



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Wells aid center's comfort

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

A unique heating and cooling system is being installed at Colby's new Oasis Travel Center on K-25, just south of I-70.

Twenty-eight wells are being drilled on the south side of the new truck stop by Woofter Pump and Well of Hoxie and will circulate water to 20 heat pumps being in the upstairs portion of the building.

This type of system is called a ground source heat pump, and Mike Woofter, of Woofter Construction, which is building the new travel center, said this type of system will be more cost-effective.

"This isn't a new system, but with new controls the efficiency has improved," Woofter said.

"Energy savings from this type of system could be as much as 50 to 70 percent of normal."

Woofter added that the start-up cost of such a system is substantially more than a conventional one, but he explained the costs can be recouped in approximately 5 years.

No electricity or gas is used except to circulate the water, Woofter said, which will flow from 2 one-inch pipes located in each well, that are being dug to a depth of 250 feet.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Workers with Woofter Pump and Well of Hoxie drilled one of the 28 wells at the Oasis Travel Center in Colby. The wells will supply the heating and cooling needs for the entire facility.

The ground and water temperature is between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit, with heating and cooling being done by the circulating water, he said. The new center is located south of the Comfort Inn.

## Cocaine 'shipment' ends on I-70 near here

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

The Kansas Highway Patrol stopped a motorist on Tuesday on Interstate 70 near Colby with 60 pounds of cocaine in a false compartment of the van.

Vincent E. Patterson, 35, of Philadelphia, was pulled over for speeding in the eastbound lane of I-70 at mile marker 50. He was driving a 1993 Dodge Caravan. The trooper became suspicious, Patterson consented to a search, and

the search revealed the cocaine in the false compartment in the floor between the front seats.

Travis Phillips, patrol public information officer, said the cocaine was worth \$100,000 per kilo, which, at 26.7 kilos, translates to

just over \$2.6 million.

Patterson is in the Thomas County Jail. He has yet to be arraigned, but he is charged with possession of cocaine with intent to sell, and also conspiracy to distribute.

## On budget matters

## Senate action clears way for conference with House

TOPEKA (AP) — The Senate approved a bill for reducing the shortfall in the current state budget, clearing the way for negotiations with the House on where to make cuts or withhold funds.

The measure, approved on a 33-7 vote Wednesday, eliminates most of the projected \$312 million deficit in the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30. The Kansas Constitution prohibits budget deficits.

Like a House-passed bill, the Senate measure withholds \$95 million from highway projects and \$48 million in state aid to cities and counties and covers \$35 million worth of general programs with fee revenue meant for specific uses.

Both chambers' bills assume the

state will collect \$4.3 billion in revenues during the current fiscal year. However, through January, revenues were about \$28 million short of projections.

As they seek compromise, House and Senate negotiators will confront a key difference on the issue of the withheld highway funds and \$16 million of the diverted fee funds.

The House bill contains a provision requiring the state to pay back the \$111 million by June 30, 2005. Critics say that provision will create fresh fiscal problems next year, but supporters argue the state shouldn't continue to short highway projects and special programs that rely on earmarked funds.

There are other, smaller differences as well. House members approved proposals from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to divert \$10 million from a fund to clean up leaking underground fuel tanks and to use \$13 million in highway funds for Kansas Highway Patrol operations.

Also, House members hope passing the bill will end the debate on revising the current budget and let work begin on a budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

But senators are less eager to resolve all issues for the current budget year, fearing some decisions won't get the attention they deserve. In years that the state's financial problems are less severe, lawmakers

typically work on the current and future budgets simultaneously.

"Sometimes, that's the only time we have to interact with state agencies," said Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Steve Morris, R-Hugoton.

In other action: — Supreme Court Chief Justice Kay McFarland asked a Senate committee for a budget increase of 8.3 percent to operate the state's court system.

— Sebelius and Attorney General Phill Kline introduced anti-crime initiatives to House and Senate committees.

— Following the House by one week, the Senate approved rules setting legislative deadlines.



### Wintry forecast

Tonight, mostly clear, cold, lows zero to +5, north winds becoming west up to 10 mph. Friday, sunny, highs near 30, west winds up to 15 mph. Friday night, clear, lows 10-15. Saturday, cloudy, highs upper 30s. Saturday night, cloudy, lows upper teens.

**The numbers**  
Tuesday's high, 35  
Low this morning, 18  
Soil temperature, 35  
Year ago today, 52 and 18  
Month's precipitation: 0.12 inches  
Records for this date: 73 in 1963, -22 in 1982

## Sen. Clark heads medical task force

TOPEKA (AP) — Six senators have been appointed to serve on a task force that will study ways to make the state's medical services for the needy more efficient, Senate

President Dave Kerr said Monday.

The task force's chairman will be Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley.

Clark picked the other members in consultation with Kerr.

The others are Jim Barnett, R-Emporia; Pete Brungardt, R-Salina; Paul Feleciano, D-Wichita; Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler; and Janis Lee, D-Kensington.

## Briefly

### Parent-teacher conferences set

Parent-teacher conferences for Colby Public School students is Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 11 and 13 in their respective buildings. Parents who have not received a schedule should call either the elementary school, 465-5100; middle school, 465-5200; or high school, 465-5300.

### Singles dance is Friday

The Colby Singles Group will hold its regular monthly dance from 8 p.m. to midnight, Friday, with entertainment by "Off Limits," featuring Dick and Maybelle Moore of Colby. For location information, call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

### Square dance planned Saturday

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club is hosting a dance at 8 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Community Building. The caller is Ed Claflin, Gothenberg, Neb., and hosts will serve different kinds of soup after the dance. Visitors are welcome.

### Help with refunds available

Rosalie Seemann will be at Meadowlark Manor on Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. to assist with Homestead Refunds, Food Sales Refunds and LEAP applications.

### Soup's on for Friday evening

Kappa Upsilon, a local sorority, is sponsoring a soup supper on Friday from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Colby Community Building when Colby takes on Oberlin in basketball action. The menu will include chili, chicken noodle, and vegetable soups, along with cinnamon rolls, cookies and drinks. The cost is free-will donation with proceeds going to benefit Puddle Duck Pre-School.

### Rotary Club plans soup supper

The Colby Rotary Club is sponsoring its annual soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, during the Colby-Goodland basketball game at the Colby Community Building. The cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 12 and under.

Tickets will be available at the door or from any Rotary Club member. All proceeds go toward Rotary projects.

### Red Cross announces classes

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering a shelter operations class to help with local shelters in the event of bad weather or other disasters, said Molly Oliver, spokesperson. The class is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Red Cross is looking for people interested in learning how to operate the emergency response vehicle. For questions or to register for either of these needed services, call 462-7161 or 462-6133.

### Winter landfill hours posted

The Thomas County landfill is now on its winter hours, which are: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, 1-4 p.m.

# Rain Rally on calendar for Feb. 22

By **TOM (TD) DREILING**  
*Free Press Publisher*

The title of the event says it all, "Northwest Kansas Pray for Rain Rally."

The brainchild of Brewster area farmer Leonard Kinkade, and his wife Zelma, the rally is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22 at the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

"We hope to see people from all over northwest Kansas, from Trego County west to the Colorado line and north to Nebraska," Kinkade said. "Farmers, ranchers, ag and machinery people, clergy, townsfolk — this first-ever Northwest Kansas Rally for Rain is for everyone," he said.

"The purpose of this event is to pray to the Lord to break this drought, which affects everyone," he said. "We need to get back to our normal rainfall. We need to speak directly to the Lord."

The rally, said Kinkade, will begin at 3 p.m. and conclude at 6 p.m. "People can come and go as they need. We hope to have clergy say a few words, read scripture and lead us in prayer," he said.

A large map will be posted in the building and each person on hand will be asked to take a pin and stick it in their particular location on the map, Kinkade explained. "We will probably ask people to come down front, state their name and offer a prayer for rain," he said.

He said prayers will be offered for political leaders who have the influence to assist with the problems as-

sociated with the drought. "We need to ask God to point them in the right direction."

Kinkade said "we need to break this drought...It affects everyone...If I get 2-3 inches of rain at my place (3 miles southwest of Brewster on the Thomas-Sherman County line) and nobody else gets any rain, only I benefit. The drought continues."

He stressed the need to ask the Lord to break the drought, which, he says, has forced a number of our own farmers and ranchers to be driven from their farms. "The drought is not just a rural problem, it is also felt in all our towns in northwest Kansas, too," he said.

Kinkade said he has no idea as to the reception his prayer rally will receive. "This is the first time for such an event in such a wide area," he said. "We pray for rain in our churches, or we pray individually, but we need to bring all of us together in a common plea to our Lord."

Kinkade said he got the idea for the prayer rally some months ago while traveling and listening to the radio. "They (the people on the radio) were talking about doing this and that sparked my interest," he said.

"I guess I am the person the Lord selected to carry out the project in northwest Kansas," he said.

He asks the clergy to ask their congregations to take part "in this show of unity" in Colby on Feb. 22.

## UGLY project



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

It was another UGLY day at Colby Middle School Wednesday morning as seventh-grade students tried to navigate eggs through an obstacle course, without touching or cracking the eggs. Above, Austin Taylor contemplates how to get an egg through the tube, as his teammates prepare to lend a hand. Left to right are Amy Davis, Amanda Fromholtz, Mikel Ladenberger, and Chase Cloe. U.G.L.Y. stands for Understand the problem; Get a plan; Let's work it out; Yes, it makes sense. The purpose of UGLY day is to teach the students problem solving skills, said middle school teacher Alana Tubbs. This was the third of four UGLY days scheduled for this school year.

