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Board to honor member

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Fair Board will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight at the Thomas County 4-H building.

Among the many agenda items, fair board members said they plan to honor Marty Crampton for his dedication to the board and committees.

The meeting gets underway at 8 p.m. and will include a report from the Thomas County Extension office, a financial report and committee reports from the following fair board members:

- Jim Malcolm will report on Buildings and Grounds at the Thomas County fairgrounds.

- Darrel Dible will report on the Thomas County Amusement Association contract. The Amusement Association was formed last year by members of the community in an effort to ensure that the Thomas County fair will always have a home-owned carnival.

- Gary Garrett, rodeo chairman, will report on an announcer and soundman for next year's county fair entertainment.

- Justin Alexander and Brad Skol-out will report on Parade themes for the 2003 Thomas County fair.

- Nancy Rundel, will discuss rules and regulations for the 2003 Demolition Derby.

- Crampton will report on the races.

- Sue Draper will talk about the fair book.

- Mark Anderson will discuss advertising.

Old business for the board to consider includes drug forfeiture money, grounds keeper replacement interviews and the barbecue.

All fair board meetings are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

How to make a hot dog



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The balmy temperatures earlier in the week have been replaced with cooler and windier conditions that are expected to continue through the weekend. In response to the cold weather, many people are bundling up themselves and their pets like Larry Snyder from South Carolina who was walking his daughter's dog, Jody, recently. Synder said the eight-year-old fox and rat terrier mix has enjoyed sporting a hooded coat ever since she was a pup. Snyder said he was visiting his daughter, Elesha, and decided to take Jody out for a walk around Fike Park earlier in the week.

Chase ends with capture

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A 17-year-old Colby youth was arrested in the early morning hours on Tuesday after police received complaints about a loud motorcycle driving recklessly through residential neighborhoods in the city.

Alan Michael Dible was charged with felony fleeing from an officer, driving under the influence, consumption of alcohol by a minor, reckless driving, disobeying a stop sign, and having no liability insurance, said Gary Shull, police investigator with the Colby Police Department.

The incident was reported at 12:57 a.m. and within 20 minutes, law enforcement officers spotted Dible riding his motorcycle at a high rate of speed without lights, he said.

Another officer responding to the situation, Shull said, tried to get Dible to stop by using his emergency lights as a signal for him to stop, but the motorcycle continued to go east on Willow Avenue, a few miles east of Colby, before it crashed into a fence.

Dible then fled on foot, Shull said, and for the next two hours, law enforcement officers searched the area with the canine unit and thermal imager.

He was then found in a field at 3:03 a.m.

In addition, Shull said that when Dible was taken into custody, his clothing was bloody from an apparent fight earlier, but no other details on that fight were released.

The 17-year-old was taken to Citizens Medical Center to be examined for any injuries from the motorcycle crash and then was transported to WaKeeney Juvenile Detention Center.

The DUI charge was the second offense for Dible, Shull said today.

The most serious charges at this point include felony fleeing, driving under the influence and reckless driving."

Gary Shull,
police investigator

The first DUI offense was in October of 2002 and he was still on probation from that incident.

"The most serious charges at this point include felony fleeing, driving under the influence and reckless driving," he said. "However, the fact that someone is arrested or charged with a crime is merely an accusation and they are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty."

In explaining what constitutes felony fleeing, Shull said that when a person fails to stop for an officer at a road block, engages in reckless driving, is involved in a motor vehicle accident or commits five or more moving violations, intentionally causes damage to property, drives around tire deflating devices or attempts to elude capture in the commission of any felony, that person can be charged.

In Dible's situation, Shull said he was arrested for allegedly committing four of those seven conditions.

A detention hearing was held later that day to determine whether or not Dible would remain in custody. The results of that hearing were unavailable as of press time.

Nation's unemployed workers welcome aid, but question delays

By LEIGH STROPE

AP Labor Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The last of Scott Carmichael's state unemployment benefits are dribbling toward extinction. So, without much faith in Congress, he cashed in his retirement pension.

After tax penalties, his \$27,000 account probably won't amount to more than \$17,000, but Carmichael, 45, of Rowlett, Texas, thought he had little choice. Counting on an extra 13 weeks of federal benefits was just too risky.

The laid-off WorldCom worker, watching Congress open its new

session this week on C-SPAN, was stunned to see at the top of the legislative agenda a \$7.25 billion plan to extend federal benefits to 1.6 million people like himself — victims of an ailing economy who would become eligible if they exhausted their state benefits before June 1.

Even more startling was the speed at which the legislation sailed through, landing on President Bush's desk Wednesday.

"I think it's great," said Carmichael, whose wife is a stay-at-home mom to their children, ages 1 and 3. The biweekly check of

\$574 helped them keep their home. "It's about time they did something."

Bush's signature also renewed 13 weeks of federal emergency benefits that were cut off Dec. 28 for more than 750,000 jobless workers who hadn't exhausted them. Congress adjourned late last year in a stalemate over the program and let it expire.

But the swift action this week means checks will be issued on time without a lapse in benefits, the Labor Department said. Bush placed his signature on the bill a few hours after it cleared the House on a vote

of 416-4. The Senate unanimously passed the measure Tuesday.

Carmichael, a Bush supporter, said he mostly blamed Republicans — but not the president — for neglecting the nation's unemployed by waiting until January to extend the program.

He also said he is eager to learn more about the "re-employment accounts" that Bush proposed this week to help people with job-search expenses. The debate in Congress also gave Carmichael a new perspective on a Democrat he didn't much care for — New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

State revenues hit the mark in December, trail for year

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — State revenue collections met expectations in December but still trail the official forecast for the first half of the current budget year.

According to figures released Wednesday, smaller-than-expected corporate income taxes continue to be problematic, coming in well below the forecasts on which officials make budgeting decisions.

The Legislative Research De-

partment reported that overall collections in the state's general fund last month totaled \$405 million, about \$800,000 or 0.2 percent more than state analysts had predicted in their November forecast.

Revenue collections met the December estimate partly because the state didn't send \$16.7 million in promised aid payments to cities and counties.

That was part of the \$48 million Gov. Bill Graves withheld from local local governments to help the

state avoid a budget deficit on June 30. Cities and counties have asked the Kansas Supreme Court to release the money.

Forecasters had predicted total collections of \$2 billion in the first six months of the fiscal year that began last July 1.

Actual receipts were about \$22 million below that figure, or 1.1 percent off the mark.

The December figures "may represent a little bit of a leveling out," said Senate President Dave Kerr,

but he said he was hesitant to draw conclusions from one month's collections.

"It at least provides a little glimmer of hopefulness," said Kerr, R-Hutchinson.

State Budget Director Duane Goossen said revenue collections must meet expectations — and make up some lost ground from previous months — just to prevent a budget deficit on June 30.

"Meeting the revenue projections for December does not take away

from the gravity of this situation," Goossen said.

Forecasters had predicted that corporate income tax collections would total \$20 million in December and about \$45 million from July through December.

Instead, corporations paid total income taxes of \$5.7 million in December and \$24.4 million in the first six months of the budget year.

More on this article can be found on the Kansas Legislature: <http://www.kslegislature.org>.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Tuesday's high-70

Low this morning-22

Soil temperature: 38

Temperature at 1 p.m. today:

43

Record high for today: 63,

1923. Record low, -9, 1937.

The forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low near 10 above. North wind around 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny and cooler. High 35 to 40. North wind 10 to 15 mph becoming east late. Friday night: Partly cloudy. Low near 15.

Saturday: Partly sunny. High in the mid 30s. Saturday night: Partly cloudy. Low in the lower 20s.

Sunday: Mostly clear. High in the upper 40s.

Monday: Mostly clear. Low in the lower 20s and a high in the mid 40s.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy. Low in the mid 20s and a high near 45.

Wednesday: Colder. Partly cloudy. Low in the lower 20s and a high in the mid 30s.

Briefly

Booster Club seeks helpers

The Colby Booster Club is looking for any school group or team interested in earning extra money for their group's specific goals to work at its concession stand during home wrestling matches and basketball games, said Shawn Stephens with the Booster Club. In the event there no school groups or teams requesting to work, the club will extend the offer to church youth groups and other organizations. If interested, call Stephens at 462-6929.

Landfill has new regulations

Because of new Kansas Department of Health and Environment regulations, only trees and shrubs will be allowed in the Thomas County Landfill burn pile. All other wood products, including unpainted wood and pallets, must be placed in the construction and demolition area of the land-

fill, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. All debris that enter the construction and demolition area is subject to the \$10 per ton tipping fee, with a \$2 minimum, he said. For questions or other information, call Jumper at 462-8139.

Youth group plans soup supper

The Catholic Youth Organization in Colby is sponsoring a soup supper, Saturday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (after the evening mass) in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church basement, 1065 W. 5th. The cost is free-will donation and all proceeds will go to support the youth group's activities. The menu will include potato, chicken noodle and chili soups. For questions or information, call 465-9103.

Soup supper will be held tonight

There will be a soup supper held in the Colby High School

commons area before the Colby and Goodland wrestling dual tonight. Serving will begin at 5:30 p.m. Both chili and chicken noodle soup will be served along with desserts. A free-will donation will be accepted.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Thomas County Amusement Association.

Free throw contest Sunday

The Knights of Columbus annual free throw contest will be held Sunday, Jan. 12 in the Colby Elementary gymnasium. Registration begins at noon and competition begins at 1 p.m. The contest is open for all boys and girls ages 10-14, with age determined as of Jan. 1, 2003, organization officials said today.

Proof of age is required by providing a copy of birth certificate. For those with questions, call Miles Ladenburger at 462-7687 or Dewey Augustine at 462-2924 or 443-1548.

