes from businesses involved in the reformation of the complex.

The Taylors purchased the property many months ago and in the process demolished the old London Fog building to make way for future plans.

## Airmen survive rescue helicopter crash in Oregon

TIMBERLINE LODGE, Ore. (AP)

—A climbing accident that killed three people on Mount Hood nearly turned into a far worse disaster when an Air Force Reserve rescue helicopter crashed and careened down the slope.

Several of the six crewmen on board were thrown from the Pave Hawk he-

licopter in the crash, but only one was seriously injured.

The helicopter was attempting to bring up a climber on a gurney attached to a cable when the craft plunged into the snowy peak. It rolled over half a dozen times, tumbling 1,000 feet down the mountain before coming to rest

upside down.

Rescuers praised the crew for steering the helicopter away from people who had gathered on the ridge to help survivors of the climbing accident.

"He banked left to keep from hitting us," rescuer Mike Leming said of the pilot. "He knew he was going to kill us

so he just started moving out of the way."

A crew member released the cable just before the helicopter lost control. An injured climber and three rescuers who were assisting him were on the gurney, which was still on the ground when the cable was released.

## Briefly

### Very hot conditions

"Very hot" sums up the Colby area's weather through Sunday, said the National Weather Service in its mid-morning forecast today. Tonight, partly cloudy, lows in the middle 60s and south winds around 10 mph. Saturday, partly sunny, slim chance for isolated after thunderstorms, very hot with highs 95-100 and south winds 10-15 mph. Saturday night, slim chance for thunderstorms until midnight, lows in the middle 60s and light winds. Sunday, partly sunny, isolated afternoon thunderstorms, very hot again with highs 95-100. Look for the middle 50s Sunday night and highs Monday cooler into the middle 70s. Colby's high Thursday was 92 and the overnight low this morning was 59, climbing to 72 by 8 a.m. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth has risen to 76 degrees. Precipitation remains at 1.39 inches. The records for May 31: 92 in 1955 and 36 in 1964. (The temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Varied agenda for school board

The Colby Board of Education will meet Monday at 7 p.m. in the board room of the administration building, 210

S. Range, for its regular meeting. In addition to routine business and administrative reports, the board plans to discuss next year's budget and alternatives for the administration building. Other items include discussion of the Thomas County Learning Center, moving graduation to Saturday, the house/woods project contract and dues for the Colby Chamber of Commerce and Kansas Association of School Boards. The board will also discuss and take action on employment recommendations, resignations and supplemental contracts. For information or an agenda, call 465-5000.

### Weight room schedule announced

With the school year winding down and summer fast approaching, the summer weight room hours have been scheduled, said Jeff Quenzer, assistant principal/activities director at Colby High School. The weight room will be open starting Monday, June 3 and will run through Friday, Aug. 16. The weight room will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 9 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. The cost for using the weight room will be \$17.50 for all Colby Public School students; \$22.50 for Colby College students with identification; \$27.50 for adults; and \$45 for families. "Athletes participating in any sport during the

2002-03 school year are strongly encouraged to attend," Quenzer said. "Success next year will be determined by how much time athletes put in the weight room this summer." For questions, call 465-5300.

### Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the commissioners room of the courthouse. Police Chief Randy Jones and Sally Tibbles of the City of Colby will discuss a communications contract between the city and the county at 9 a.m.; Randy Dick, Kaw Valley insurance, is on the agenda at 9:30; and Nina Carpenter will discuss the ADAC budget at 10:45. All meetings are open to the public.

### College board schedules meeting

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room of the administration building. They will discuss capital outlay, approve an agreement, approve contracts, approve mission and vision statements, hear an Endowment Association report, and discuss any other item of business any member wishes to discuss. The meeting is open to the public.



## Thumbs up!



✓Bryan Bullington — Colby High School principal, thanks for your service, and good luck in the future.

✓Eric Seemann and Adam Smith — Colby High School's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

✓Trudy Wildeman — good luck with the pageant.

✓Menlo United Methodist Church — memories will linger.

✓Katherine Mills and Tara Fulwider — Brewster High School's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

✓Phil Schindler — 13 years of perfection.

✓Alisha Broeckelman and Michelle Juenemann, valedictorians and Elizabeth Purcell, salutatorian — at Golden Plains High School.

✓Sandy Harper — Colby Community College's Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

✓Rexford Church Pacers — Gary Taylor, Vicki Allison, Dennis Allison, Mike Meserve, Bernada Zoberst and Shawn Spesser on your combined 1,458 miles in the Walk Kansas project.

(Call us at 462-3963 to submit a name or names for inclusion in this weekly salute.)

