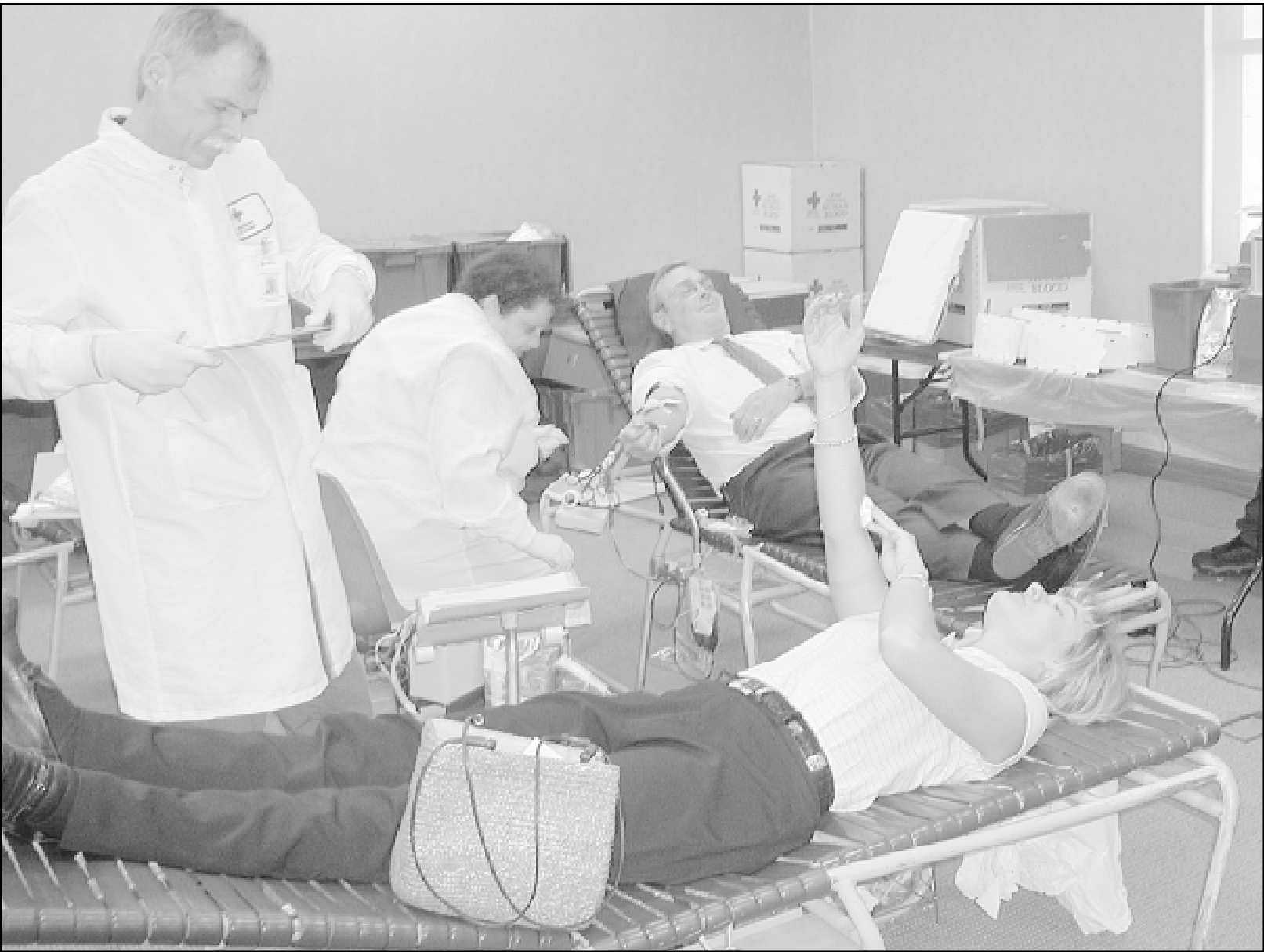




# COLBY FREE PRESS



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

**ABOVE:** Jessica Vaughn and Don Harrison donate blood at Wednesday's Thomas County Blood Drive held at the Comfort Inn

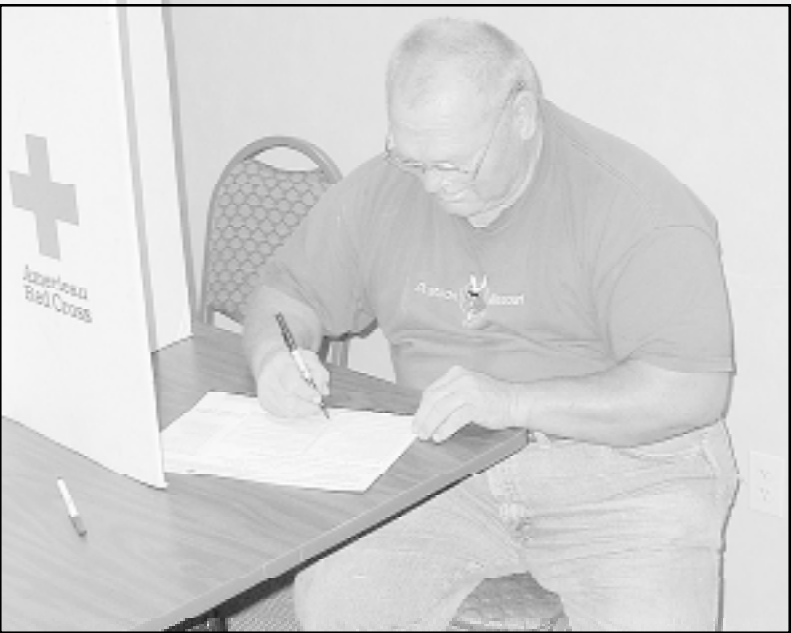
Convention Center in Colby. **BELOW:** John McDermott filled out his information sheet to give blood.

## Blood drive here one of the best ever

**By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**  
*Colby Free Press*

After bringing in 141 units of blood during the Thomas County Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday in Colby, event coordinators were very satisfied with the results. Jackie Stephens, co-chairperson of Thomas County Blood Drives, said, "This was the best drive we have had since I have been doing this." She and Jo Frahm have been co-chairpersons of the Thomas

County Blood Drives since last January. Stephens said the event brought in 166 people to donate, and were pleased to end with 141 usable units. In the last three blood drives she assisted with, the most brought in had been 138 productive units. Stephens also reported that the event brought in ten first time donors, which is positive since most first time donors continue to donate. Plans are in place for another blood drive in January of 2003.



### WeatherWatch

**Colby-Oakley areas**

**The numbers**  
Wednesday's high, 99  
Low this morning, 63  
Year ago today, 85 and 63  
Temperature at 10:30 a.m. today, 90  
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, 84  
Records for July 25: 113 in 1940 (hottest ever for Colby) and 48 in 1911

**The forecast**  
Today's high is expected to reach 100. Tonight, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows mid-60s, south winds 10-15 mph. Friday, a 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, highs in the upper 90s, south winds 5-10 mph. Friday night, a 30 percent chance for thunderstorms up to around midnight, lows in the mid-60s, light and variable winds turning westerly 10-15 mph late. Saturday, sunny and warm, highs in the mid-90s. (*Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.*)

**Colby Water Usage**  
• July 24 = 2.662 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)

## Ohio congressman gets the 'boot' from colleagues

WASHINGTON (AP) — After nearly two decades of often outrageous, usually entertaining and never boring behavior, Ohio Rep. James Traficant exited the Capitol stage in defeat, taking his place in history as only the fifth House member to be expelled.

The anti-climatic 420-1 vote that ejected the nine-term congressman for taking bribes and kickbacks took just minutes Wednesday night. In that time, the maverick Democrat went from being a congressman with privileges and responsibilities to an ordinary citizen

in his former district.

"I'm prepared to lose everything. I'm prepared to go to jail. You go ahead and expel me," he told his colleagues defiantly, maintaining his innocence and claiming that government prosecutors coerced witnesses to lie in order to convict him.

All but Rep. Gary Condit, D-Calif., who was defeated in a primary for reelection, ignored his plea. Condit, who had been romantically linked with Chandra Levy, a government intern who was murdered, voted against Traficant's expulsion.

Traficant, 61, faces sentencing Tuesday for his federal jury conviction on 10 counts of bribery, racketeering and tax evasion.

Prosecutors want him taken into custody at sentencing and for him to serve 7 1/4 years in prison. He is expected to appeal.

From the blue and gold carpeted House floor, where his colorful tirades against the FBI, Internal Revenue Service and what he viewed as government inanities became a daily fixture, Traficant used his final remarks to plead with colleagues to reconsider.

"My people elected me and I don't think you should take their representative away," he said. But he added, "Vote your conscience. Nothing personal. I hope I'm back."

Traficant is seeking re-election this fall as an independent. Republican Ohio Gov. Bob Taft must now decide whether to hold a special election for Traficant's seat or let it remain unfilled until the 108th Congress is sworn in in January.

During Traficant's meandering, 45-minute statement Wednesday night, dozens of House members sat atten-

tively in their seats, and the usually bustling chamber was quiet.

Known for his flashy clothes, wild hair and arm-waving theatrical rants during his 18-year House career, Traficant even drew some subdued chuckles from lawmakers when he quipped about using a "weed whacker" to cut his hair and referred to his '70s-style bell-bottom trousers.

Rep. James Hansen, R-Utah, presiding over the rare House expulsion proceedings, admonished Traficant more than once for using profanity during his defense.

## Knight attacks Kerr, Shallenburger as part of 'budget debacle'

**By JOHN HANNA**  
*Associated Press Writer*

TOPEKA (AP) — Wichita Mayor Bob Knight attacked two of his opponents in the Republican governor's race Wednesday, suggesting they have been part of the state's "budget debacle." They dismissed his criticism as unfounded.

Knight's barbs were aimed at Sen-

ate President Dave Kerr, of Hutchinson, and State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger, who served four years as House Speaker before being elected treasurer in 1998. Also in the GOP race is Dan Bloom, a businessman and former Eudora schools superintendent.

The GOP candidates have repeatedly faced questions about how they would handle the financial problems

that have bedeviled the state for months and led to \$252 million in tax increases this year.

Shallenburger has promised not to increase taxes, while Kerr, one of the architects of the tax plan that passed, and Knight, have promised to protect education and social services.

But in a forum sponsored by WIBW AM-FM radio in Topeka and broadcast

statewide, Knight said, "I think we're facing this budget debacle because of the people who have served in Topeka."

In his closing statement, he added: "Why would people look to the people who gave us the problem to solve the problem?"

Kerr and Shallenburger immediately pointed to Knight's naming

House Speaker Kent Glasscock, of Manhattan, as a lieutenant-governor running mate, and said the choice undercut Knight's argument.

"The mayor is just lashing out in every direction, trying to find new momentum," Kerr said after the forum.

"He's lashing out at anybody within reach, not always in a coherent fashion."

## Briefly

### Rexford plans flea market for Aug. 3

Rexford PRIDE will be holding its Farmers/Flea Market on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a city-wide garage sale running at the same time. These events are held the first Saturday of the month and booth space is \$10, said Peg Greenwood, one of the organizers. Among the vendors taking part at the next flea market are the Rexford Boy Scouts who will be setting up for lunch and having bake sale items available. Anyone interested in participating as a vendor can call Greenwood at (785) 687-4346 or Evelyn Johnson at (785) 687-3925.

### Vendors wanted for sidewalk sale

Vendors are wanted for this year's annual *Sidewalk Sale* begin-

ning at 4 p.m. and concluding around 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8. According to organizers from the Colby Downtown Merchants Committee, any groups or organizations that would like to sell items are encouraged to call Bonnie Dinkel at 462-2751.

### Teams sought for Relay for Life event

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. For questions

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

### 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. Call the Red Cross office at (785) 462-7161 or call board members Dave Evert (785) 694-2633 or Duane Unger 462-6177.

### Extension office closes during fair

The Thomas County Extension Office will be closed during the week of the fair, July 29 through Aug. 2, 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.

## The Amusement Association now officially in place

**By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**  
*Colby Free Press*

A set of by-laws, articles of incorporation, and a vote for officers made the Thomas County Amusement Association official at Monday night's meeting.

After the acting board sorted through several copies of by-laws from other amusement associations, a set appropriate for Thomas County was established.

The board brought it before the membership and it was unanimously approved. The same was done for the Articles of Incorporation.

To make the acting officers official, another vote was taken and Kerry Wark was voted in to remain as president, Chad Zimmerman as vice-president, Wanda Brown as secretary, and Tina Harris as treasurer.

For the seven board positions, it was established they will hold two-year terms and will rotate off every other year. The other three board positions are now being held by Darrel Dible, Ron Donley and Dick Parnell.

In other business:

- A.P.O. Box was established for the

association. The address is P.O. Box 684, Colby, Kan. 67701.

- The board was waiting for the establishment of the by-laws and the Articles of Incorporation to set up a tax ID number. The ID number is needed to set up a savings account to hold funds already coming in. Because of the wait on that, a safety deposit box was opened to hold the funds.
- A decision was made to recognize financial donors by way of name signs which will be next to rides.
- Cheeseman will be bringing two rides on Tuesday and Wednesday for the fair next week. Wark and other board members will be talking with the Cheeseman person while he is here.
- This possibility would allow the association to have some rides by next year that would not be too costly.
- Parnell pointed out to the membership that a good used ride will cost anywhere from \$25,000 to \$70,000, while to buy a new one would be approximately \$200,000.
- Discussion was held about working with the Chamber of Commerce at the Fall Festival on Sept. 7 by providing some small rides and games.

## Fire numbers down

**By DARREL PATTILLO**  
*Colby Free Press*

Despite a prolonged drought and blistering summer temperatures, the city of Colby and the surrounding areas are actually experiencing a low amount of fires this year, says Colby's assistant fire chief, Rick Dickman.

"We are fortunate," he said. "We haven't had a large problem so far this year. We've been lucky."

Dickman attributes part of that luck to the fact that there's really not much to burn.

"It's been dry so long, and we had such a dry winter, that there really isn't a huge fire load out in our protection area," he said.

Another factor in this year's low

occurrence of fires is plain old caution.

"I think our farmers know how dry it is," Dickman said. "They're being extra careful this year."

Dickman also said that Thomas County's agriculture-based economy helps.

"This area is cropland, and we don't really have a lot of wild land here. We've got firebreaks every mile."

So far this year, the Colby Fire Department hasn't had to respond to any stubble fires, but has responded to three building fires, five passenger vehicle fires, nine brush fires, two grass fires, and has investigated three unauthorized burnings. Dickman said that while it may sound like a lot of fires, all of them were very minor.

