



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

'Can you hear me now?'

Road department, emergency people need new repeaters

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

It's going to cost the county a few dollars but everybody pretty much agrees that both the Thomas County Emergency Medical Services and the county road department need new radio repeaters.

The Thomas County Commissioners discussed the matter at their meeting on Monday.

Both repeaters are more than 20 years old and aren't functioning as they should.

Clair Schrock, road department supervisor, said their 100-watt repeater is working at 40 percent and only putting out about 40 watts, making it difficult for employees to stay in touch.

Commissioner Ron Evans told the two groups to get bids and come back with those bids. He agreed the two repeaters are losing their ability to be effective.

Martin Rinehart, of the Thomas County EMS, did have a bid with him for their repeater for \$13,609 and includes the repeater, antenna, labor and battery backup.

"Ours is down to 60 percent," Rinehart said. "We can't hardly talk to Rexford and Brewster, our outlying EMS areas."

The repeater is the entire communication system for the county EMS.

"It's our communication between us and the hospital and us and our mobile unit," he said.

The new EMS repeater will be put on the city's tower west of town and they will have to pay the city \$100 a month for it.

In other business, the commissioners discussed the possibility of purchasing a front end loader for the county landfill.

Landfill supervisor Larry Jumper approached the commissioners about it.

Evans said the landfill needs a backup loader because when something happens to the one already there, Jumper must borrow another loader from the city.

"It's kind of complicated for him," Evans said.

Jumper is also exploring the idea of getting a trash truck like the city's. He said it would help save dirt for cover and work at the landfill.

By having dumpsters where people could dump their trash on the weekend, it would eliminate having to cover over the pit with dirt every time people dump trash.

Only one trip would have to be made from the dumpsters to the pit and that would save dirt.

Evans said no decision has yet been made on buying the equipment for the landfill.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Joyce Dean of Colby showed Colby Free Press Publisher Tom Dreiling her "catch of the day" at Villa High on Monday. Dean said she enjoys the relaxation fishing gives her and the surprises that sometimes occur as in the case of her nearly 8 lb. catfish.

Vanilla-dipped worm? Angler says that's the trick

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Fishing at Villa High paid off Monday morning for Joyce Dean of Colby when she hooked an 8 lb. catfish, but nearly lost it when the line broke as she was reeling it in onto the bank.

For Dean, fishing is a way to relax, have fun, and enjoy the solitude. "I've been fishing off and on since I was 8 years old," she said, "and I enjoy it very much."

In addition to fishing at Villa High, Dean said she also goes to Norton and Hoxie, but Colby's pond allows her the convenience

to fish for a couple of hours two to three times a week and it isn't too far from home.

"I find the best bet is to go fishing either early in the morning or evening," she said.

As for her recent catch, Dean said this was the biggest fish she has ever caught at Villa High. Using 12-pound test and a small hook, she said she almost lost the fish when the line broke. "From now on, I am going to use bigger hooks," she said.

When asked what is an average-size for fish in the pond, Dean said most of what she catches are about

pan-size and two weeks ago, she even caught a clam.

In her many years of experience and familiarity at Villa High, she has seen bullheads, a lot of turtles and now the clam.

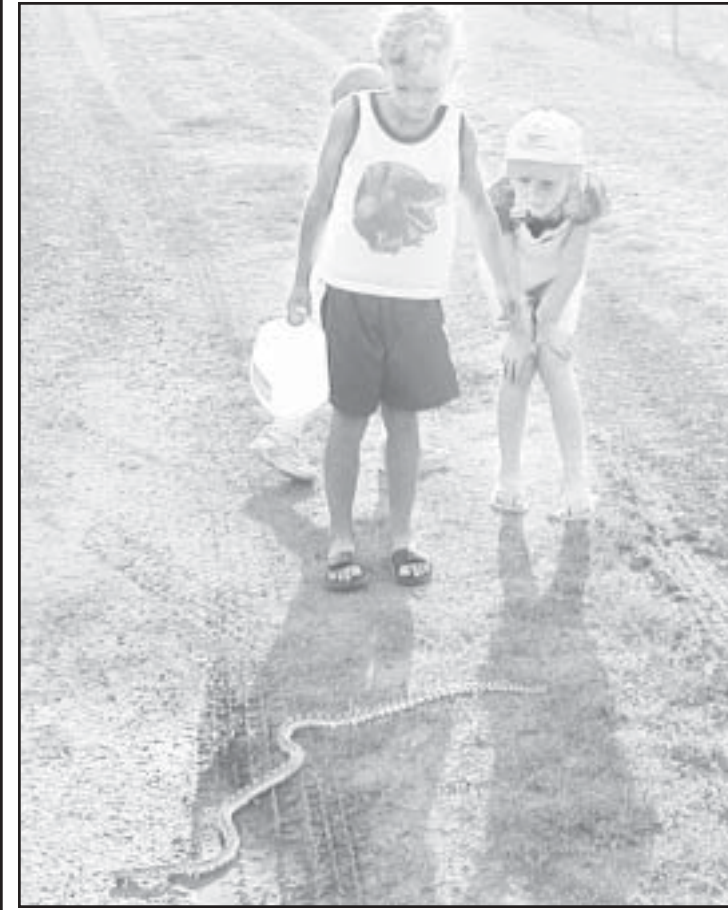
Dean was also willing to share some of her "bait secrets" by letting others know she uses worms dipped in vanilla.

"Catfish really like it," she said.

Dean said she told her husband Ed, "there's got to be some big ones in their some place."

She was right.

Slithering fan?



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

While Colby baseball players were looking for a spot in the state championship next week during the final game of the Legion Zone Tournament in Colby against Goodland on Monday evening, these young spectators were looking at something else — a bull snake that just happened by on the dirt road near the ball diamonds. Neither the snake or children were too interested in getting to know one another better.

A special gift for Dole on his 80th birthday

LAWRENCE (AP)— Bob Dole got a special present for his 80th birthday Tuesday, a political institute bearing his name.

And a U.S. senator and Medal of Honor recipient led some 6,000 spectators in singing "Happy Birthday" to the former Kansas senator and 1996 Republican presidential nominee.

The four-day celebration sur-

rounding the dedication of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas has focused on Dole's fellow World War II veterans.

Among dignitaries praising Dole was former President Jimmy Carter, who said, "My respect for Bob Dole as a leader of heroes in peace and wartime has never been shaken."

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, representing the White House, called Dole "one of the Greatest Generation's highest achievers."

Others sharing the stage with Dole included his wife, Sen. Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina; former Sens. George McGovern of North Dakota and Nancy Kassebaum Baker of Kansas and Gov. Kathleen

Sebelius. When he spoke, Dole quickly shifted the focus to the scores of veterans at the ceremony.

To the veterans, Dole said, "This is your day. This is the America of your making — freer, fairer, more diverse and more truly democratic."

Established in 1997, the institute's goal is to encourage student participation and citizen involvement in public service.

Heat returning

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. South wind around 15 mph.
Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs 100 to 105. **Saturday**...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

By the numbers
Tuesday's high, 84
Low this morning, 58
Records for the date, 105 in 1940, 51 in 1904
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 0.17
Year's precipitation to date, 11.04
2002's precipitation to date, 5.48
Water Usage/Colby
July 22 = 3.48 million gallons

Briefly

Rodeo contest begins Friday

The 2003 Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Contest will be held on Friday, said Marie Skolout. Horsemanship starts at 9 a.m. at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The fashion show and speech contest begin at 7 p.m. at the Comfort Inn Convention Center. All events are open to the public.

Railroad club to open during fair

The Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club will be open again this year during fair time, said John Donelan, club member. Visitors are welcome to stop by their display beginning Tuesday, July 29 through Friday, Aug. 1, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Colby School District's administration building, 210 S. Range. Anyone planning to view the model trains are asked to enter through the fire exit on the west end of the building.

Enrollment dates announced

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 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 host-

ing 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.

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 reason for closing the office is so that extension personnel can handle fair activities, said D'Ette Scholtz, extension agent.

For questions, call (785) 462-4582 or e-mail: dscholtz@oznet.ksu.edu

Another big find for force

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

The Quad County Task Force's effectiveness was again underscored when it seized more than 1,800 marijuana plants in rural Thomas County last week.

Doug Murphy, a member of the task force, said the plants were seized at the Pat Jones residence.

"That was about the extent of it," Murphy said. "We'd been receiving information that he was cultivating plants."

He said there was an investigation and then the task force got a search warrant.

The task force consists of the sheriff's departments from Sherman, Thomas, Logan, Wallace and Greeley counties and the police departments in Colby, Goodland and Oakley.

Murphy, the task force's drug enforcement coordinator, said it's his job to work with the different agencies, compile information and do investigative work.

He said by sharing resources, law enforcement agencies can better address the drug problem. They can combat the problem even if they are in different jurisdictions, he said.

The task force was started in 1989 and funded by grants. Funding ran out in 1996 and the program started back up in 2001, again funded by grants.

Murphy said agencies have matched 25 percent of the funds the first year, 30 percent the second, 50 percent the third and 75 percent the fourth year.

He said the program has been very successful.

"It's been really successful to the point that when we applied for our three-year grant... that this year they gave us full funding," Murphy said.

He said staff's hard work and effectiveness were recognized by the fact they were given full funding.

Entering
the Fair
Parade?

Please call
462-3598

