

Volume 114, Number 105 Serving Thomas County since 1888

Three Colby

Free Press Editor

The former St. Thomas Hospital

Medical Arts, Inc., which incdes Drs. Victor H. Hildyard, LaDonna

on Range Avenue was sold last

Thursday to a local medical corpo-

Regier and Raymond Ketting, pur-

chased the 44,000 plus square foot

building last week from Peoples

State Bank in Colby with the cost

undisclosed on the corporation

The building has had a diverse

history beginning as a hospital with the first open house held during the

Thomas County Free Fair in 1941.

By 1947, the hospital doubled in size to a 100-bed capacity and

housed a Polio Ward — the first of

and state regulations dictated im-

provements and changes, there was

an effort to build a private hospital,

known today as Citizens Medical

Consequently, in 1982 and after

the new hospital facility was com-

pleted, the Thomas County Com-

missioners agreed to sell the old St.

Thomas Hospital for \$1 to the

Colby School District.

As the years went by and federal

its kind in the county.

deed.

doctors buy old

hospital building

Peoples State Bank, approached the board and asked to buy the land and

building as the location for a new

the lot north of the administration building," Pope said earlier this

"All I was really interested in was

As for the entire facility, Pope

said he agreed to keep the property

in his name to protect the bank and

its investors from liability issues

with the understanding that should

someone or group ever be interested

in buying it, he would deed it to the

bank with all profits going back to

Pope said, he and representatives of

Medical Arts, Inc. agreed on a price, along with certain conditions.

said he wanted to retain the me-

chanical building which is about

2,000 square feet and is separate

from the main facility for storage

use. In addition to the mechanical

building and main structure, there is also one other separate building

on the southwest corner that is a

three-car garage. In year's past,

Pope believed this housed ambu-

At this time, the physicians buy-

lances for the old hospital.

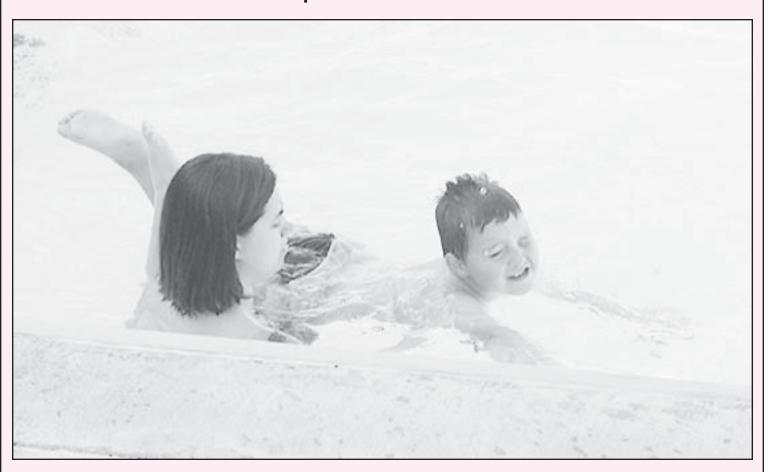
After working out a few details,

Among those conditions, Pope

banking facility.

the corporation.

Expert advice



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Tracey Wilcox gave Austin Hart some swimming tips during the Thursday and the second lessons begin Monday and continue first of three sessions offered by the Colby Recreation Depart- until Thursday, June 26. The final session will be Monday, June ment. There are still vacancies in the next two sessions, said 30 through Thursday, July 10. Children five years and older can Ryan Sturdy, recreation director. The current lessons conclude participate either at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., or 10:30 a.m.

'Road map' rocked by more bloodshed

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon swore to hunt Palestinian militants "to the bitter end" and Israeli helicopters rocketed a car carrying Hamas activists in Gaza early Thursday, the latest strike in a cycle of vengeance that killed 28 people in a less than a day and wounded more than 100.

Also Thursday, the Islamic militant group Hamas issued a new threat, saying it has ordered "all military cells" to take immediate action and carry out more attacks on

The group also urged foreigners o leave Israel and the Palestinian areas for their own safety.

In a Cabinet meeting Thursday, Sharon dismissed Palestinian leaders as "crybabies" for saying they can't use force against the militias, according to a Cabinet official briefing reporters.

Israel said it will not stand by until Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas persuades the armed groups to halt attacks.

Thunderstorms

Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...mostly cloudy,

lows in the mid-50s, east winds

up to 15 mph, 40 percent

chance for thunderstorms. Fri-

day, cloudy, highs in the upper

70s, light and variable winds,

40 percent chance for thunder-

storms. Friday night, cloudy,

lows in the mid 50s, 40 percent

chance for thunderstorms. Saturday, partly cloudy, highs in the lower 80s. Saturday night,

clear, lows in the mid 50s.

Wednesday's high, 91

Low this morning, 57

Soil temperature, 74

Year ago today, 91 and 65

Records for the date, 105 in

4 hour precipitation to 8 a.m.

June's precipitation to date,

Year's precipitation to date,

2002's precipitation to date,

June 11 = 2.845 million gal-

Water Usage/Colby

By the numbers

1950, 41 in 1985

today, 0.36

1.64

The spike in violence came just a and "isolate those who hate so much bus station. Shabneh detonated the week after President Bush launched a Middle East peace plan at a festive

Difficulties in implementing the expected, but many were surprised by such a rapid return to bloodshed.

32 months of fighting, but despair was perhaps more keenly felt than there had been hope of a new beginning and personal involvement by the Hamas statement said. Bush after last week's summit.

Hamas to stop terror," Israeli commentator Sever Plotzker wrote in entity and tear it to pieces.' the Yediot Ahronot daily.

"And the all-powerful Bush cannot compel Sharon to stop the assassinations (of Palestinian militants). evening rush hour on Jaffa Street,

The cause and effect, the effect Jerusalem's main thoroughfare. and cause, it's all jumbled. Who remembers who started?"

bombing and urged all nations to cut thodox Jew, boarded city bus No. 14

that they are willing to kill." Earlier, Bush had rebuked Sharon for the attempted killing of a Hamas founder, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, which so-called "road map" plan had been led to threats of revenge by the

Hamas said in its statement There have been deadlier days in Thursday that more attacks would

The bus bombing "is the beginafter previous setbacks because ning of a new series of attacks and part of a bill the Zionists must pay,"

The first retaliation for the botched attack on Rantisi came Wednesday afternoon, during

An 18-year-old high school student from Hebron, Abdel Madi Bush angrily condemned the bus Shabneh, disguised as an ultra-Or-

explosives strapped to his body just as the bus reached Mahane Yehuda, the city's large outdoor market.

The blast lifted the bus off the pavement and tore up the roof and sides. Several passengers were hurled outside.

The bomber killed 16 people, including Alan Beer, 47, who immigrated to Israel from Cleveland several years ago. More than 100 people were hurt.

Less than an hour later, Israeli "We call on all military cells to helicopters targeted two members "Bush, too, cannot compel act immediately and act like an of the Hamas military wing as they earthquake to blow up the Zionist drove in the crowded market area of a Gaza City neighborhood.

> The two were killed in a ball of fire, and witnesses said more missiles were fired as hundreds of bystanders ringed the burning vehicle.

> Seven more people were killed and 35 wounded by the second vol-

Early Thursday, an Israeli rocket attack killed two low-level Hamas off financial assistance to terrorists just after it left the nearby central activists in Gaza City.

Man remains jailed following accident, discovery of 'lab'

2000 when Jon Pope, president of with their new purchase.

This would remain the property ing the building had no other com-

of the school district until the fall of ments about what they plan to do

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

An Oberlin man appeared in Thomas County District Court on Wednesday and was charged with four offenses relating to a Friday afternoon one-car accident in Colby and subsequent discovery of a possible meth lab in the vehicle.

Jeremey Edward Stoney, 26, is being held in the county jail in lieu of a \$100,000 bond after being charged with manufacturing of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and anhydrous ammonia in an unapproved container, along with a second offense for driving under the influence, said Gary Shull, investigator with the Colby Police Department.

Authorities believed Stoney was having an epileptic seizure at the time of the crash at 4:45 p.m. when his 1993 GMC pickup went out of control and got jammed between two trees, but not before crashing through four fences on Range and

In the initial report, rescue workers from the Thomas County Emergency Medical Services tried to reach the cab of the pickup through the truck bed and in doing so discovered the alleged methamphetamine lab in the back of the pickup.

After taking Stoney to Citizens Medical Center to make sure he was uninjured, he was then transported

to the jail pending the filling of charges, Shull said. Some in Colby might recall Stoney from the incident in October of 2001 when 11-year-old Christopher Brittain, a sixth grade student at Colby Middle School, saved both Stoney, his 5-year-old brother, oneyear-old sister and himself from

ordeal. The incident occurred when Stoney had an epileptic seizure while taking the boys to school. If it wasn't for Brittain's quick thinking and quick reactions in maneuvering the car to safety, it's unsure

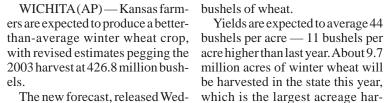
what could have been a disastrous

what might have happened. Not many 11-year-olds can maneuver a car at 60 plus miles per hour through rush-hour morning traffic — and do it from the passen-

At that time, Stoney was driving a yellow 1992 Firebird Formula and after the car was safely parked at Deep Rock Cafe, he was taken to Citizens Medical Center and later released.

As for the three children in the car, Brittain said they all came through the incident uninjured.

Vheat crop estimates climb



nesday by the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service, would make this last year's drought-plagued harvest. In a typical year, Kansas can expect to harvest about 400 million

Yields are expected to average 44 bushels per acre — 11 bushels per million acres of winter wheat will be harvested in the state this year, which is the largest acreage harvested since 1998.

Wednesday's estimate is based year's crop 60 percent bigger than on crop conditions June 1, and is 10 percent higher than the forecast a month ago.

Wheat harvest is just getting un-

Flag inserted in today's Free Press

der way in southern Kansas, with recent rains putting a damper on harvest in parts that traditionally are among the first to run the combines.

Some wheat is being cut between Protection and Sitka, with about 3,000 bushels cut Monday and 25,000 bushels cut Tuesday, said Bill Bayne, wheat harvest representative in Coldwater.

Test weights on those early bushels have been running between 59 and 62 pounds per bushel, he said.

Briefly

to the public.

Farewell party planned for Worthy

The Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas will hold a "come and go" farewell reception for Janet Worthy, who worked at the center for nearly 13 years and was responsible for a variety of programs and activities. The event is from 3 to 5 p.m., Friday, at 990 S. Range Ave. and open to everyone. Refreshments will be available

Fair board meets tonight

The Thomas County fair board will hold its regular monthly meeting at 8 p.m. tonight in the 4-H building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include a report from the extension agent, drug forfeiture money, annual barbecue, the slab dance and queen and princess contest. The board will also hear from committee chairs regarding building and grounds, carnival rides, rodeo activities, the parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising. All meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

Personal, real estate taxes due

The second half of 2002 Thomas County personal and real estate taxes are due by Friday, June 20. For questions, call the county treasurer's office at 462-4520.

Babysitting class planned

The Super Sitter Class will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Wednesday, June 25 in the Thomas County Office Complex. Children who have completed fifth grade are eligible to enroll, said officials at the Thomas County Health Department. Events planned throughout the day include baby bath demonstration, interaction with local daycare children, fire safety and 911. Children who plan to attend need to bring pen and paper and a sack lunch. Snacks will be provided The cost of the class is \$15. To enroll, call the health department at (785)

Share sign up underway

Heartland Share sign up began Monday and will continue through Friday, said Gene Griffin, coordinator. The sign up is at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. 4th, Colby. Delivery is scheduled for Saturday, June 28, starting at 10 a.m. in the Colby Sacred Heart School gymnasium. As an added bonus this month, she said, those ordering Share and a special of the month will have an opportunity to win a barbecue grill. Questions to 460-3579.

College board meets Monday

The regular meeting of the Colby Community College Board of Trustees will be held Monday at 5 p.m. in the board room of the Thomas Hall administration building. Items on the agenda include reports on administrative software and natural gas bids. Also approval is expended on various contracts and agreements, policies and procedure manual, capital outlay, disposal of college property and contract/salary considerations for non-unit employees. All meetings are open