



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

Sound  
of  
fame

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
Colby Free Press

Colby may not be filled with models or movie stars, but does have many people who have their own claim to fame. Scott Hubbell is one Colby man who has made his talents known on nationally syndicated radio.

Hubbell, along with the help of Rick Carter of Colby and Shad Sheldon of Goodland, co-wrote and co-produced the theme song for the *Con Man* show that plays five nights a week at 7 p.m. on country music. In the immediate listening area, people can hear the program on 97.9 FM KWGB.

Hubbell and Sheldon have worked together in production for many years. Both have their own independent companies and subcontract through each other often.

Sheldon and the radio personality Chris Conn, also known as the *Con Man*, have known each other for years. Conn's program is based in Denver and the two met after Conn played some of Sheldon's music on a portion of his program in which he plays unsigned musicians.

Conn's father originally approached Sheldon to do a song for his son's birthday. The song didn't start out to be a theme song, but after some thought and assistance by Hubbell, it grew into what is heard on the radio today.

Sheldon approached Hubbell with some ideas on the lyrics for the project.

"I told Shad that I had some music that would work great for that," said Hubbell.

Hubbell, who is an accomplished bass guitar player, laid down the music for the project and both agreed they had a winning combination.

Still needing someone to play the drums for the project, Hubbell talked with Carter, who plays in the local band *Wild Ride*. Carter agreed to work with the pair adding his exper-

Our  
people

tise to the song.

All music and singing on the theme song is produced in one segment, all instruments are real and nothing is prefabricated.

"I am not a believer in editing. I play and play until I get it right without having to piece it together," said Hubbell.

When Hubbell gets a project from Sheldon, all he usually gets is a basic idea with a guitar line and a vocal track. Hubbell says he then takes the piece and "fills in the rest." Over the past 10 years, they have worked together to get their equipment and systems to be compatible. They can send each other disks back and forth and work on the same projects with ease.

Hubbell focuses his musical talent around the bass guitar. He is professionally endorsed by Seymour Duncan, a nationally recognized guitar company. His endorsement allows him to have great exposure in the industry and with their products. Hubbell said he is currently writing an instructional column on the Internet as an invited writer for basically.net. He has been giving the on-line lessons since 1999.

When asked about his inspiration for music, Hubbell claims he "fell into it." In high school, after finding a bass guitar in a closet at his home, he taught himself to play. According to the musician, he has very good relative pitch and plays almost everything by ear.

Hubbell's newest project is an instructional CD ROM that he has coming out this fall entitled "Fret Board Alchemy for Bass."

Hubbell is married to Kristie (Turner) since 1994. They have one son, Taylen, who is 3 1/2. His is employed by Apria Healthcare in Colby.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Scott Hubbell has many instruments in his basement which work in conjunction with his editing equipment. Hubbell demonstrated how his equipment works together.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Scott Hubbell demonstrated one of the bass guitar riffs he used in the "Con Man" theme song.

Colby hospital  
votes to acquire  
center for health

By PATTY DECKER  
Free Press Editor

Colby's hospital board took action Thursday night at its regular meeting to buy the assets of Family Center for Health Care, which is currently owned by Preferred Medical Associates of Wichita.

The announcement was made earlier today in the form of a press release noting that the majority of the board felt that it was necessary.

"We felt we had to step up to the plate and take this action to insure that there would be no interruption in the delivery of services to the patients of the Family Center for Health Care," said Vern Schwanke, board president of Citizens Medical Center, Inc.

The release further noted that the board intends this to be a temporary solution until a better permanent solution can be found.

"The general feeling was that the clinic is just too important to the community and to the hospital for us to sit back and do nothing," Schwanke said.

Providing background information, Scott Focke with Family Center for Health Care said the clinic's future was in question after the loss of its only two physicians, Drs. Eric Jacobsen and Jeff Kasselmann, and the notice that Preferred Medical Associates would be ending its ownership of the clinic in October of 2002.

"These actions left the clinic's nurse practitioners, Luetta Flanagan and Jenny Niblock, along with thousands of its patients in limbo," said Focke.

"We had investigated five to six other options before we approached the hospital about ownership," he said.

Those options were either unrealistic due to time constraints or were not in the best interest of the community.

The clinic is in discussions with "Docs Who Care," which is a physician group who specializes in full-time temporary physician coverage.

"This group would work with three to four doctors who would rotate on a weekly basis to provide full-time physician coverage for the clinic," Focke said.

"These physicians will be residency trained, board certified or eligible family practice physicians. They will provide the full compliment of family practice services to include obstetrics," he said. The details of this pending arrangement should be better known over the next month.

"We are hoping to have a physician in place on Dr. Kasselmann's last day, Aug. 9," Focke said, "which will allow the services, along with the on-going services of our nurse practitioners, to continue to meet our patient's needs."

*Editor's note: Due to deadline time constraints, no other details were available at this time.*

City's water situation  
nearing critical level;  
conservation urged

By PATTY DECKER  
Free Press Editor

The City of Colby is very close to water emergency conditions and officials are asking all residents to reduce their water usage.

"Due to the amount of usage," said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, "we are close to triggering the emergency conditions when the demand for three consecutive days exceeds 4.5 million gallons per day."

As of yesterday's totals, the demand for water was 4.7 million gallons on Tuesday, it was 4.5 million gallons on Wednesday and 4.46 million gallons on Thursday.

"The goal of the city is to reduce overall weekly consumption by 25 percent," she said, "and the city council will discuss the way to achieve that

goal at its Tuesday, July 16 meeting."

Under the water drought/emergency contingency plan approved by the city, the council can restrict or even prohibit outdoor water use, impose excess water use charges for usage of water over the amount used in the winter months, or impose other regulations which will reduce usage, she said.

"Based on the water consumption last year from July through December, it appears the city may exceed its water rights sometime in October or November," Armstrong said today.

The Division of Water Resources of the Kansas Department of Agriculture has the authority to levy fines up to \$1,000 for each day the city exceed its water rights.

"Please conserve water and help us avoid a substantial fine," she said.

WeatherWatch

Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers

Thursday's high, 87  
Low this morning, 52  
Year ago today, 90 and 64  
Temperature at 11:30 today, 76  
Rainfall past 24 hours, 0.00  
Month's rainfall, trace  
Soil temp, 83  
Records for July 12: 106 in 1954 and 47 in 1975

The forecast

Today's high is expected to reach 85. Good overnight sleeping weather as the mercury dipped to 52

degrees. Tonight, clear, lows in the middle 50s, southeast winds 5-10 mph. Saturday, sunny, highs in the upper 80s, light and variable winds. Saturday night, clear, lows near 60. Sunday, sunny, highs in the lower 90s. Sunday night, clear, lows in the middle 60s. Monday, clear, then turning cloudy late in the day, highs in the lower 90s. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Graves says further budget cuts a certainty

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves plans to order further cuts in state spending in August, though he doesn't intend to require agencies to lay off employees.

Graves told reporters Thursday that a new round of budget cuts is necessary because of slumping revenues in recent months. Collections fell more than \$200 million short of expectations for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

The \$4.4 billion budget legislators approved for the fiscal year that began July 1 already was slightly smaller than the one for the previous fiscal year.

"I don't know yet what the amounts will be. I don't know yet how it will be spread amongst all the agencies that consume state general fund dollars," Graves said. "But we are simply not going to have any choice but to shave back some amount of state general fund money."

He said he is likely to protect some programs from further cuts, most notably social services. Also, he will not cancel plans to spend \$750,000 to put a statue of a Kansa Indian on the Statehouse dome.

Graves said he and his cabinet sec-

retaries have been discussing possible spending and program cuts for months.

He acknowledged that small parks could be closed in response to a reporter's question. He also said the waiting lists for some services could get longer, even as he protected others.

"On an agency by agency basis, we've talked about all kinds of dire scenarios," he said.

Graves plans to make the cuts despite the Legislature's approval of \$252 million in tax increases this year. Among those increases was a jump in the cigarette tax on July 1 of 46 cents a

pack, something criticized by smokers and tobacco shop owners.

"I still don't have a whole lot of sympathy for the notion that we have some obligation to make acquiring cigarettes easy and inexpensive for Kansans," Graves said.

Yet, for all the talk of cuts, Graves said he is sticking by the Statehouse dome project — even in the face of opposition from some close advisers. He said the state made a commitment to the sculptor, Richard Bergen of Salina, when they chose officials chose his project in 1988.

Report suggests problem with retiree income

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansans who retire over the next three decades generally won't have enough money to cover their living expenses, a new study suggests.

And Gov. Bill Graves said the problem will become a big issue for state government. The report by the Employee Benefit Research Institute in Washington was presented Thursday

to the state's Task Force on Long-Term Care Services. The task force, which includes legislators and advocates for the elderly, is in its third year of a five-year study of the needs of senior citizens.

The report said that by 2031, living expenses for all elderly Kansans' could be \$700 million more than their retirement incomes. The report focused on

Kansans who were born between 1936 and 1964.

"That's something we should all be concerned about," Graves told the task force. "It's not a subject we know a lot about." Graves, Secretary on Aging Connie Hubbell and legislators on the task force said the report is important because it represents the first research of its kind for the state.

"This study means that many people in the next generation of Kansas seniors will need more money from family members and from other public and private sources in order to pay their expenses," said Sen. Sandy Praeger, R-Lawrence, a task force member.

The report suggested that covering basic living expenses would be no problem for couples

July 22, said Tracey Perkins, Thomas County clerk. Persons wanting to change affiliation or register can do either at the county clerk's office at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The clerk's office is also open through the lunch hour. For questions on these or other related matters, call 462-4500.

Nine-Run-Run apps available

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is hosting its seventh annual Nine-Run-Run, which will be held on Saturday, Aug. 3, beginning at 7 a.m. with registration. Those interested in participating in either the 10K run,

5K and 2 K fun runs, or the 53K bicycle ride, are encouraged to call the office at (785) 462-4585 or stop by the facility at 1275 S. Franklin, Colby to pick up a registration form.

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.

Recycling center takes phone books

The Thomas County Recycling Center is taking old telephone books at its collection site, 720 E. College Dr. in Colby.

Those wanting to drop off the books should use the magazine bins, coordinators said.

Briefly

Commissioners meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet Monday at 9 a.m. in the commissioners room in the courthouse. Agenda items include Pat Mallory from S&T on 911 features; John Lygeros, of Emergency Preparedness, about a Department of Justice grant; and Kathy Ryan, county health nurse, concerning other grants. The meeting is open to the public.

Registration deadlines near

The last day to register to vote or to change party affiliation for the Tuesday, Aug. 6 primary election is Monday,

