



# COLBY FREE PRESS

Adding to city’s prestige

## Colby municipal pool makes historical register

By DARREL PATTILLO

*Colby Free Press*

The Colby Municipal Swimming Pool has been entered onto the National Register of Historic Places, and is now considered by the Kansas State Historical Society to be a significant local property.

Sue Taylor, director of the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby, is thrilled.

“Any time a city nominates a building such as the swimming pool to be on the National Register, adds to the prestige of the city. It’s great for tourism as well.”

In addition to the swimming pool, the Thomas County Courthouse, City Hall, and the old high school buildings have been nominated to the National Register.

In addition to added prestige, addition to the National Register has a more practical implication. Colby Mayor Warren Hixson said that money is now available on a grant basis from federal and state sources for upkeep of the pool.

“That was one of the main reasons why we nominated the pool,” he said. “And,” he added, “there’s not that many buildings left from that time period.”

The pool was constructed in 1941, using funds from the Works Projects Administration, a Depression-era public jobs program which provided jobs to able-bodied men then on public relief. Thousands of miles of roads, over a hundred thousand public buildings including schools, libraries, and court-houses, and many recreational buildings and facilities were constructed as a result of the WPA.

On June 5, 1941, Colby opened what was to be known as the biggest and best swimming pool between Hays and Denver.

Single admission was 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children with season tickets priced at \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Suits and towels were available for rent at the pool. H. L. Rippart, state director of WPA operations was the principal speaker at the Pool Dedication in which the High School Band played. Results of the WPA project were published as follows:

A balance of \$1,082.15 was unused of the federal appropriation for the project. The city voted \$25,000 for its part of the project Nov. 8, 1938; and from the sale of these bonds the full \$25,000 was netted to the city. The city spent for materials \$25,185.96 in construction and equipping the pool, an excess over the bond issue of \$185.96. To offset this excess expenditure the city had salvage material and equipment left from the project which at a very conservative estimate amounted to \$273.50.

This salvage material was sold by the city so that there was a slight excess in favor of the city instead of a deficit on original estimated costs.

Also included in the city’s total expenditures are items totaling \$712.47 which were not included in the original estimate of expenditures made early in 1938 by the city’s engineers, Paulette and Wilson, of Salina.

Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House is a unique, local landmark.

Some other pools area wide have been razed for construction of different pools. Consideration was given to raze the 1941 Pool and replace it with another pool. In 1992 Olson Associates made plans for the renovations done by Stephens Construction Co. of Colby. These renovations have extended the useful life of the pool, along with annual maintenance and upkeep. Colby plans to maintain and preserve the integrity of this WPA project for future generations to enjoy.

## A time to celebrate



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Jacob Munk, 4, of Menlo was among many children throughout Thomas County to join in the Independence Day activities on Thursday. Jacob is the son of Christie and Andy Munk and, according to his mother, the family had a busy day by enjoying the Fourth of July with Jacob’s grandparents, George and Inez Overton, at their farm just west of Colby, along with visiting other relatives and attending the special fireworks display sponsored by the Kiwanis Club at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

## Home-owned carnival group seeks funds; sets Monday meeting

A group of individuals interested in the Thomas County Amusement Association met at the Holiday Inn Express last week to take further steps in starting the ground work to establish a home-owned carnival.

Dick Parnell was selected as chairman for the fund raising committee, officials said, and a goal was set at \$300,000 to be met by May 1, 2003. The new organization hopes to have half of the funds collected by the end

of this year.

In addition, the group wants to have a number of rides purchased and in place for the 2003 Thomas County Fair. Parnell will be contacting clubs and organizations around Colby and Thomas County in an effort to promote the Association.

“This project is going to need many volunteers and support of the entire county and community,” he said. Anyone interested in learning more details

about the Thomas County Amusement Association, call Parnell at 785-462-6125 or Kerry Wark at 785-462-6403 to put them on your organization’s next agenda.

The next meeting of the Thomas County Amusement Association will be at 8 p.m., Monday, July 8, in the Thomas County Office Complex.

Committee members are encouraging people to plan on attending and offering support for this great project.

## FBI identifies Egyptian immigrant as gunman in LA airport shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A shooting at a ticket counter for Israeli airline El Al threw the nation’s third busiest airport into turmoil and left three people dead, including the Egyptian gunman.

The attack came on the Fourth of July, a day when the possibility of terrorism had put security on high alert around the country. The FBI, however, was withholding judgment on whether

to label the airport attack as terrorism.

The shooter was identified as Mohamed Hadayet, 41, who listed July 4 as his birthday on one of two driver’s licenses. He opened fire in the international terminal of Los Angeles International Airport and was shot dead by an El Al guard.

“We can’t rule that out, but there’s nothing to indicate terrorism at this

point,” FBI spokesman Matt McLaughlin said, suggesting it might instead be a hate crime.

“We’d have to find some connections to a terrorist group,” he said.

Israel’s foreign ministry blamed terrorism, but didn’t offer any evidence.

Travelers dove to the ground or scattered for cover when gunfire erupted at the El Al counter. Ticket agent

Victoria Hen, 25, and Yaakov Aminov, 46, a jeweler and father of eight who was dropping off a friend, were fatally shot before two El Al guards overwhelmed Hadayet.

The guards and a woman were wounded; another woman suffered heart problems.

The FBI released the gunman’s name late Thursday as police in subur-

ban Irvine, 35 miles southeast of the airport, searched his apartment. Police Lt. Sam Allevato said they were looking for his wife and two sons. Neighbors said they went to Egypt for the summer.

Federal agents later arrived with a search warrant to examine the apartment, from which Hadayet ran his livery service, Five Star Limo.

Neighbors said he was quiet but became incensed when an upstairs neighbor hung large American and Marine Corps flags from a balcony above his front door after Sept. 11. The flags remained there Thursday night.

“He complained about it to the apartment manager. He thought it was being thrown in his face,” said Steve Thompson, 39.

## Another oasis on the plains



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Rod Taylor of Colby was sprucing up his water garden earlier this week in preparation for the first-ever water garden tour sponsored by Citizens Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary. According to Taylor, he and his wife, Judy, started work on the garden in September of 2001 and find it a source of relaxation and enjoyment for their entire family. The garden measures 26’ x 8’ to 14’ wide and is equipped with soft landscaping lights all around it. Tickets for the tour are now on sale for \$6 and can be purchased at Goodheart Landscaping, Citizens Medical Center Gift Shop or any Colby Bank, said Bev Biel, one of the coordinators. The tour will be Sunday, July 21, from 2 to 5 p.m., with all proceeds to benefit the auxiliary in its efforts to help purchase items for Citizens Medical Center. More details will appear in a later edition.

## Briefly

### Rain in the forecast

Temperatures are expected to be slightly cooler this weekend, according to the National Weather Service Office in Goodland. Tonight, forecasters are calling for a 60 percent chance of thunderstorms under otherwise cloudy skies. Winds will be from the south at 10 to 15 mph and lows will be in the low to mid 60s. On Saturday, there’s a 50 percent chance for rain with highs in the low to upper 80s and again winds from the south at 10 to 15 mph. On Saturday night, lows will be in the 60s. For Sunday, predictions are for partly cloudy skies, highs in the upper 80s and low in the mid 60s. (*Temperatures provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.*)

### Local musicians to air live

Sappa Strings and the McLemore Family will be playing live on High Plains Public Radio, beginning at noon on Saturday. The two groups are asking that those wanting to listen to this live broadcast should turn the dial to 88.9 FM-KANZ in Garden City.

### Commissioners meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will hold their next regular meeting Monday, July 8, at 9 a.m. at the Thomas County Courthouse. Items on the agenda include discussion of the Thomas County Conservation District budget for 2003, and a report from Larry Jumper, director of the Thomas County Landfill. The public is encouraged to attend.

### Household waste site to open

The Thomas County Household Hazardous Waste Facility will be open on from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, July 13, said Sandy Swob, director. “This is a great time to bring old paints, stains, varnish, thinners, cleaning products, lawn and

garden chemicals, automotive parts, batteries and other acceptable items for disposal,” she said. The facility is free and open to all Thomas County households, she said. No business waste will be accepted and used motor oil should be taken to the county landfill for recycling. For questions, call Swob at 462-4525.

### Wall of Support offered

The Thomas County Fair is offering the community a place to come together as family and celebrate what is best about living in Northwest Kansas, said Mark Miller, fair board president. The wall will feature a list of businesses and individual names prominently displayed on the back of the grandstands during the week of the Thomas County Fair. To help, call 462-6347 or Mark Anderson at 687-3731.

### Free fans available

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross has allotted money to purchase fans for those in need, said Molly Oliver, disaster chair. The fans are free and need not be returned, she said. For those interested, call the Red Cross office at (785) 462-7161 or call board members Dave Evert (785) 694-2633 or Duane Unger (785) 462-6177. In the event that no one is available at the office, Oliver said to leave a message and a Red Cross representative will contact you.

### Queen/princess apps sought

Applications are being sought for the Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess pageant, said Trudy Wildeman, coordinator. The pageant will be held Friday, July 26, and anyone interested in an application form is asked to contact Wildeman at (785) 462-2848. The saddle, which will be awarded to the 2002 Rodeo Queen, is now on display at “OutWest,” located in the Southwind Plaza.

