



COLBY FREE PRESS

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PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The first carnival ride was purchased recently by the Thomas County Amusement Association, said Dick Parnell, one of the committee members. Called the "Zipper," the ride was adopted by the area Knights of Columbus Council. ABOVE: Left to right are Steve Dempewolf, program chair; Dick Parnell, deputy Grand Knight; and Dewey Augustine, Grand Knight. Not pictured, but present as the Knights of Columbus representatives looked over the new ride was Dan Zerr, treasurer. The goal of the association is to have this ride and several others operational by July 4, 2003.

Amusement Association's first ride arrives in Colby

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Thomas County's home-owned carnival is one step closer to meeting its goal of having adult and children's rides up and running by July 4, 2003 following the purchase of the "Zipper," said Dick Parnell, Thomas County Amusement Association committee member.

The first ride arrived in Colby about two weeks ago, he said, and is currently located east of Colby Implement.

The association bought the "Zipper" from Chance Industries in Wichita, which is also the company that manufactures the ride.

In addition to buying the ride, the area Knights of Columbus Council has agreed to adopt this ride, said Grand Knight Dewey Augustine.

By accepting this responsibility, the Knights will run the ride, load and unload people on and off the ride during the fair and other special activities, he said.

As for electrical and mechanical repairs, maintenance and upkeep, Parnell said that will be the responsibility of the association.

The association was formed last summer as a means of keeping a permanent carnival instead of relying on outside entities.

In order to accomplish the goals; however, Parnell said, it's going to take a lot of help from everyone — whether that's through donations, volunteering to adopt rides or assisting in other ways.

Along with the Zipper, the association has set its sights on getting four to six other adult and children rides before July.

The Thomas County Fair Board

designated a specific location on the fairgrounds for the rides during the latter part of 2002.

"We still need businesses, organizations and individuals working together to make this project possible," Parnell said.

For anyone interested in donating money, the association urges them to mail contributions to: P.O. Box 684, Colby, Kan. 67701.

For questions, call Parnell at (785) 462-6125 or Kerry Wark, president of the association, at (785) 462-6403.

Other officers with the association include Chad Zimmerman, vice-president; Wanda Brown, secretary; and Tina Harris, treasurer.

Additional details and information about rides and sponsors will be provided *Free Press* readers in upcoming editions.

April Fool's Day to hold something extra this year

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

April 1 is not only April Fool's Day, it is also election day.

And anyone planning to vote might want to make sure they are registered before the books close on Monday, March 17, said Tracey Perkins, Thomas County clerk.

Those who might want to check their registration status include voters who moved to another location, changed their name or haven't voted in the last two general elections, which would have been in November of 2000 and 2002, she said.

Information on advance ballots will be released in the coming weeks.

The candidates who have filed for the April election include positions with all school boards and city governments in the county. Recapping those running for various offices are as follows:

In the Colby School District, there were four board members up for re-election with only one filing for another term. Stan Molstad, who is currently the board president, was the only one to file prior to the deadline. Other candidates seeking the other three seats are Kevan T. Taylor, Joel Powell and Dewey Augustine.

The Golden Plains School District has one contested race involving position one with incumbent

Mark Miller being challenged by David Gould and Jay Todd seeking position 2 with incumbent Kathy Albers not seeking another term. In position 3, LeRoy Spreser, incumbent, and Position 7, Paul Bruggeman, are both looking for another term and as of the filing deadline have no one running against them.

In the Brewster School District, there are four school board seats with terms expiring. Greg Mills, Joan Jamison, Stephen Bear and LeRoy Moore currently hold those positions, but only Bear filed for another term in position 3.

Bear has no opposition. In position 1 there were no filings and in position 2, Don Allen is running unopposed, as is Bonnie Holm for the at-large position 6 seat.

The Colby Community College board of trustees has six people seeking three positions. Incumbents include Don Kready and Ken Poland with Lon Frahm, Mark Schwarz, Larry Arehart and Larry McDonald challenging.

Terms are also up on four of the seven Colby City Council seats. Ken Bieber, Francis Britton, Darrel Follis and Todd Barrows currently hold those positions. Bieber and Barrow are both running for another term unopposed. Britton and Follis did not re-file for their positions leaving contested races for those two wards. In Ward II, Beverly

Eicher and Tom Rundell are challenging one another and in Ward III, Jim Brown and Monti Montgomery are vying for the position.

In Colby, Brewster, Rexford, and Menlo, Warren Hixson, Mike Baughn, William J. Dible and Brent Ginther, respectively, are running unopposed for mayor in their towns. There were no filings for the position of mayor in Gem, nor did anyone file for open council positions in Menlo.

Gem's current mayor is Phyllis Ziegelmeier, who did not file for re-election and there are five council positions open.

However, Carl Miller and Danny Carmen did file for two of the five positions, leaving three slots still without a candidate. With only two of the five council positions up for re-election, both Ronald J. Ribordy and Gene Schoenberger, incumbents, have filed. No others filed for the remaining positions.

City council positions in Rexford included Michael L. Johnson, Gidget Mosier, Mark Basgall and David Williams, incumbents, along with Vernon Vance filling out the five positions open.

For voters in Menlo, there are five council seats up for grabs and no incumbents or candidates are seeking the positions.

For questions about the election or registration, call Perkins at 462-4500.

New loader for landfill pushed

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press

Equipment was uppermost on Larry Jumper's mind when he met with the Thomas County Commissioners at their Monday meeting.

Jumper, landfill supervisor, said he would like to get a new loader as a backup for the one they currently have. The loader which is used now, he said, was purchased used and there is still four years of payments to make on it. He said it is used all day and it takes a great deal of abuse.

Jumper said it would be nice to

have one to use in case something went down on the one they have. He told the commissioners he understood the financial difficulties the county is in right now, but would appreciate it being looked into.

He also shared the landfill's monthly report with the commissioners.

Kathy Ryan, county health nurse, brought a list of grants she will be applying for from the state and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Of the five grants she has in mind, totaling over \$54,000, some of the money will come from

state funding and some will come from federal. Ryan told the commissioners she expects to receive less money on some of the grants than what she is applying for.

She also brought along some possible signs for the health department building. Several of the signs for the inside of the building are to prevent people from being in portions of the building where regulations prohibit them from being, and two of the signs were for the outside of the building to direct patients to the north entrance.

College heads take budget woes to panel

TOPEKA (AP) — The University of Kansas could operate more efficiently with less money if the state lifted some regulations and treated it like other state agencies, officials said Monday.

Chancellor Robert Hemenway told a Senate Ways and Means sub-

committee that current funding procedures "eat up staff time and take money away from the education function." "In a year where you cannot give the universities much money, you could give us the ability to manage the taxpayers' money better and leverage it further,"

Hemenway said.

Hemenway spoke as the subcommittee opened four days of hearings. Hemenway and Kansas State President Jon Wefald pointed out that their budgets for the current fiscal year, which began July 1, had already been cut about 8 percent.



Continued warm

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west late. Wednesday...Mostly cloudy and continued warm. Highs in the upper 60s. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Friday...Mostly clear and continued warm. Highs in the upper 70s. Saturday...Partly cloudy and continued warm. Lows in the upper 30s and highs in the upper 70s.

The numbers
Monday's high, 56
Low this morning, 19
Soil temperature, 36
Year ago, 56 and 16
Month's snowfall, trace
Month's precipitation, 0.03
Records, 87 in 1989 and -20 in 1948

First weekly crop report issued

Wheat outlook is so-so, at this point

WICHITA (AP) — Winter wheat fields are starting to green across Kansas, but as much as 26 percent of the crop is in poor to very poor condition, the victim of unrelenting drought, the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service reported Monday.

In its first weekly crop condition report of the season, the service rated 43 percent of the state's wheat crop as fair. Another 28 percent was

in good and 3 percent in excellent condition.

Early indications are that an estimated 4 percent of the Kansas wheat crop has been lost to winter kill, the statistics service said.

More precise figures are expected after the crop comes out of dormancy. West-central Kansas especially has missed out on the winter storms, and crop insurance ad-

justers have already visited wheat fields that are still bare coming out of winter, said Brett Myers, executive vice president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

Much of the 2003 crop survived the mild winter, with 78 percent of the wheat showing no freeze damage and 82 percent showing no wind damage, the statistics service reported.

Briefly

Chamber luncheon Friday

The Oasis Travel Center managers, Jason and Tara Woofter, will be speaking at the monthly Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce luncheon at noon, Friday, at Quality Inn. All chamber members and their guests are welcome to attend. For questions, call 462-3401.

Amusement meeting next week

The Thomas County Amusement Association will hold its regular meeting on Monday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Colby. Anyone interested in helping on various committees is urged to attend. For questions, call Kerry Wark, president, 462-6403.

Enrollment is still open

Enrollment for next year's Colby public school kindergarteners has been held, but for those who missed this pre-enrollment, Terrel Harrison, principal, is asking parents

and/or guardians to stop by the school office, 210 N. Grant, as soon as possible to enroll your child. Harrison said to bring the child's immunization records, birth certificate and social security number for the enrollment. Any children residing in the Colby School District and who will be five years old on or before Aug. 31, 2003 is eligible to enroll. It is not necessary to bring children for the pre-enrollment, she said.

Storm spotter meeting is tonight

The National Weather Service will be conducting storm spotter training in the Little Theater room of the Colby Community Building tonight. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. and is open to the public free of charge.

Caregivers group to meet

The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging is sponsoring a support group for caregivers on Wednesday. If you care for someone over the age of 60, you are encouraged to join

the group at Colby Community College at 7 p.m. in the Student Union room 106.

Help available with form filings

Free assistance in filling out the Low Income Energy Assistance Program applications is available to individuals with disabilities until March 31. Free assistance in completing the Homestead Food Sales Tax Returns will be available until April 15. For information, or to set up an appointment, call (785) 625-6942 or (800) 569-5926.

Cemetery board meets Thursdays

The Colby Cemetery District board meetings will be held on Thursdays for the next couple of months, reminded Relda Galli, board member. The meetings will continue to be held at the Thomas County Courthouse beginning at 2 p.m. Board members should note that Thursday meetings include March 20 and April 24. For questions, call Galli at 462-3670. Child-birth education series to begin

Fair board to face full plate

The Thomas County Fair board faces a full plate when it meets at 8 p.m. Thursday in the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include buildings and grounds, carnival contract with the Thomas County Amusement Association, rodeo contracts, parade details, demolition derby, races, advertising and the fair book.

The fair board plans to review groundskeeper interviews, the barbecue, slab dance, queen and princess contest, the audit and drug forfeiture money.

