



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Just part of job

By **PATTY DECKER**

*Free Press Editor*

It may be considered routine police work, but many people in town may not be aware that Colby's law enforcement officials are always on the look out for irregularities.

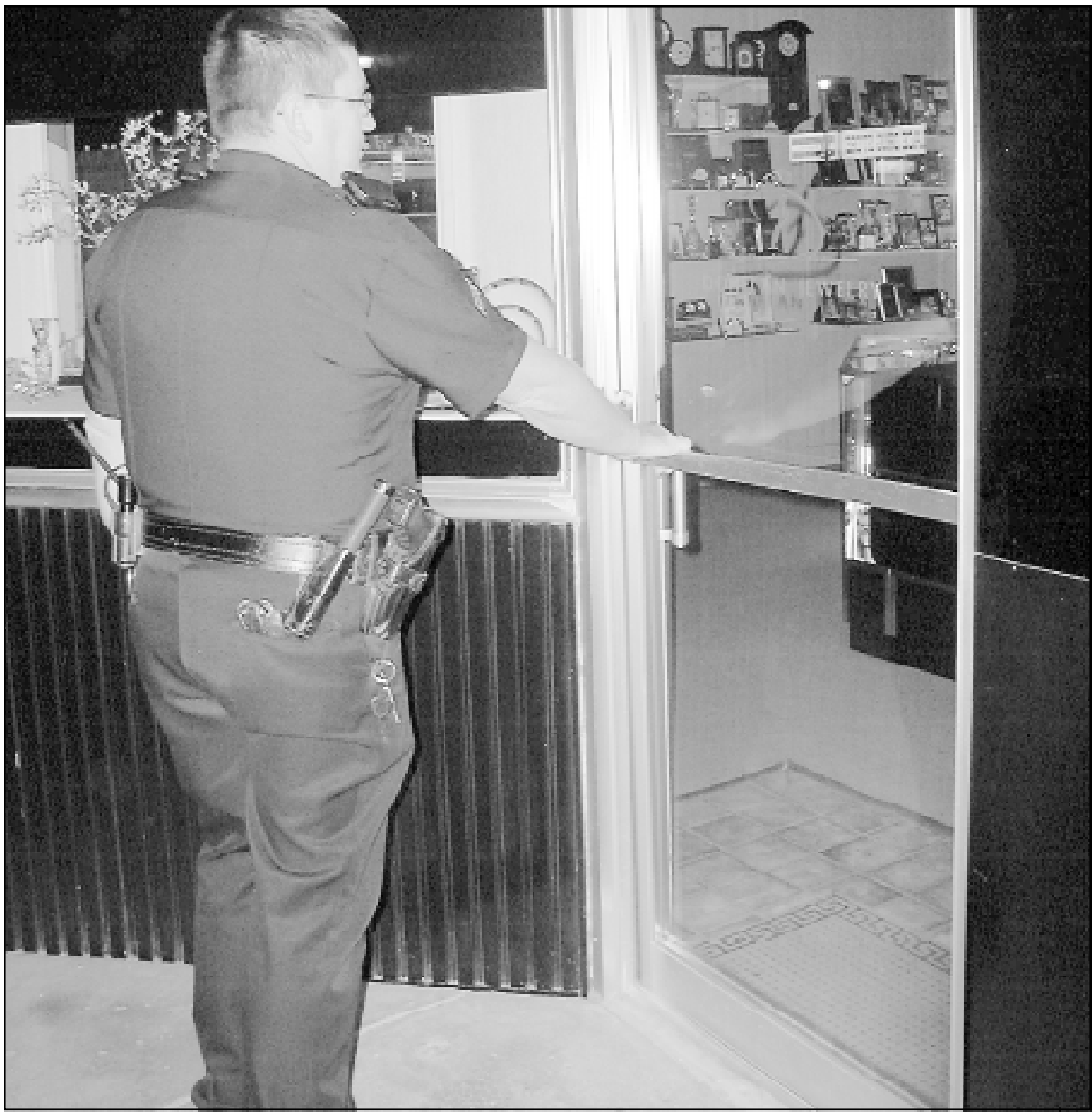
Every night, said Randy Jones, Colby Police Chief, officers literally walk up to and around businesses throughout the city and check to make sure the doors are locked. When a door is unlocked, authorities will then contact responsible parties to take care of the situation.

"I can remember checking doors at night long before I became the chief of police in 1976," said Jones. "It's always been part of the job."

Sometimes officers will see people walking or riding bicycles out of an alley at night and will then check certain locations to make sure there hasn't been a break-in or other situation that could need attention. Other times, people will call to report suspicious behavior and officers will investigate, he said.

"There are nights when no doors are open, but then sometimes we may have to call an owner to let them know their building was left unlocked," he said.

Businesses can also help the police department by keeping them updated on the people who should be called in the event doors are found unlocked



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Colby Police Officer Tom Nickols checked on security of businesses in Colby during his patrol.

and someone needs to remedy the problem.

"If a business changes ownership or if the on-call list of employees should change for whatever reason, we would appreciate a call so that we can update

our procedure management lists," he said. Some places have a first key holder, second key holder and when that changes, Jones said it helps the police when trying to locate someone to come down and secure a specific busi-

ness. "A lot of times our communication officers will call periodically and make sure that lists are still accurate as well," he said.

For questions or to update lists for your business, call 462-4460.

## College trustees discuss budget woes at meeting

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

*Colby Free Press*

With the possible deduction in state aid and projected drop in enrollment, the Colby Community College Board of Trustees had much to contemplate as the budget was discussed at Monday's meeting.

Dr. Mikel Ary, president of the college, told the trustees that in his research, many of the junior colleges across the state will have up to a 2-mill increase in addition to the increase in fees assessed to the student to compensate for the lack of state funding.

The board has approved a public hearing for Aug. 5 at 5 p.m. in the board room to discuss the \$1.9 million tax levy to support the \$11.8 million budget. Trustee Don Kready, who recently attended the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees meeting in Iola, addressed the board about the June meeting, where many trustees were concerned over the potential lack of state funding.

"It is a tough thing to have to increase taxes locally, but we've been given no choice due to the legislation," said Kready.

In other business:

- The trustees approved the early resignation of Eric Eicher to have no penalty assessed due to his continuing relationship with the college. Eicher will possibly be editing the higher learning commission self-study for the college.
- Bid for janitorial and academic

paper were accepted. The bid by McCune Paper Company of Salina will be accepted for all the janitorial paper products with the exception on one, which Beringer's Hardware, Colby, did bid lower.

Bids for various academic and office paper products were accepted with six different companies, based upon which was lower. Those companies receiving the bids were Office Works, Savin Corp., IKON Office, Superior Office, Tri-Central Office and Xpedx.

• The Trustees voted to accept the bid from Nationwide Life Insurance Company in the amount of \$39,500 to provide athletic injury insurance. This insurance covers up to \$25,000 before the catastrophic coverage would take over. The bid of \$4,795 from Mutal of Omaha for the catastrophic coverage was also approved.

Projects could include a new air-conditioning unit for the Fine Arts building to replace the one that has been there since 1977; a boiler to possibly replace the current one, which has been there since the opening of the campus in 1964; and roofing for Living Center North, Living Center East and the library. The project of repairing the roof on the library has already begun with the ordering of materials.

• A low bid was accepted by summertime cement projects across the campus, which will include broadening the turning arc in the parking lot between Bedker Hall and the campus to allow busses to turn around easier.

## WeatherWatch

### Colby-Oakley areas

#### The numbers

Monday's high, 84  
Low this morning, 59  
Year ago today, 95 and 63  
Temperature at 10:30 a.m. today, 77  
Colby rainfall past 24 hours, 0.00

Month's rainfall, 1.30  
Oakley's rainfall past 24 hours, 0.00

Month's rainfall: 2.83  
Soil temp, 80  
Records for July 23: 105 in 1940 and 51 in 1904

#### The forecast

Look for temperatures today to climb into the lower 90s. Tonight, lows in the lower 60s, south winds 10-15 mph. Wednesday, partly sunny and hot, highs in the upper 90s, south winds up to 15 mph. Wednesday night, clear, lows in the middle 60s. Thursday, cloudy, highs in the upper 90s. Thursday night, cloudy, 50 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows in the mid-60s. *(Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)*

#### Colby Water Usage

• July 22 = 1,499 million gallons

#### Levels of Concern

**Watch** Level 3.5 million gallons

**Warning** Level 4.0 million gallons

**Emergency** Level 4.5 million gallons

(Three consecutive days)  
• See water-related letter on page 2 today.

## Candidates talk about ways to help rural communities

By **JOHN HANNA**

*Associated Press Writer*

MANHATTAN (AP) — Other Republican gubernatorial candidates suggested the state should do more to help rural communities grow, but Tim Shallenburger said what's needed is "a change in character."

Shallenburger, the state treasurer, said some rural towns are in danger of dying because Kansas no longer celebrates rural values enough and because state government has been "taxing them to death."

His remarks came during a forum broadcast on public radio stations statewide on Monday, and were in sharp contrast to those made by his

opponents in the Aug. 6 primary.

Senate President Dave Kerr, of Hutchinson, said attempting to reverse the population declines in rural areas would be a top priority for his administration.

House Speaker Kent Glasscock, of Manhattan, running mate of Wichita Mayor Bob Knight, said the state has to help rural communities prosper.

And Dan Bloom, a businessman and former Eudora schools superintendent, said the state should consider setting up a program to increase loans for rural businesses.

The candidates also disagreed on tax and budget issues, as Shallenburger continued to stress his promise not to

increase taxes. However, he, Kerr and Glasscock all suggested the state will have to consider changing eligibility requirements for social programs to control their costs.

Knight did not participate in the forum, Glasscock said, because he was having dental work done.

Kerr raised rural development as an issue during his opening remarks, saying it was one of the most important issues facing Kansas.

"We're very concerned that if we don't change our trend of the outmigration from rural areas, Kansas will have a lot of ghost towns," Kerr said.

Kerr didn't provide more specifics

about how he would combat the problems, but he did say rural areas need good schools and roads and access to health care and high-speed Internet service.

"One of the things our administration will emphasize is rural development," he said. Glasscock also wasn't specific in discussing rural development, but he agreed with Kerr's assessment that the state needs to provide good roads and schools and access to health care and high-speed Internet service.

"Really, we've got to concentrate on giving rural Kansas the tools to prosper," he said. Bloom said economic development represented the best way

to pull Kansas out of its budget problems. However, Shallenburger suggested the discussion shouldn't be about how government can step in and deal with the problem.

"I actually believe it's a change in character" that is needed, he said.

Shallenburger said young people aren't going to be enticed back to rural communities by the promises of good roads and schools.

"In this state, we no longer value rural values," he said.

Shallenburger said Kansans no longer see the advantage in living in rural communities, where they once settled to enjoy greater freedom and less contact with government.

## Arkansas City beef plant lays off 100 workers on Monday

ARKANSAS CITY (AP) — Future Beef Operations laid off more than 100 employees at its Arkansas City processing plant Monday in a streamlining effort as it works through Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The layoffs account for about 12 percent of the plant's work force and

affect all areas of the business, including administration, said John Meetz, Future Beef's vice president of sales.

The Parker, Colo.-based company has no plans to close the plant, Meetz said, and has hired a turnaround consultant to review the business and "help us go forward."

"We are still committed to the community and the step today is necessary for the company to be viable in the future," Meetz said.

"We're working to be viable to the community, to employees and to the industry."

In a news release, Future Beef said

under its Chapter 11 restructuring plan, some operations at its Arkansas City facility were being indefinitely closed or scaled back as the company focuses on its core beef processing business.

The plant will continue to work at capacity, currently 1,600 head of cattle per day, the company said.

Recent rumors Future Beef's bankruptcy status was about to change from Chapter 11 reorganization to Chapter 7 liquidation were quashed last week after a bankruptcy court in Denver approved an additional \$5.75 million in loans for the company, sources said on Monday.

## Prosecutor files murder-kidnap charges against factory worker

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — Moments after a factory worker was charged with murdering 5-year-old Samantha Runnion, the lead prosecutor provided a stern assessment of the suspect's future if he is convicted.

"I do want to make one thing very clear," Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said at a news conference. "Anyone who commits an act like this in Orange County will either die in prison of natural causes or

be executed. It is almost impossible to overstate the amount of damage this type of crime causes in our community and the entire nation."

Alejandro Avila of Lake Elsinore was charged Monday with murder, kidnapping and two counts of forcible lewd acts on a child.

Prosecutors could seek the maximum punishment under special circumstances included with the charges: the murder occurred after a kidnapping

and the crime involved lewd acts with a person under 14.

During a brief court hearing where Avila, 27, appeared by video from jail, no plea was entered and a judge ordered him held without bail. He was scheduled to be arraigned on Aug. 9.

A decision on whether to seek the death penalty was expected within the next two weeks, said Rackauckas.

The charges came one week after Samantha was snatched while playing

with a friend outside her Stanton townhome complex. A man who said he was looking for a lost puppy carried her away while she was kicking and screaming.

The girl's nude body was found a day later. Investigators said she had been sexually assaulted and asphyxiated.

A description of the suspect from the playmate and tips from the public led Orange County sheriff's officials to Avila.

Authorities have said they are certain Avila is the man who abducted the girl, whose smiling face surrounded by curly brown hair has been shown repeatedly on newscasts.

"The evidence ... is very, very compelling. We are satisfied we have the right person and will be able to bring in a guilty verdict in this case," Rackauckas said. "The DA's office is not going to make any deal in this case."

## Briefly

### Rollover accident on I-70

A one-vehicle roll-over accident Sunday sent two people to the Logan County Hospital. At about 3 p.m., Charlinette Detmers, 26, of Denver, North Carolina, lost control of the 2000 Ford truck she was driving in the westbound lane of Interstate 70 14 miles east of Colby. The vehicle rolled onto its top and came to rest in the north ditch. Also injured in the accident was Fritz Detmers, 71, also of Denver, North Carolina. No condition reports were released by the hospital on those involved in the incident.

### Blood drive slated set Wednesday

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.

### Extension office closes during fair

The Thomas County Extension Office will be closed during the week of the fair, July 29 through Aug. 3, and officials are reminding everyone that any business or services they may need during that week should be brought in prior to or after the county fair. For information or questions, call 462-4582.

### 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. For questions on how to organize a team, call Dreiling at 462-8677.

### 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 form.

### Free fans still 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 and leave a message.

