



COLBY FREE PRESS

You may be in our fair booth

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Free Press

While doing some routine house-cleaning recently, the Colby Free Press staff found lots and lots of old photographs dating back to the mid to latter 1970s.

As employees trudged up the basement stairs with the many boxes filled with high school graduation pictures, sports, club and organization photographs, the suggestion was made to Tom Dreiling, publisher, that the staff share these “treasures” with everyone at the fair booth. It wasn’t hard talking Dreiling into the idea. Consequently, when the Colby Free Press booth opens on Monday, July 30, in its familiar location at the northeast end of the Commercial Building, just south of the grandstands, there will be lots of pictures to wade through.

While browsing, we found many pictures of people that have either changed a little or a lot during the past three decades.

Not wanting to spoil the surprises that will be waiting for fairgoers, Flo Rodriguez, our composition person, probably was able to identify the most people from the pictures we looked at.

There are, however, a few things about these boxes of photographs we will share.

For example, one employee had no idea that Audrey Hines, our current fair board treasurer, was among the members of a women’s city recreation team who took four trophies in a single season.

There were 12 women in this particular photograph and, of those 12, we were able to identify Hines, Pam Augustine and Dee Hovda.

There were a few we think we thought we knew, but couldn’t place them.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Patty Decker and Flo Rodriguez sorted through old photos from years past at the Colby Free Press.

Another photograph shows members of the Knights of Columbus with lots of Christmas presents in their hands as they stood on the steps of the Colby Community Building.

One picture shows Linda Bossert

with microphone in hand, singing with a popular Colby band. Many of us had no idea that singing was among Linda’s many talents.

“All these pictures are priceless and have a story to tell,” said Dreiling.

“We hope that everyone will stop at our booth and make themselves at home as they look through the many boxes and take with them memories that deserve a better place than the Free Press basement.”

Political ‘pop-ups’ cause for caution

By **TOM A. DREILING**

Free Press Publisher

They seem to pop up like weeds. Everywhere. But unlike weeds, which we have little control over where they pop up, political “pop ups” can be controlled.

And the state has a few things to say about that.

As does the city.

Stan Whitley, spokesman for the Kansas Department of Transportation, told the Free Press that political signs are not allowed on highway right of way.

The Kansas primary election is Aug. 6 and in the last few weeks numerous signs in support of candidates are taking their place along the state’s highways. The Kansas Department of Transportation advises everyone to make sure if you are placing a sign it is not placed on a highway right of way.

And if you so choose to ignore the advice? Well, Whitley says Kansas Department of Transportation maintenance crews will immediately remove the signs — without notice. The signs

will then be taken to the nearest KDOT subarea office where they can be picked up by the owner with the agreement they will not be placed on state right of way again. Signs not claimed will be disposed of after the election.

Whitley said political campaign advertising is allowed on private property bordering state right of way; however, those erecting signs on private property near the highways must first obtain permission from the property owners.

In Colby, it was learned that political signs cannot be placed on utility poles. If they are they will be removed. As with the state, the city also cautions that political signs cannot be placed on state right of way.

Too, residents are urged to get permission from homeowners before “planting” signs in their yards.

Removal is urged as soon as the election is over.

Tip: Anyone caught destroying an opposing candidate’s sign could be in hot water.

Be sure to vote Aug. 6.

Parole board hears harm done by priest

WICHITA (AP) — Supporters of a defrocked priest who pleaded guilty last year to molesting four altar boys urged the Kansas Parole Board on Thursday to show mercy and release him from prison.

But those who spoke on Robert Larson’s behalf were easily outnumbered at the hearing by his victims and their families, many of whom who made emotional pleas to keep the 72-year-old former priest jailed.

They blamed the church for protecting Larson as he sexually abused children for years in several parishes he led and positions he held during his 30

years as a priest in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wichita.

Larson is seeking to be released from the state prison at Lansing in late September, 18 months into his sentence of three to 10 years. The diocese was not officially represented at Thursday’s hearing, and Larson’s supporters attended as individuals.

“We don’t come in any way to condone or excuse any crime,” retired Monsignor Charles Reagan told the board. “We simply make a plea for mercy.” Reagan urged the board to consider Larson’s advanced age, and the fact that he’s been a model prisoner.

Thomas County’s fair parade shaping up for Tuesday’s march

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

Once again it is fair time in Thomas County and as in years past, the fair parade will be kicking off the festivities on Tuesday.

Mark Miller, fair board president, said the parade will begin at 5:30 p.m., but participants are asked to begin lining up at 4:30. A registration booth will be set up in front of McClure Plumb-

ing and Heating and entries are asked to line up on the north side of Fike Park on Eighth Street.

“Journey Into Imagination” is the theme for this year’s Thomas County Fair, and coordinators are asking people from all over the county to incorporate the theme into their parade entries.

All clubs, schools, organizations and individuals alike are asked to partici-

pate in the parade. There is no entry fee.

“We want everybody to participate. We want to have a good parade,” said Miller.

The parade route will begin at Fike Park and travel down Franklin Avenue to Cedar Street, and then proceed west to the fairgrounds. Miller encourages parade watchers to go to the fairgrounds after the parade to eat dinner with the many vendors and stay for the

first night of PRCA rodeo.

Safety during the parade will be a concern as always. Entries are asked to stay in position where they are placed by fair officials and remember to watch for small children who may be in the street collecting candy.

“It will be hot on the parade route and people should bring water with them,” said Miller.

Adult categories for the parade are

as follows: Antique Vehicles; Animal Drawn Vehicles; Organizations and Personal Floats; Horse and Saddle Clubs; Business Floats; 4-H Clubs; and Band, Drill Teams, and Cheerleaders.

Children’s categories will include: Organizations and Personal Floats; Best Decorated Wheeled Vehicles; Best Dressed Pet; and Most Unusual Costume.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the

top three placings in each category.

Miller wants to remind parade participants to bring the appropriate materials to attach their entry tags.

Chairperson for the parade is Darlene Hatfield. Other members to contact with requests for information are Cheryl Baird, Sue Draper or Vera Sloan.

Dr. Floyd and Mary Smith are this year’s grand marshals.

Sen. Adkins under fire over ‘no call’ law on telemarketing

TOPEKA (AP) — As he campaigns for attorney general, Sen. David Adkins portrays himself as the author of a new law designed to protect consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls.

But two other senators said Thursday that Adkins is misleading voters and what lawmakers passed bears little resemblance to a proposal Adkins championed.

Adkins dismissed the criticism as politically motivated, suggested some colleagues are jealous and defended his claim to authorship of the law

which took effect July 1.

The debate added to the rancor between supporters of Adkins, a moderate, backers of former state Rep. Phill Kline, a conservative.

Also on the Aug. 6 primary ballot is Charles McAtee, a Topeka attorney, who has remained largely above their fight.

Meanwhile, as Adkins and opponents argued publicly, Kansas still does not have a no-call list, unlike Missouri and other states.

The law said consumers not wanting to receive telemarketing calls can sign

up for a list administered by an industry group, the Direct Marketing Association.

The attorney general’s office was to negotiate a contract with the DMA. But the two were unable to agree and the attorney general’s office is now seeking another group to maintain the list.

“We’re hoping to be able to announce something around mid-August,” said Mark Ohlemeier, a spokesman for the office.

Sens. Karin Brownlee, R-Olathe, and Stan Clark, R-Oakley, both conservatives, said Adkins cannot claim au-

thorship because he sponsored an alternative proposal rejected by the Senate.

That proposal would have created a no-call list administered by the attorney general. But it was opposed by the telemarketing industry.

Brownlee, Clark and other critics of the Adkins proposal thought it would be too expensive and create a new bureaucracy. Kline said he supported a previous, weaker law the only encouraged the state to educate consumers about the DMA list.

Both said the industry-backed bill

was radically different from Adkins’ plan.

Clark called Adkins’ claim of authorship “a fraud.”

Brownlee said: “It’s very dishonest of him to claim he authored this.”

But Adkins was among those who negotiated the final version of the bill. He said that gives him proper claim to authorship.

“They pretty much deferred to me on the final proposal,” he said. “I think the bill was substantially in the form we wanted. It looks nothing like the Senate version of the bill.”

WeatherWatch

Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers

Thursday’s high, 105
Low this morning, 67
Year ago today, 87 and 66
Temperature at 11:30 a.m. today, 82

Colby rainfall past 24 hours, trace

Month’s rainfall, 1.30
Soil temp, 84
Records for July 26: 107 in 1894 and 53 in 1900

The forecast

Today’s high is expected to reach 100. Tonight, a slight chance for thunderstorms, lows mid-60s, light southwest winds. Saturday, partly sunny, highs near 100, north winds 10-15 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy, lows 60-65. Sunday, partly sunny, slight chance for thunderstorms, highs near 90. Monday, partly cloudy, highs in the upper 80s. *(Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)*

Colby Water Usage

• July 25 3.17 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)

Briefly

Patrol nabs marijuana

The Kansas Highway Patrol intercepted 253 pounds of marijuana Wednesday evening at mile marker 52 on Interstate 70 near Colby. Justin Hines, 27, a self-employed glass blower from Puyallup, Washington, was east-bound on I-70 when a trooper pulled him over for a traffic violation in the construction zone. Hines consented to a search of his 1990 Chevrolet pick-up, and the marijuana was discovered in a false compartment under the camper shell near the front of the truck bed. Hines is being held at the Thomas County jail pending charges.

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.

Motorcyclist injured on I-70

A Washington state man was injured in a one-vehicle accident Thursday afternoon as he passed the westbound exit at mile marker 53 at Colby. Leslie K. Crawford, 51, of Bothell, Wash., lost control of the 1999 Honda motorcycle he was driving and flipped over. He was wearing a helmet, and was treated and released from Citizen’s Medical Center in Colby.

Vendors wanted for sidewalk sale

Vendors are wanted for this year’s annual *Sidewalk Sale* beginning 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. One example of a group planning to do something at the sidewalk sale, she said, is the 9th-10th grade Mid-America Youth Basketball

Extension office closes during fair

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

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