



COLBY FREE PRESS

Two sections
24 pages

Parking pavers



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Improvements continue at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin. Workers poured cement on the north side of the church when the *Free Press* visited the site earlier this week.

When completed, members of the church and visitors will have a paved parking lot, replacing a gravel lot used for many years. An earlier project resulted in paved parking on the south side.

Fair highlights

Antique tractor, stationary engine show returning

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Everyone knows there's livestock to see at the Thomas County Fair, along with regular exhibits. But what about antique tractors?

An event coming back this year is the Antique Tractor and Stationary Engine Show on Wednesday, July 30 at 3 p.m. in the 4-H Building.

According to Nancy Rundel, a member of the Thomas County Fair Board, the show has been added as a regular Open Class event this year.

"This means that all tractors and engines will be judged and awarded ribbons and premium monies," she said. "We are hoping that by changing the date of the show to the afternoon/evening of the free barbecue, that many more people will have the opportunity to visit the antique tractors and stationary engines."

The 4-H building parking lot will be available to tractors at 1 p.m., and entrants need to check in and fill out an entry form. Judging will take place at 8 p.m.

Fair races and the demolition derby are also a part of this year's fair.

The Demolition Derby will take

place at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 31. Pre-entries are being accepted and entry forms may be picked up at Hi-Plains Co-op or by contacting Virgil Jones of the Hi-Plains Lions Club or Rundel of the Thomas County Fair Board. People not pre-entering can enter at the Pit Gate at 7:45 p.m. Pit gates open at 5 p.m.

Racing begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1 with hot laps and the races at 7 p.m.

The evening will also feature a Sprint Car show and classes of Bombers and Cruisers.

The Golden Harvest Hybrid Modified Shoot-Out will be held on Saturday, Aug. 2. Hot laps start at 6 p.m. and racing at 7 p.m. Super Stocks will close out the evening.

"Remember, no blanketing of seats will be allowed this year, so get your tickets in advance so you won't have to stand in the ticket line and can simply go in and get your favorite seat," Rundel said.

She also said a limited number of all-event tickets are available for the fair. They are available at all local banks and Farm Credit of Western Kansas.

Individual event tickets are available at the grandstand ticket office.

Council to hold line on new budget

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The City of Colby plans to hold the line on its 2004 budget, which was recently approved for publication by the council, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager. "We reduced expenditures in some line items," she said, "and the bond and interest payments will be lower in 2004 which will contribute to keeping the same mill levy as last year."

Mayor Warren Hixson told the council that with so many other entities raising taxes and with other costs going up within the city, he didn't want to see the mill levy go up as well.

"We wanted to keep the budget as reasonable as possible," Armstrong said.

Hixson also noted that with the new truck stop it is likely that the sales tax revenues will be up, which will be another positive-side to the city's economy.

The budgeted expenses on all bond and interest in 2003 was nearly \$400,000 with a reduction to \$298,027 on the 2004 budget.

The bonded indebtedness on general obligation bonds for the period of January 2004 to December 2004 will be \$170,000 in principal and \$23,718 in interest. Those bonds include the municipal swimming pool, the 2002 improvement bond and 1995 and 1997 refund, along with the 1999 community building bonds.

The 2003 street improvement is currently on temporary notes with the original amount at \$515,000.

In addition to the lower bond and interest payments, some departments will also be cutting back on expenditures for the 2004 budget year, she said.

Those cuts include the noxious weed department, which was budgeted with expenditures of \$12,910 in 2003, but in 2004 is budgeted at \$8,800.

Special street projects expenditures in 2003 was budgeted at \$1,790,000, but in 2004 the budget expenditures are at \$1,034,500. Convention and Tourism, which was budgeted \$164,656 in 2003 is budgeted for \$149,300 in 2004.

The Municipal Equipment Reserve Fund will also be slashed from \$560,000 in the 2003 budget to \$223,000 next year.

The total expenditures based on

all summaries resulted in \$12,940,922 for 2004 as opposed to \$13,579,318 in 2003.

With respect to mill levy, Armstrong explained that one mill for the 2004 budget year will be \$30,219.91, which is slightly higher than in 2003 when one mill was valued at \$30,035.93.

The mill levy in 2003 was 37.774 and is budgeted at 37.772 in 2004.

The complete breakdown of the proposed budget for 2004 will appear in Friday's edition of the *Colby Free Press* as a legal publication.

The public hearing on the budget has been set for Tuesday, Aug. 5, prior to the regular council meeting. The hearing gives taxpayers the opportunity to talk about any concerns they might have with the coming year's budget.

Brewster receives federal grant

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A federal formula grant program has awarded Brewster almost \$39,000 to create a safer community, according to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

"This year the program has awarded more than \$6.1 million to 62 applicants throughout the state," she said. There were 84 requests in all.

Brewster plans to use the funds to provide for the continuation of the Quad County Task Force, a multi-jurisdictional drug task force serving, Thomas, Sherman, Wallace, and Logan Counties.

"The task force works to reduce the supply of illegal drugs and iden-

tify, apprehend and convict drug offenders," Sebelius said.

The program is a partnership among federal, state and local governments to create safer communities and improved criminal justice systems.

The grant is awarded by the U. S. Department of Justice and Bureau of Justice Programs, Sebelius said, adding, "The Justice and Bureau of Justice Programs is authorized to award grants to states for use by state and units of local government to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, with emphasis on violent crime and serious offenders and to enforce state and local laws that establish offenses similar to those in the Federal Con-

trolled Substances Act."

The Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, created by the 1994 Legislature, reviews all the Kansas requests for these grants.

One of the duties of the council is to develop and oversee reporting of all criminal justice federal funding available to the state or local units of government.

Grants may be used to provide personnel, equipment, training, technical assistance and information systems for more widespread apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, detention and rehabilitation of offenders who violate such state and local laws. Grants can be used to provide assistance (other than compensation) to victims.

Special section today deals with county fair

Briefly

College board to meet Monday

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting on Monday at 5 p.m. in the board room in Thomas Hall. Items up for discussion include certificate of participation bids, a lease purchase resolution, electrical bids, approval of contracts and agreements, resignations and the budget.

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.

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.

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-

Reception to honor city worker

The public is invited to attend a retirement reception for Jim Oesterreich at 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, in council chambers of Colby City Hall, 585 N. Franklin. Oesterreich is retiring after nearly 30 years, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager. He has divided his time between the wastewater treatment plant and the sanitation department. Everyone is invited to attend, and for questions or other information, call Jo Strange, executive secretary to the city manager, at 462-4410.

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Mike Bailey of Jennings went to the International Auctioneer Championship in San Antonio, Texas earlier this month.

"I finished fourth out of 71," he said.

Bailey went through the preliminary round and was chosen as one of 15 finalists. He then went through an interview session and the final round.

The competition was an actual sale where auctioneers had a chance to show off their skills.

Bailey said that part didn't make



Mike Bailey

him nervous, but the interview session was something new.

"I was probably a little nervous then," he said.

For his fourth place finish, he received a brass gavel with a clock and a quartz paperweight.

Bailey said he got "a lot of good experience" from the competition. He also got to spend several days in San Antonio, taking in some sights including the Alamo and the River Walk.

"It was fun," he said. "I had a good time."

Bailey is the champion Kansas State Auctioneer and has been to the World Livestock Contest.

The auctioneer is employed by the Farm and Ranch Realty firm in Colby.

