



COLBY FREE PRESS

Club, firemen color the sky

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

The Colby Kiwanis Club and fire department joined forces for another Independence Day fireworks show at the Thomas County Fairgrounds on Friday night.

The Kiwanis support the show, continuing a tradition going back around 20 years when they were asked by the Chamber of Commerce to take over the event after Dr. Willis Johnson, an area chiropractor who had done a fireworks display for many years, passed away.

The Kiwanis, including Ralph Schmidt, Bill Dowell and then Colby Fire Chief Ivan Lee, took on the task, but as the certification process got stricter, there were fewer members able to maintain qualifications and more firefighters got involved at the same time.

The Kiwanis still provide the fireworks, under the supervision of committee chairman Greg Schafer, along with help in setting up and cleaning up after the shoot.

The show has grown larger with each passing year as well, according to Fire Department Service Officer J.L. Ellis.

"We had 258 mortars this year," he said. Ellis also said they tried to add something new each year. This year the finale was four "boxes." Two contained 50 three-inch shots and two contained 16 four-inch shots each. Last year they used boxes with 1-2 inch shots.

Another big change occurred two years ago when they acquired new mortars. In the past, all shots had been done with 24 mortars which had to be reloaded, a time-consuming and dangerous process.

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"We don't reload anything now," Ellis said.

Lee, who is still involved in the show, said new fireworks were also safer.

"We had a lot of low-openers (fireworks which go off to low, endangering the crews) and misfires, but we haven't had any in the last couple of years," he said.

Lee added the low-openers were spectacular even though they were dangerous.

"The crowds love them."

This year's show also used some "special" shells designed to make patterns. Ellis said fireworks manufacturers are always trying to come up with something new.

"Blue is the Holy Grail of fireworks," he said. "There isn't anything that burns pure blue. When someone comes up with that, they'll have it made."

Other criteria include hang time, the time the shell is in the air, and height. The higher the shell goes, the more people can see them. The largest shell fired was six inches, because of the limits of hand firing. A larger shell requires the ability to fire electronically for safety, but panels are very expensive.

Cost is the major limiting factor in the Colby show. The fireworks are funded by donations to the Kiwanis and this year's show cost \$3,900. The club has many regular donors, but always needs funds to defray the costs. Anyone interested in donating can contact Schafer or Rick Dickman at the fire department.

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Even two-month-old Kamryn Sitton of Colby enjoyed the Fourth of July activities in Colby. Kamryn, along with family and friends,

watched the Kiwanis fireworks display at the Thomas County fairgrounds. She is the daughter of Scott and Layne Sitton.

Local foundation gets lift from Kansas Health Foundation

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

The executive director of the Thomas County Community Foundation is excited.

And she should be.

The Foundation is participating in an initiative from the Kansas Health Foundation designed to encourage the creation and growth of endowment funds, said Becky Donelan, director.

She said it is Phase 2 of the "Giving Resources to Our World" Healthy Kansas Community Foundation Initiative in which her organization has participated from its inception.

"Under the terms of the pro-

gram," she said, "for every \$2 given to a permanently endowed fund during 2003, the Kanss Halth Foundation will donate \$1."

Donelan explained that the newly endowed funds may benefit any charitable purpose selected by the donor, with the Kansas Health Foundation match to be placed in an endowed fund for youth in Thomas County.

She said the Thomas County Community Foundation is eligible for up to \$100,000 in matching funds from the Kansas Health Foundation. "But unlike the previous challenge, no minimum campaign total is required for the Foundation to receive those matching

funds," Donelan said.

Donelan said endowed funds "are a wonderful legacy from a donor to his/her community. Once an endowed fund is established, the principal is never spent; rather, the interest earned each year is distributed according to the purposes identified by the donor when establishing the fund." She said this perpetual legacy will continue to meet the needs identified by the donor for decades to come.

A number of different types of funds are available, allowing donors to choose the one that best fits their needs and charitable intentions. A donor, she said, may name the fund they establish, and requests

for anonymity will be honored. She said the Thomas County Community Foundation has set a minimum of \$2,500 to establish and name a separate fund. However, smaller amounts may be contributed and pooled into a general, endowed grant fund. Once a fund has been established, additional amounts may be added at any time.

Donelan said an endowed fund may be established with a variety of resources. Cash contributions allow for establishment of a fund in a matter of a day or two.

However, other assets may also be given to establish a fund. Irrevocable planned gifts that name the Thomas County Community Foun-

dation as the remainderman for the full amount, completed during 2003, may be counted toward this matching opportunity at the gift value of the planned gift.

Transfers of stock, real estate, paid up life insurance or other assets may also qualify. These are more complex transactions, she said, that require teamwork between the donors, their professional advisors and the Foundation. "These contributions will often have positive personal tax and estate benefits, as well as being great for the future of charitable groups and causes."

Anyone wanting more information should contact Donelan at 785-460-9152 or tcfc@st-tel.net.

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

There were several injury accidents on roads around the area over the Fourth of July weekend.

According to reports from the Kansas Highway Patrol, an accident July 5 resulted in an Illinois family being taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

Jennifer S. Zarembski, 30, of Oswego, Ill. was driving her 2002 Ford eastbound on I-70 when she

noticed the trailer she was pulling was swaying. She lost control and the vehicle and trailer rolled into the ditch approximately three miles east of Colby.

Zarembski, along with David B. Zarembski, 44; Alexandra Zarembski, 11; Samantha Zarembski, 4; and Ben Zarembski, 2, all of Oswego, were transported to Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Condition reports were not available.

Also on July 5, Jules J. King of

Granite City, Ill. was traveling westbound on I-70 near Oakley driving a semi when a strong wind pushed the trailer onto the guard rail.

He then lost control and the rig and it rolled off the overpass bridge and caught fire.

King, 55, was transported to the Logan County Hospital. His condition is also not known.

Gove County was also the scene of an accident near Grainfield. On

July 4, Adrian Escalera, 21, of Denver, was driving his 2000 Hummer when he veered right into the south ditch on eastbound I-70. The Hummer rolled several times before coming to rest on its wheels. He, along with Gustavo Escalera, 16, Adrian Escalera, Jr., 2; Damien Escalera, six months; Alejandra Escalera, 22 and Cindy J. Padilla, 18, all of Denver, were transported to Gove County Hospital for treatment.

Accidents keep Highway Patrol busy

Briefly

School district has new prefix

Colby Public Schools has changed all telephone numbers from the "465" prefix to "460" prefix, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. The change went into effect on Tuesday, July 1.

Library's 'Family Night' is Thursday

"Family Night" at Pioneer Memorial Library will be held Thursday, said JoAnne Sunderman, librarian. The time of the "Family Night" is 7 p.m. For questions, call the library at 462-4470.

Mosquito spraying underway

City of Colby crews are spraying for mosquitoes for the remainder of the summer. For those wanting to be notified before crews enter their area, call Jo Strage, executive secretary to the city manager, 462-4410. City officials ask that residents check yards and empty anything that is holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools, tires, etc., to

help keep the mosquito population to a minimum.

Childbirth classes offered

Colby Childbirth Education will host a series of childbirth education classes in July. Classes will be held at the Colby Community College Health Sciences building on Thursdays (July 10, July 17, July 24, and July 31) from 7 to 10 p.m. The focus of the classes is to help prepare the expectant mother and her coach for birth. To pre-register, call (785) 462-4850.

Volleyball camp planned

The Colby High School volleyball camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., in the high school's gymnasium on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 21-23, said Lesley Wagoner, coaching the camp. This is for all girls entering grades 9th through 12th for the 2003-04 school year, she said. The cost is \$30 and to register or for questions, call Wagoner at (785) 462-7959. Camp participants are asked to contact Wagoner no later than 5 p.m., Friday, July 18.

Queen, princess contestants wanted

The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Contest is taking entries for the event on Friday, July 25. Queens ages 17-23 and princesses 10-16 years old by Jan. 1, 2003 are eligible. Contestants must also be a resident of northwest Kansas, said Marie Skolout, one of the coordinators. Contestants will be judged in horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling. A trophy saddle will be awarded to the queen, along with belt buckles for the queen and princess. Prizes will be awarded for horsemanship, ticket sales and people's choice award. The 2003 Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess will be crowned on Tuesday, July 29, at the PRCA Rodeo. For information or entry form, call Skolout at (785) 586-2228.

Trophy sponsors needed

The Thomas County Extension Office is looking for businesses and individuals to sponsor 4-H trophies for this year's county fair. Each trophy is \$8. Call (785) 462-4582.



Continued hot

Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...Partly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms through early morning. Lows in the mid 60s. Southeast wind 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Tuesday...Partly sunny. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 90s. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Tuesday night...A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms until midnight... Otherwise partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs 100 to 105.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 60s.

By the numbers

Sunday's high, 102
Low this morning, 64
Year ago today, 95 and 61
Records for the date, 106 in 1973, 44 in 1908

24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.02

Precipitation July 4, 0.01

July's precipitation, 0.03

Year's precipitation to date, 10.90

2002's precipitation to date, 4.18

Water Usage/Colby

July 4-5-6 = daily average

3.015 million gallons.

Earlier temperatures:

July 5, 101
July 4, 101
July 3, 105

Facts and figures are supplied daily by the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

