



COLBY FREE PRESS

S & T gets nod to provide 911 service in county

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

Pat Mallory and Mike Gross, representing S&T Telephone, appeared before the Thomas County Commissioners at their Monday meeting about their company's ability to provide 911 service.

The county's registration with Southwestern Bell requires that any other potential provider obtain approval from the county commissioners to offer such a service. The commissioners signed and approved the additional 911 provider.

For the time being, calls will route through Salina, just as is the case with Southwestern Bell. However, plans are in the works to establish a trunk in Colby so that 911 calls will route directly to dispatch without the Salina detour.

Gross also informed the commissioners that customers switching to S&T as their provider will have the prefix 460, instead of the 462 or 465. Those customers wishing to keep their old phone number will have to pay a small monthly service charge of around \$2.

John Lygeros, Thomas County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, told commissioners about a Department of Justice grant he had worked on and received in the amount of \$15,594.

This money will help support the Hazardous Material teams, purchase

EMS equipment, and provided additional funds for other such projects.

The commissioners approved accepting the grant and told Lygeros they would set up a line item for the funds to be channeled through the county.

County Health Nurse, Kathy Ryan, asked the commissioners to consider signing three contracts with other counties to provide services for them. The commissioner approved and signed all three contracts.

Ryan also received approval for a bio-terrorism grant in the amount of \$27,744.

In her time before the commissioners, Marlene Pfeifer asked if the county needed to pursue a lobbyist concerning the possibility of a 35-cent charge for wireless calls placed to 911. The commissioners agreed that a lobbyist was not needed at this time.

In other business:

- The commissioners approved a tax abatement in the amount of \$116.08 for a vehicle that was sold.

- The minutes were approved from last week's meeting.

- Chris Bieker of the road department asked the commissioners for approval to use left over asphalt on the frontage road by the interstate.

The commissioners approved the issue and were going to call Bieker to tell him to start at Holiday Inn Express and go east as far as he could to County Club Drive.

A day in Thomas County



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Volunteers from Thomas County will be out in full force this Saturday to capture the daily routine of its citizens as part of a Smoky Hills Public Television project, television officials said Monday. Above: Martha Brewer, who is the manager of the Ramada Inn and one of 20 volunteers agreeing to videotape those special moments that make Thomas County unique, was given some suggestions and tips on video-

taping interviews and close-up shots from Anthony Taylor (left) and Eric Sattler, both from Oberlin. The two men pictured attended Colby Community College and also assist Smoky Hills Public Television by shooting footage in the area for the weekly "Newslink" program, which airs at 6 p.m. on Mondays, on cable channel 3. The Thomas County program will air on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m.

Logan County Fair underway; free family fun night Wednesday

By TOM A. DREILING

Free Press Publisher

OAKLEY — Everything is spruced up, the crowds are arriving and the 2002 edition of the Logan County Fair is officially underway.

The 4-H Building opened at 8 a.m. today with 4-H foods judging taking place at 9 a.m..

From noon to 3 p.m., the livestock

weigh-in was conducted, while at 1 p.m., open class foods were judged.

Tonight's schedule

- 6 p.m. — 4-H Foods Auction & Sale

- 7 p.m. — Tri-County Amusement's home-owned carnival opens

- 7:30 p.m. — Grandstand Entertainment/free Christian concert

- 10 p.m. — 4-H Building closes

A free family fun night — "Barnyard Olympics" — is scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday. This event is open to everyone in the area and highlights include a grease pig contest, stick horse races, ball throw contest and a morning chore tag event, Kyle Hemmert, fair board publicity spokesman, told Free Press Editor Patty Decker.

"The morning chores contest is a tag activity requiring four people on the team to ride a horse, catch a chicken, catch a greased pig and milk a cow," he said. Winners in all categories will receive cash prizes.

Wednesday's Schedule

- 8 a.m. — 4-H Building opens

- 8:30 a.m. — Beef Show

- 9:30 a.m. — Judging begins, 4-H Building and barns

- 6:30 p.m. — Public Style Revue, in front of the grandstand

- 7 p.m. — Tri-County Amusement's home-owned carnival opens

- 7:30 p.m. — Grandstand entertainment/free family night of games

The fair continues Thursday, Friday and Saturday with numerous events involving many local and area participants. One of the major highlights will

be the big fair parade on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. down Center Avenue. Parade registration begins at 9 a.m. in front of the Dick Farmer Arena. That is expected to attract a large crowd from all over the territory.

The Free Press will continue to highlight each day's schedule in each edition this week. Also, look for fair pictures.

WeatherWatch

Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers

Monday's high, 94

Low this morning, 65

Year ago today, 91 and 63

Temperature at 11:15 a.m. today, 86

Rainfall past 24 hours, 0.00

Month's rainfall, trace

Soil temp, 83

Records for July 16: 107 in 1932 and 50 in 1917

The forecast

Look for today's high to top out around 95 with brisk southeasterly winds gusting up to 35-40 mph. Tonight, clear, lows in the upper 60s, south winds around 15 mph. Wednesday, sunny and hot, highs near 100, south winds 10-20 mph. Wednesday night, clear, lows in the upper 60s. Thursday, sunny and hot, highs again near 100. No mention of precipitation for the area. (*Temperatures and precipitation are from the North-west Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.*)

Corporate crooks put on notice with stiff penalties, jail

WASHINGTON (AP) — Galvanized by the need to shore up investor confidence, lawmakers have put on a fast track legislation creating stiff penalties and jail terms for company fraud and tightening oversight of the accounting industry.

Without dissent, the Senate on Monday passed the most sweeping changes in corporate accountability since the Depression.

The vote was 97-0 for the bipartisan bill, lifted by a rising tide of unease over a string of corporate accounting scandals that have shaken Americans' confidence in business and the markets and threatened the fragile economic

recovery.

"It is high time we call corporate executives on the carpet and hold them responsible," Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., declared on the Senate floor before the vote.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, denounced "the crooks running these corporations."

"I am pleased the Senate has now acted on a tough bill that shares my goals," President Bush said in a statement. "We owe it to America's workers and shareholders to crack down on wrongdoing and fix the system to prevent future abuses."

Bush urged Congress to get him a

bill to sign before adjourning for its summer recess. Congressional leaders indicated they would try to do that.

A spokesman for House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said lawmakers would try today to take initial procedural steps toward resolving differences between the bill passed by the Democratic-controlled Senate and a version passed in April by the GOP-led House.

The House measure is widely considered weaker.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., asked Republican leader Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., to join him in a request to Hastert to have the House

vote on the newly passed Senate measure.

The Senate bill contains a series of new penalties, including 10-year prison terms for securities fraud. Chief executive officers and chief financial officers who certified false company financial reports would be slapped with prison terms of five years to 10 years and fines of \$500,000 to \$1 million.

"Americans must know that they can save with confidence for their children's education or for retirement — that they can look ahead confidently to the future," said the bill's chief sponsor, Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., chair-

man of the Senate Banking Committee. The measure drew praise from groups as diverse as the Business Roundtable, representing CEOs of major corporations, and the Consumer Federation of America — although it said the bill didn't go far enough.

Prior to the vote, Bush told business leaders in Birmingham, Ala., on Monday, "We intend to hold people accountable."

"We can't pass a law that says, 'You will be honest,'" the president said in a speech at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "We can pass laws that say, 'If you're not honest we'll get you.'"

Norton County seeks dismissal of lawsuit on animal regulations

NORTON (AP) — Norton County commissioners are asserting their standing as a "home rule" county in their effort to preserve livestock regulations that are stricter than the state's.

The commissioners want a judge to dismiss a lawsuit by livestock advocates that claims the county has wrongfully declared itself exempt from state

laws governing confined animal feeding.

The Kansas Livestock Association and three livestock producers sued in June, seeking to overturn Norton County's new livestock rules. The suit says a 1998 state law bars counties from exempting themselves from state law governing livestock confinement.

The suit says the law "was aimed at assuring uniformity and consistency in environmental regulations throughout the state and in precluding regulatory action at the county level."

Commissioners have said the state regulations do not do enough to protect the county's residents.

Home rule allows the county to gov-

ern its own affairs, so long as the actions it takes do not go against state law.

Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius said that means the county has the authority to regulate livestock more strictly than the state does. He also said the county commissioners claim the livestock association does not have standing to sue.

The lawsuit alleges, however, that the commissioners sought to change state law with the new rules, violating home rule powers.

The plaintiffs also have accused the county of effectively zoning agricultural land. The new regulations concerning air and water pollution went into effect March 1.

Briefly

Book sale continues

Colby Public Schools will continue its book sale on Wednesday, July 17, from 7 to 10 a.m. in the Colby High School commons area. Books, audio tapes, slides, records and a few miscellaneous items will be available.

Levant School Reunion canceled

LEVANT — Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Levant School Reunion, scheduled to be held at Colby's Ramada Inn on Sunday, Aug. 4 has been canceled.

Special concert at Oakley

OAKLEY — Scott Brown of "Brand of the Cross Ministries" will be holding a free Christian concert at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Logan County grandstand. In addition to sing-

ing, his concert schedule is laced with rodeo competition. Brown is from Ringgold, Ga., and travels the country performing. As a rodeo cowboy, he has recently qualified in steer wrestling for the Southeastern circuit finals of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Everyone in the area is invited to attend his performance.

Pageant entry deadline nears

Entries for the Thomas County Rodeo Queen/Princess Pageants are due by Sunday, July 28. For questions or information, call Trudy Wildeman, (785) 462-2848.

School board meets tonight

The Colby school board will meet tonight at 7 p.m. in the board room of the administration building.. Items on the agenda include re-organization of the school board for the

2002-2003 school year, approval of handbooks for students and teachers, approving the school district's membership in the Western Plains Arts Association, waiver of certain policies to allow state and local law enforcement agencies to utilize the administration building for training purposes; approval of out-of-district student requests and approval of agreements for Head Start for 2002-2003. The public is invited to attend.

Blood drive slated next week

The Thomas County American Red Cross is sponsoring a community blood drive from noon until 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 24 at the Comfort Inn meeting room, 2225 S. Range Ave., Colby. To make an appointment, organizers ask that participants call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE and walk-ins are welcome.

Teams sought for Relay for Life

Teams are now forming for this year's annual "Relay For Life" event in Thomas County to benefit the American Cancer Society. "The event is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer," said Tina Dreiling, team captain chairman. "Relay for Life," will be begin at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 16 and conclude at 7 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 17. All activities will be held at Dennen Field. Call , 462-8677.

City Council meets tonight

The Colby City Council will hold its regular meeting tonight beginning at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers. Items on the agenda include the drought/emergency contingency plan and approval of 2001 charge-offs.

