



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## To improve signal

# Colby, EMS agree to share space on tower

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council agreed to share space with Thomas County EMS on its emergency communication tower west of the experiment station during last week's meeting.

In exchange for this space, the county EMS department will pay the city \$100 a month for adding a repeater to the antenna making the signal better able to reach the outer edges of the city, along with increased reception in Brewster and Rexford.

According to Kathi Wright, EMS director, the department needs a new repeater and her biggest fear without communication has been that someone's life could be in jeopardy.

As soon as EMS has the new equipment, it will then be installed on the city's antenna which will put it up to 300' rather than the 150' previously used.

Mike Albers, the city's technology director, said the addition to their antenna will not be a problem since emergency medical service frequencies are UHF and the city's frequency is VHF.

The city council also gave the "go" to apply for two street, curb and gutter projects in 2006 and 2007 between Range and Franklin Avenues. These applications, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, would complete the concrete paving in those areas at an estimated cost of about \$1,760,000. The city's share for those two projects would

be approximately \$200,000.

"The projects would not start before 2006," she said, "and the funding would be through bond/temporary notes."

The 1997 street and sewer improvement bonds will be paid in October of 2007, she said, which would allow the payment of the new bond issue without impacting tax requirements.

Also related to road construction, the council approved the agreement with Penco Engineering for inspection services on the Range Project, which is scheduled to begin about the middle of August. The cost for the inspection was \$25,000.

A new copier was approved for the city's finance office with the bid going to Ikon for the Aficio 1022 at a cost of \$3,567. The other bids received were for two other Aficio models from Ikon and three Aficio models from Office Works. The other two bids from Ikon were for an Aficio 1027 at \$4,150 and the Aficio 2035 at \$4,859. The three Office Works bids were for the Aficio 1022 at \$3,725, the 1027 model at 4,425 and the 2035 model at \$5,050. In addition to the copier, Ikon also came in lower on price per copies, Armstrong said.

The only concern expressed in approving the Ikon bid was by Mark Beringer, councilman, on whether or not the company has local service. A representative from Ikon was at the meeting to assure the council that there was local reps available.

## Carnival help needed at fair

The Thomas County Amusement Association is looking for approximately 70 volunteers to run games during the week of the Thomas County Fair. Games will run from 7-11 p.m. next week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and from 7-midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Games will be ready, but will need just a little bit of help with prize set up around 6:30 p.m.

"We are looking for individuals, any group or organization or families. All interested parties should call Jada Tubbs at 462-3401.

# Frustrating three days for Internet customers ends

Service was restored early Sunday to the Colby Internet customers of nwkansas.com after being down for over three days, apparently because of a telephone company fault.

Evan Barnum, systems administrator, said the Colby service began having trouble on Wednesday, and



## Just 'plain' fun

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

**Above:** A pair of Scottish Highlander cattle give festival goers a ride around the Thomas County Fairgrounds on Saturday during the annual Pickin on the Plains Bluegrass Festival. **Right:** Allen Bailey, the "Marshal of Dodge City," entertains on his fiddle. Bailey, of KANZ radio, was this year's cowboy poet and emcee. The three-day event included 11 musical acts, cowboy poetry, horse- and oxen-drawn wagon rides, a craft fair, food vendors, games, and a youth bluegrass contest. Good size crowds attended the annual event, with the site moved this year to the fairgrounds. The weatherman provided the heat for the widely acclaimed festival.



## Briefly

### College trustees to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. on Wednesday in the board room in Thomas Hall on the college campus. Items on the agenda include the budget, electrical bids, approval of contracts and agreements, resignations and Jenzabar maintenance agreement.

### Colby schools announce enrollment

Enrollment for students returning to Colby Public Schools is Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the commons area of Colby High School. Information packets will be mailed next week and school officials ask that if someone doesn't receive it to call 460-5000. Enrollment for new students is Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the respective buildings.

### Release of exhibits clarified

The release of livestock exhibits at the Thomas County Fair

was down through Saturday night.

"We had expert technicians from Southwest Bell in twice to check the dedicated line," Barnum said, "and made several equipment changes to try to find the source of the problem."

"The line continued to run sporadically, but it was nearly impos-

sible to complete any tasks.

"Technicians at Southwest Bell Internet Services and Advanced Systems Inc. (a branch of Southwest Bell) kept checking the lines, but it was not until late Saturday that the situation returned to normal."

The cause of the problem had not

been traced, but technicians said several computer software settings in Topeka were changed in a review of the system.

After the adjustments, the line began acting normal.

"We are glad the problem was found," Barnum said, "and apolo-

gize to our customers for the extent of the problem. We know these kinds of problems are just as frustrating for them as they are for us. We continue to look for ways to upgrade our service and provide Internet connections that are reliable and at a reasonable cost."

will be same as in prior years. Livestock will be released on Saturday morning, Aug. 2. All other non-livestock exhibits, items located in the 4-H and open class building, will be released on Monday, Aug. 4, said D'Ette Scholtz, Thomas County extension agent.

### Forms available for Nine-Run-Run

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Service is hosting its 8th annual Nine-Run-Run and the second annual Nine-Ride-Ride events on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Fike Park. This year's event will help raise money for ambulance equipment, organizers said, and registration will begin at 6 a.m. for bikers and 7 a.m. for the runners on the day of the run. For an entry form or other information, call the Thomas County EMS at (785) 462-4585 or stop by the office at 1275 S. Franklin, Colby, Kan. 67701.

### Public Fashion Revue Tuesday

The public is invited to the 2003 4-H Public Fashion Re-

vue starting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, at the Colby United Methodist Church. The emcee for the evening will be Amy Wilson, the reigning rodeo queen. Sharon Kriss will be the pianist, said D'Ette Scholtz, Thomas County extension agent. The theme this year is "Fashion Splash 2003." For questions or information, call Scholtz at (785) 462-4582 or e-mail: dscholtz@oznet.ksu.edu

### Hospital's gift shop plans sale

The Citizens Medical Center gift shop is having its "after harvest" sale beginning Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. "There will be lots of bargains available," said Carolyn Miller, one of the coordinators, "and all proceeds go to the auxiliary to support the hospital."

### Extension office to close during fair

The Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby, will be closed the week of the fair, Monday, July 28 through Friday, Aug. 1. The personnel will be at the fair.



### Thunderstorms

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may be severe. Lows in the lower 60s. Southwest wind 10 to 20 mph becoming northeast late this evening.

Chance of rain 40 percent. Tuesday...Mostly cloudy through early afternoon...Then becoming mostly sunny. Cooler with highs in the mid 80s. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows 55 to 60. Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs near 90. Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s.

### By the numbers

Friday's high, 104  
Saturday's high, 94  
Sunday's high, 100  
Thursday's high, 103  
Low this morning, 60  
Year ago today, 100 and 66  
Records for the date, 106 in 1943, 45 in 1894  
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.04  
Month's precipitation, 0.13  
Year's precipitation to date, 11.00  
2002's precipitation to date, 4.18

### Water Usage/Colby

July 18-19-20 = daily average 3.676 million gallons  
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other figures from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

