



COLBY FREE PRESS

Support grows for home-owned carnival

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

A large number of home-owned carnival enthusiasts attended the Thursday night meeting of the Thomas County Fair Board to show support for starting a carnival.

In surrounding counties that already have home-owned carnivals, such as Sheridan and Logan, a separate board is established to run the carnival, the group was told. The new board would work closely with the fair board to make sure things would run smoothly during the event.

Fair Board President Mark Miller asked for opinions from the crowd on going forth with the project. All were in favor and many of them already having done personal surveys in the community.

Valerie Wark spent time asking people if they would volunteer an evening of working a ride. She also asked different businesses and organizations for various kinds of help. Overwhelmingly, Wark had a positive response.

"Of the people I talked with, only 6 to 10

turned me down," reported Wark.

Miller asked if anyone was willing to head up the committee. Kerry Wark volunteered to head the committee and is looking for members of the community to assist in various ways. Those interested in serving on the carnival committee, or helping in any way can contact him at (785) 462-6403.

Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones said of the proposed home-owned carnival, "This will benefit all of us morally and benefit our community as a whole."

As for this year, the fair board is seeking various groups to set up games at the fair. All groups are welcome to set up a game booth, but the board is encouraging them to contact a fair board member to arrange proper spaces.

Other games and activities are also scheduled such as a climbing wall, the bucking bull machine, and a possible shooting gallery.

In other business:

- Sheriff Jones discussed security issues for the fair. Funding for the security cannot be funded by the Sheriff's Department. Jones told

the board there were three possibilities for security...they could continue as they have in the past with the funding coming from the Thomas County Fair Board, they could use no security, or the fair board could find community volunteers to do the security. The board will make a final decision and contact the sheriff.

- Concerns were raised over the location for preparation for the Wednesday evening free BBQ. John Anderson and board agree to continue with preparations as they have done in the past, but a new commercial sink will be purchased and permanently installed into the 4-H building. Jim Malcolm will be checking into the details of the purchase.

- Trudy Wildeman spoke with the board on the progress of the Queen and Princess contest. They are still looking for three judges, and packets for contestants have been sent out. Items such as the saddle, saddle pads, and buckles have already been purchased.

- In the Thomas County Extension Agency report, D'Ette Scholtz suggested that there be no farm safety show in conjunction with the fair

due to the resignation of Dennis Chandler and shortness of staff.

- Fair participants will know during the county fair if they are eligible to attend the state fair this year. They will have stickers to go on the exhibits and a sign up sheet on site. This will eliminate a great deal of post-fair paperwork and expense for the Extension office.

- Members of the Wyandotte County 4-H Club will be staying in Colby this weekend. They are taking a trip to Colorado and will staying with members of the local 4-H club and attending the races on Sunday night.

- The weekend held last Saturday was discussed. The \$100 fee plus 10 percent of the gate fee was not collected from the owners of the circus. Mark Anderson volunteered to look into the situation.

- A motion was carried to hire the Bennington Drill Team to perform in the fair parade, two nights of the rodeo, and a closing ceremony for the price of \$350.

- A motion was carried to raise the storage rent from \$10 to \$25 straight across the board

for all locations.

- Gary Garrett reported the search for rodeo sponsors have been going well, but is continuing. The fair is adding a wall of support this year that will be prominently displayed on the back of the grandstand during the week of the fair. To donate and have your name placed on the wall of support, there is a \$50 fee. Names on the board will be approximately 6 inches high and 4 feet wide.

Other ways to advertise are sponsoring a rodeo event (\$750), chute sponsors (\$500), large banners (\$325), and small banners (\$150). Anyone interested in advertising should contact Mark Miller or Mark Anderson.

- A contract to set up a Sept. 7 concert with Ty England was discussed. Before signing the contract, members of the fair board will be attending the Chamber of Commerce meeting on Tuesday to discuss a possible offer for them to assume the contract from the fair board. Pending agreement to terms of both the Chamber of Commerce and Ty England, the board will wait to sign the contract.

Traffic stop results in arrest near Colby

By DARREL PATILLO

Colby Free Press

Details are sketchy at this time about a traffic stop on I-70 near Colby that resulted in discovery of marijuana, but Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones was able to share the following information today.

Wednesday afternoon at approximately 5:53 p.m., he said, 32-year old Janetta L. Cotton, of Tempe, Ariz., was stopped by a Thomas County Deputy Sheriff at mile marker 61 on Interstate

70 for a traffic violation.

Subsequent to the traffic stop, Jones said, the deputy discovered 108 pounds of marijuana in the vehicle.

The woman was arrested for transporting marijuana with the intent to sell and is being held in the Thomas County jail.

Jones said an affidavit was presented to Judge Glen Schiffner that will allow the woman to be held in jail until Thomas County Attorney Alan Taylor can file charges.

Small town raises money to rebuild store

ALMENA (AP) — After this town of 500 lost its only grocery store to a fire in December, residents not only raised money to rebuild it, they helped with the construction.

Janette Callaway, who owns the Almena Market with her husband, Jeff, said residents helped put on the roof, clean up after the construction crew, haul in equipment, stock the shelves and raise money.

At one fund-raiser, rib cooks let residents vote with money for their favorite items, with the proceeds going to the store.

Construction started March 15, and the store, which is three times the size of the original, opened June 1. Grand opening festivities are scheduled for Saturday.

After fire destroyed the Almena Market, Jeff Callaway wasn't sure he would rebuild and waited until February to decide.

He could have changed his career, but the support from Almena people

convinced him.

No one is exactly sure when the store first opened, but Janette Callaway says elderly Almena residents tell her they worked there in high school. The Callaways bought the store in 1994 from Janette Callaway's parents.

Drake Gebhard, an Almena school board member and owner of a small construction company, knows how important the store was to this Norton County town.

"If you don't have a school you don't have a town."

"If you don't have a store you don't have a town," Gebhard said.

During the six months between the fire and the reopening, the market continued to sell a limited amount of food out of a building the Callaways rented.

The next-closest grocer is 12 miles away in Norton.

To rebuild, the Callaways received a rural development loan and are working on their insurance claim.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Thomas County Sheriff's deputies Jim Engel and Marc Finley assist Marty Rinehart (Colby EMS) and Rick Dickman (Colby Fire Department) in emergency care for the driver involved in Thursday's accident on I-70.

I-70 accident brings call for driver alertness

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

Emergency crews rushed to Colby's west exit on I-70 late Thursday afternoon to aid in an injury accident involving a semi truck and a passenger car.

The semi, driven by Walter Brunson, 56, of Denver, was traveling westbound on the interstate when the car driven by Evan Green, 78, of Tribune failed to yield to him upon entering from the on ramp, according to the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Construction on this area of the highway continues and mandates that traffic coming onto I-70 yield to the one lane of flowing traffic already there.

Green was traveling in a 2000 Buick LeSabre with his wife, Arline, 76. Their vehicle was rear-ended by

Brunson's semi forcing them through the median, the eastbound lane of I-70, and into the south ditch.

Medical crews transported all three by ambulance to Citizens Medical Center where they were treated and released.

Although the construction in that area will continue through the summer months, and I-70 travel near Colby's exits requires alertness, all signage and lanes are up to federal standards, according to Tom Hein, Kansas Department of Transportation public involvement liaison.

Hein said, "We want to remind the people of Colby that we made strong efforts to keep traffic up on I-70 rather than detour them through their town, due to local concern."

According to Hein, the project is scheduled for completion in October, but due to cooperative weather and the

hard work of Venture Road Construction, an optimistic September completion in expected.

The 8-mile section from Levant (exit 45) to Colby (exit 52) also has both the eastbound and westbound rest areas temporarily closed.

Daytime only lane closures will go into effect Aug. 1 until the completion of the project.

Summer is a busy time for travelers as well as those who maintain and update highways, Hein said. It is always best to put safety first when driving through construction zones, he advised.

The following tips were offered:

- Slow down and pay attention! Neon orange signs are an indication to slow down.

- This is not the time to use the cellular phone, change radio stations, eat or drink.

- Avoid complacency during long-term construction projects.

- Keep calm. Work zones mean improved roads and aren't meant to inconvenience anyone.

- Heed warning signs and symbols and flaggers.

- Be prepared to slow down or stop.
- Slow down when signs first indicate. At 60 m.p.h. it takes 17 seconds to travel 1,500 feet. Use lower speeds to decrease risk.

- Merge into the proper lane well before reaching the work zone.

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers.

- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance.

- If you are behind a construction vehicle and you can't see its mirrors, then its driver can't see you.



Thumbs up!



- ✓ Dennis Chandler — good luck in Arizona.
- ✓ Brady Dible, Joshua Carroll, Lee Albers — Golden Plains' representatives to this year's Boys' State.
- ✓ Tom & Jane Bandy — hope this week was more routine.
- ✓ Heritage Daze Organizers — for a super weekend!
- ✓ Sappa Strings/Wayne & Millie Lauritsen, and the McLemore Family — the first two entertainers at the Thursday noon Picnic in the Park series.
- ✓ Home-Owned Carnival Enthusiasts — keep the drive live.

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

Briefly

Favorable forecast

Favorable weather for the Colby region is the expectation from the National Weather Service for the weekend and into Monday. Tonight, mostly cloudy, lows in the lower 50s and southeast winds 5-10 mph. Saturday, cloudy to partly cloudy, chance for thunderstorms, highs in the upper 70s with light southerly winds. Saturday night, partly cloudy, a chance for thunderstorms, lows in the upper 50s. Sunday and Monday, partly cloudy, highs in the upper 70s and lows in the middle 50s, with a chance for thunderstorms both days. Colby's high Thursday was 77 and the overnight low this morning was a very cool 45. An additional 0.02 inches of precipitation was recorded during the past 24 hours bring-

ing the total for the month to 1.26 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth has dropped to 74 degrees. The records for June 14: 103 in 1952 and 40 in 1969. (The temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Vehicle destroyed in fire

The Colby Fire Department responded to a pickup fire at County roads K and 12, southwest of Colby, at approximately 9 a.m. this morning. According to assistant fire chief Rick Dickman, the truck had been parked for an hour or so when it caught fire. The cause is unknown at this time. The pickup was totally destroyed. The fire department re-

sponded to the blaze with three of its rural trucks, two tankers and a pumper. The pickup was the only thing damaged at the scene, although Dickman said a nearby garage was threatened. Ownership of the vehicle, according to Colby firefighter Ross Carney, is Scott Wieland.

College board to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Thomas Hall Administration Building. They will discuss capital outlay, approve some agreements and contracts, act on a resignation, approve administrative contracts, pay bills and hear the status of group life insurance.

Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the commissioners room of the courthouse. Maxine Nelson will be honored upon her retirement from the Colby Free Press at 9 a.m. No other appointments were scheduled at press time. The meeting is open to the public.

Archery tournament Sunday

The Northwest Kansas Bowhunters are sponsoring a 3-D archery tournament on Sunday, June 16, at the archery range in Colby. The range is located just north of the railroad tracks off Franklin Ave. For questions or information, call Gordon Rasmussen, 462-6524.

