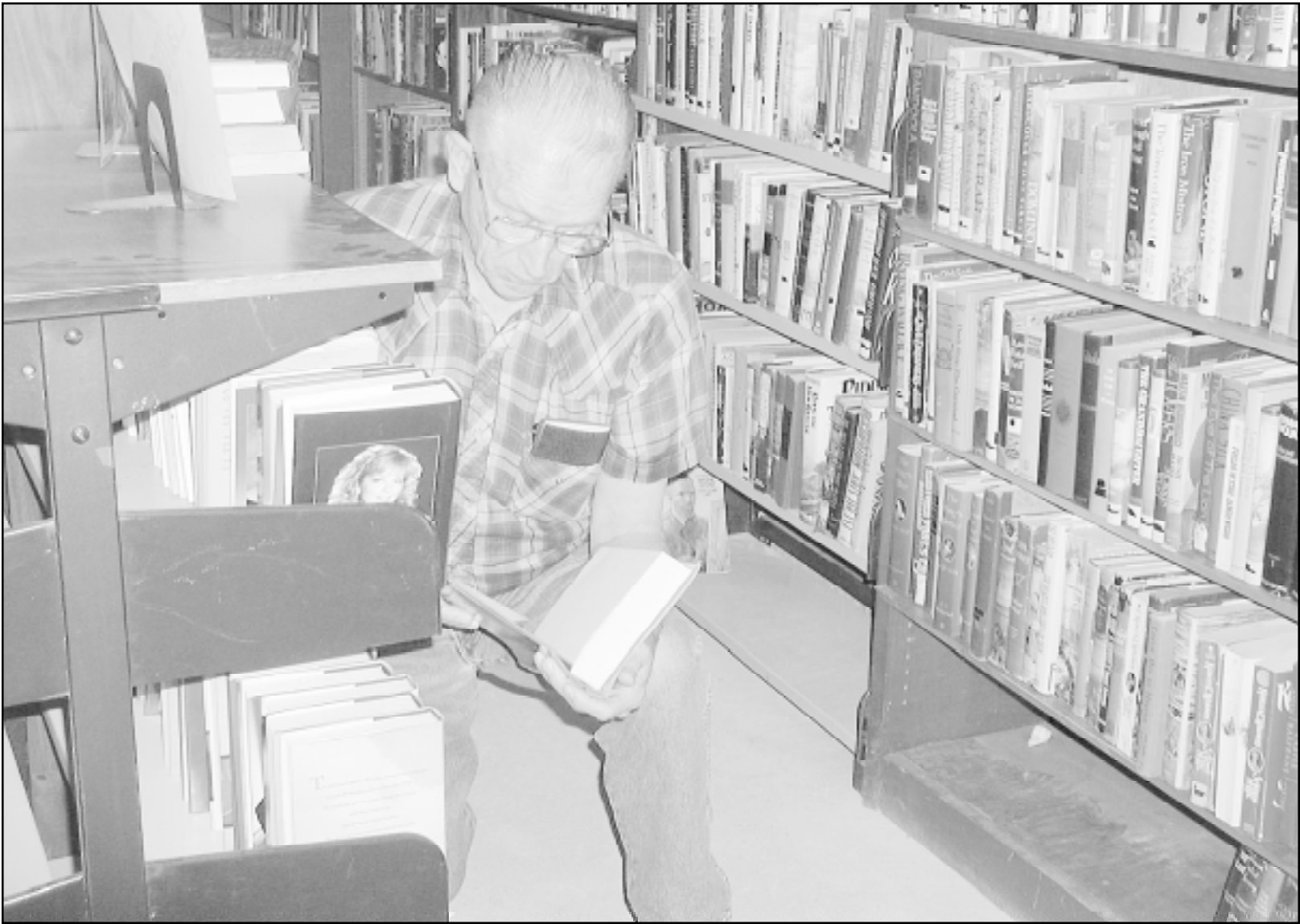




COLBY FREE PRESS

Bargain hunter



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Elmer Lawver of Colby searched through books at the Pioneer Memorial Library's annual book sale on Saturday. Lawver said he enjoys the sales and has come to them as long as he can remember. Lawver said he tends to favor the large print editions of adventure or western

books. The sale will continue this week in the basement of the library. Monday and Tuesday everything will be half-price, Wednesday through Saturday books will be sold by the bag or box: Wednesday - \$5, Thursday - \$3, Friday - \$2, and Saturday - \$1.

Hospital handing delivery of meals to another group

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

After many years of providing home delivered meals to people in Colby unable to leave their homes, the coordinators of this service at Citizens Medical Center, Inc., are relinquishing the responsibility to another agency.

Homestead Nutrition Project, which is a part of the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging in Hays, has agreed to take over the scheduling and coordinating of volunteers who deliver meals to Colby's senior citizens.

"The hospital had been responsible for the majority of this service," said Michelle Morgan, director of the Homestead Nutrition Project, "but beginning Thursday, Aug. 1, we will be taking over that responsibility."

The Senior Progress Center in Colby, along with its nutrition site will also be assisting in the program, which was more commonly known as "Meals on Wheels."

"In order to make this a successful transition in providing meals for those homebound customers," Morgan said today, "we need volunteers from the area."

The Homestead Nutrition Project coordinators, along with those at the Progress Center said they are looking for volunteers to routinely deliver the meals or those who could help out when regular volunteers are sick or on

vacation. The volunteers would be responsible for picking up the meals at the Senior Progress Center, which are normally ready at about 11 a.m. and then drive a specific route.

"These customers are homebound and rely on home delivered meals to stay in their home as long as possible," Morgan said. "As a volunteer, you may be the only human contact that person has all day."

Each month, more than 5,000 meals are delivered to homebound individuals in northwest Kansas through this project, she said.

The hours and days a volunteer works can be negotiated and those who deliver will receive an expense stipend, along with enjoying a meal at the Senior Progress Center, she said.

"Please consider being a part of the nutrition project's commitment to serving seniors in northwest Kansas," she said. For those interested in volunteering their time, Morgan encourages them to call Deb Koon, director at the Senior Center, (785) 462-2901. Volunteers can also call her or Greg Hoover, executive director in the Hays office at (785) 628-8204.

Morgan is also urging anyone who might be interested now or could be in the future to attend a short 30-minute meeting on Wednesday, July 31, at the Progress Center at 10:30 a.m. to talk about the program.

Superintendents mixed on candidates' stance on schools

TOPEKA (AP) — Each of the four Republican candidates for governor considers himself the education candidate, but some public school superintendents aren't sure about any of them.

As the Aug. 6 primary election nears, superintendents remain wary, and a few of the administrators are even tired of hearing from all of the candidates.

"Kansans are smarter than what the politicians give them credit for and they can see through the political rhetoric and posturing they do at election time," said Bob Hightree, of Anthony-Harper.

In the GOP race are State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger; Senate President Dave Kerr, of Hutchinson; Wichita Mayor Bob Knight; and Dan Bloom, a businessman and former Eudora superintendent.

Their debate is over the \$2.3 billion

in aid to public schools, with \$3,890 per student as a base amount. Many educational officials don't think it is enough money.

Kerr agrees that the state does not provide a large enough base budget for schools. He thinks the \$4,650 figure suggested by consultants this spring is a good goal.

Knight has described the 1992 school finance law as broken and would appoint a task force to review it. The task force would be led by his lieutenant-governor running mate, House Speaker Kent Glasscock.

Bloom has proposed increasing property taxes and has argued that the state has not provided enough money to schools over the past decade.

Shallenburger says the state should pay for a suitable education and has promised a study to determine what

"Kansans are smarter than what the politicians give them credit for and they can see through the political rhetoric..."

Bob Hightree
Anthony-Harper

that education would cost. He also has said the state may have to spend more money, though districts can reduce some costs by becoming more efficient.

Superintendents are skeptical of all four.

"Yes, there are ways to be more efficient, but we need to partner with the state leadership, not be adversarial in determining how or where we need to

do a better job," said Phil Mahan of Deerfield.

Mahan believes improving schools will require more money from the state.

Glen Davis, in Smith Center, believes tax cuts enacted during the 1990s — which Shallenburger championed as Kansas House speaker — are partly to blame for financial problems for schools.

Davis said Knight's outsider view might bode well for schools.

Brad Neuenswander of Cheney shared Davis' view of Shallenburger and didn't believe Kerr has followed through on his advocacy of education with support for extra money. He also likes Knight.

"I don't think he is caught up into all the political game-playing that has put us into the mess we are in," he said.

George Brown, in Lenora, said Bloom knows as much about education as any of the candidates.

"He may know little about anything else, but he has my Republican vote — if only as a protest," Brown said.

Larry Lysell of Belleville said the Democratic nominee, Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius, would have the best chance of building a pro-education coalition in Topeka.

Thomas County Fair schedule

Tonight
7 p.m. — Dog Agility Competition
Tuesday
7:30-11 a.m. — 4-H Livestock Weigh-In
11 a.m. — Deadline for entry of all 4-H Exhibits
8 a.m.-2 p.m. — Open Class entries taken
11:30 a.m. — Judging of all 4-H Exhibits
2 p.m. — Open Class Exhibits judged
2 p.m. — Cat, Rabbit, Hand Pet and Poultry Show
5:30 p.m. — Fair Parade, downtown, theme, "A Journey into Imagination"
7 p.m. — Antique Tractor Show, fairgrounds
8 p.m. — PRCA Rodeo

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers
Sunday's high, 91
Low this morning, 57
Year ago today, 97 and 66
Temperature at 10:30 a.m. today, 81
Colby's weekend rainfall, 0.19
Month's total, 1.49
Oakley's weekend rainfall, 0.08
Month's total, 2.91
Soil temp, 82
Records for July 29: 105 in 1947 and 51 in 1971

The forecast
Today's high is expected to reach 93. Tonight, clear skies, lows in the mid-60s, south winds around 10 mph. Tuesday, sunny, highs in the mid-90s, south winds 10-15 mph. Tuesday night, clear, lows in the mid-60s. Wednesday, sunny, highs in the mid-90s. Wednesday night, clear, lows in the mid-60s. The 90s and 60s are expected to prevail all the way through the weekend. No mention of precipitation. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)
Colby Water Usage
• July 26-28 = 2.429 million gallons per-day average
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

One rescued miner tells of dark days waiting and worrying

SOMERSET, Pa. (AP) — Trapped 240 feet underground in a flooded mine for three days, one thought kept creeping back into Blaine Mayhugh's mind: He didn't kiss his wife goodbye before he left for work.

As more than 150 rescue workers and neighbors above ground struggled to reach them, he and eight other coal miners fought to keep their heads above the cold water, huddled together for warmth, and hoped.

"It was the only day in my life I never kissed my wife before I went to work. It had to be the day," he said Sunday,

breaking down into sobs as he stood with his arms around his wife, Leslie.

In a rescue that transfixed the nation, all nine miners were pulled safely from the Quecreek Mine in rural western Pennsylvania after water from an abandoned mine flooded the shaft where they were working.

A desperate rescue operation with tons of heavy equipment and 18 medical helicopters finally paid off when rescuers reached the miners Sunday morning and pulled them up a narrow shaft, one by one, in a yellow cylindrical capsule.

"What took you guys so long?" the miners said when they spoke to rescuers for the first time. They reportedly asked for chewing tobacco and beer — which doctors wouldn't allow. And they were ravenously hungry. At the rescue site, workers cheered and danced, and the Sipesville Fire Hall, where the families of the men had been gathering, burst into celebration at the news they were all alive.

As each was slowly raised, one by one, through the narrow hole in a 7-foot-tall yellow cage, at least two

gave a thumbs up. Their coal-covered faces managed smiles.

Rescuers greeted them with applause and shouted out nicknames.

But underground, Mayhugh described a nightmarish scene: The men tied themselves together so they would "live or die as a group."

On Thursday, when the water in the shaft was rising, he asked his boss for a pen.

"I said, 'I want to write my wife and kids to tell them I love them,'" said Mayhugh, choking back tears.

"Everybody had strong moments,"

he said.

"At any certain time maybe one guy got down, and then the rest pulled together and then that guy would get back up and maybe somebody else would feel a little weaker. But it was a team effort. That's the only way it could've been."

All nine were immediately taken to local hospitals; six were released on Sunday.

Three remained hospitalized, including Randy Fogle, who has a history of heart problems and complained of chest pains while in the mine.

Briefly

Commissioners meet Wednesday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31 for the end of the month meeting. Tom Jones, Thomas County sheriff, is scheduled to appear before the commissioners to address cruelty to animals. The meeting will be held in the commissioner's room of the court house and is open to the public.

Accident sends one man to hospital

A Missouri man was hospitalized Sunday afternoon after he fell asleep behind the wheel of his car four miles east of Colby on Interstate 70, which in turn resulted in a two-vehicle collision. Judd Henson, 59, of Sunrise Beach, Mo., was westbound on Interstate 70 at 4:25 p.m. Sunday when he fell asleep in a 2002 Jeep he was driving. The Jeep then entered the median, returned to the highway, and collided with a 1984 Kenworth semi driven by Billy Markley, 26, of Hollister, Mo., Kansas Highway patrol authorities said. After colliding with the semi, Henson's Jeep rolled twice and came to rest on its right side in the median. After being struck by the Jeep, the semi went into the ditch and rolled to a stop. Markley was not injured. Henson was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby, where he was treated and transferred to another

location. No other information was available. Both Henson and Markley were wearing seatbelts.

Leadership nominations wanted

Applications are now being accepted for the 2002-03 Leadership Thomas County program, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators. The purpose of the program is to develop future leaders for the county and application requests can be made by businesses, civic clubs, organizations or by individuals, she said. Additionally, people can nominate themselves. Completed forms must be returned to the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce by Friday, Aug. 23. For questions or an application, call (785) 462-3401 or stop by 350 S. Range, Suite 10 in Colby.

Pool to take a day off

The municipal swimming pool in Colby will be closed all day, Thursday, Aug. 8, said Stephanie Unruh, pool manager. She also wanted to remind all those who took swim lessons this summer and last summer to stop by the facility and pick up their Red Cross certification card for completing the course. For questions or to receive cards, drop by the office at 200 E. 5th St. or call Unruh at 462-4429.



Thumbs Up!



✓Kay Weston and Doug Munderloh — for the fine service you rendered as members of the hospital board.
✓Hannah Zimmerman — future astronaut?
✓Anna Peptis — for your fine performance to conclude this season's Picnic in the Park series.
✓Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary — on your creative Water Garden Tour fund raising project.
✓Pickin' on the Plains Committee — for a really super weekend.
✓Stan Molstad and Tracy Rogers — on your re-election as school board president, and election as school board vice president, respectively.
✓Bob Standage and Sheila Frahm — recent appointees to the hospital board.
✓The Young 18 Sitters — who recently completed the Thomas County Health Department's *Babysitting Class*.
Call us at 462-3963 or e-mail td@nwkanas.com to submit a name or names for inclusion in this weekly salute. Anyone in our reading area qualifies.

