



COLBY FREE PRESS

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He's going to make sure nobody brings home the bacon

Four-footed fugitive stays one foot ahead of the law

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

There's a fugitive running loose in Colby.

On all four! A piglet's been seen on the lam near downtown Colby since Friday morning.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said people have sighted the young porker making its way around the community since that time.

He said there were several calls about the animal on Friday and Sunday.

The pig's origin is a mystery. Jones said the piglet could have escaped from the sale barn or someone's stock trailer.

"No one's come forward as the owner," Jones said. "I'm sur-

prised nobody hasn't caught it in their back yard yet."

The animal is proving to be a skilled escape artist.

"Apparently they haven't been able to catch it yet," he said. "They almost had it Friday but it got away from them."

Jones said it's not the first time an animal's been running free around the community.

"We've had all kinds of critters loose in town before," he said.

He said if the swine is caught, it'll be given to the sale barn or the vet clinic to see if a home is found or the owner will claim it.

If not, if anyone catches it, they can keep it.

He said after a reasonable amount of time, the pig would become that person's property.

Silent bidder



Caroleta Herl of Colby was one of many attending this year's Hospice Auction held Saturday at the City Limits Convention Center in Colby. Hundreds of auction items were for sale either

as silent auction bids or during the live auction following the dinner. Proceeds from the event will go to benefit Thomas County Hospice Services. No totals were available today.

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Fourth and Country Club Drive

Temporary stoplights are still there...for now

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

For now the temporary stoplights at US-24 and Country Club Drive in Colby are still up, but that could change pending a decision by the state's director of transportation.

The temporary stoplights were initially installed to help with traf-

fic during the construction projects at Franklin and Range, 4th and Range and the viaduct, with the idea being to remove them once the work was completed.

However, during the construction project, more than 1,200 names were submitted on a petition requesting the temporary signal at

those intersections remain. In early October, the state did not plan on leaving the traffic signals in place. In response, the city council instructed the city manager to appeal once again — this time saying that the city would pay for the lights if necessary.

"This is a critical issue for our

residents and the Colby City Council since 1,200 signatures represent most of the driving public in Thomas County and a higher number than the voter turn-out in our last election," said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager in a recent letter to Deb Miller, secretary of transportation.

In her letter to Miller, Armstrong said she hopes the state will consider the latest request in the city's ongoing attempt to get the much-needed traffic signals at US-24 and Country Club Drive.

Armstrong asked the transportation secretary if the state would be willing to consider a city traffic sig-

nal at that intersection, along with what concessions the city could make.

For example, the city said it would be willing to close the access from the frontage road north of US Highway 24, but did want to leave the south turn lane off US-24 at Country Club Drive.

Council to meet at 'new' building

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will tour the recently purchased building for the Law Enforcement Training Center at 360 N. Franklin when it meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The council meeting will follow the tour at 7:30 p.m., also at that location.

In addition to the tour, agenda items include making an addendum to the contract for Rural Fire District #3 by providing liability insurance for vehicles and insurance.

There will also be discussion regarding the recent pole building purchase for the public works department and the council will consider approval of the state revolving loan fund application and authorizing Carolyn Armstrong, city manager to sign.

Consent agenda items include approval of a taxi cab license for Ronald D. Baalman, Classic Cab; approval of new home occupation permit for "Stitches For You," owned by Judith Pomeroy; and ap-

proval for the Christmas Parade route, Sunday, Dec. 7, starting at 6:30 p.m. The proposed route will begin at the Second Street and Franklin Avenue intersection then north on Franklin Ave. to Fike Park Road and Santa City.

The council is also expected to go into an executive session to discuss personnel, but no other details were provided.

For questions or to receive an agenda, call 462-4410 or stop by Colby City Hall, 585 N. Franklin.

Fight at Hays claims student's life

HAYS (AP) — The president of Fort Hays State University is urging students to help police investigate a large fight that claimed the life of a student.

Authorities said 18-year-old Clint Johnson, of Healy, died Saturday at a Wichita hospital from injuries suffered during a fight early Thursday at an apartment complex north of the campus.

Ellis County Attorney Tom Drees said numerous people were in-

involved in several skirmishes taking place between the buildings and in the parking lot.

Johnson, a business major, was unconscious when police arrived around 2:40 a.m. Thursday.

"At this time, it is believed that Clint Johnson died from wounds suffered when he was struck repeatedly on the head," Drees said.

University President Dr. Edward Hammond said an e-mail was sent to everyone on campus Friday urg-

ing them to tell police anything they know about the fight.

"We are grieving along with parents. We send our condolences to them," Hammond said.

"There's no way an 18-year-old needs to have suffered this kind of demise," he said.

"The university is doing everything possible to cooperate with law enforcement to bring the parties responsible to justice," the president said.

EMS to get 11 new radios

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will be getting some new radios to improve communications.

The Thomas County Commissioners, at their meeting today, approved the purchase of nine new 16-channel radios and two 128-channel radios for the department at a cost of \$8,095.

Commissioner Ron Evans told Martin Rinehart and Kathi Wright of Emergency Medical Services that they can use capital outlay funds for the radios instead of depleting 911 funds.

"Everything's going good out there," Evans said.

In other business, the commissioners decided to take bids on getting the faucet replaced and the toilet repaired in the women's restroom at the courthouse.

They also discussed the issue of new carpeting at the Thomas County Office Complex and the courthouse.

Evans said the commissioners will go room-by-room at the office complex and the courthouse after their Dec. 1 meeting and take a survey of what rooms and halls need carpet the most.

The commissioners will then solicit bids for low-maintenance, high-use carpeting.

The commissioners also approved the purchase of a stop stick for the sheriff's office in the amount of \$465.90 from capital outlay funds.

Evans also said there will be a retirement party for Denny Burke, the retiring register of deeds, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday in the commissioners' room at the courthouse. Coffee and cake will be served.

The commissioners will meet next at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26 for their end of the month meeting.

The courthouse will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28.

Briefly

Director takes Manhattan post

Todd Barrows, county executive director of the Thomas County FSA office, has taken a new position at the Kansas State FSA office in Manhattan effective on Dec. 1. In recognizing his service to the area, the Thomas County office will have a going-away reception in his honor on Tuesday, Nov. 25, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the office, 915 E. Walnut. The public is cordially invited to attend.

City announces schedule change

The City of Colby's sanitation department will not be operating on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. For those who normally have a Thursday or Friday trash day, the holiday schedule will mean pick up on Saturday, Nov. 29. Gerry Bieker, public utilities director, asks that residents please have all trash at the curb by 8 a.m.

For questions call the Public Works Department at 462-4420.

Burke retirement party announced

There will be a retirement party for Denny Burke, register of deeds, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday at the Thomas County Courthouse Commissioners' Room. Cake and coffee will be served.

Induction ceremony Tuesday

The Colby High School Chapter of the National Honor Society will hold its Induction Ceremony for new members on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Junior students to be inducted include Adriana Buchanan, Jordan Cranston, Lauren Kaiser, Marcia Kaus, Crystal Mannebach, Blake McLemore, Erica Molstad, Sarah Munderloh, Brienne Swob and Clarissa Unger. The public is welcome. For information call Linda Jones, National Honor Society sponsor, 460-5300.

'Pray for Rain' rally Saturday

There will be a "Pray for Rain" event on Saturday in the 4-

H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. "Those who have drought in their area are encouraged to come to the meeting from 3 to 6 p.m.," said Leonard Kinkade of Brewster, who is coordinating the event. He said he would like those planning to attend to send a card or letter with their name, address and telephone number, along with bringing a scripture, comment or prayer the day of the meeting. Cards can be sent to: Pray for Rain, P.O. Box 275, Brewster, Kan. 67732. For questions, call (785) 694-2671. For those unable to attend because of distance, Kinkade suggests they send a card representing their area.

Thanksgiving service planned

A special Thomas County Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 24 at the Berean Church, 1000 S. Franklin Ave. in Colby. All are invited to attend this special giving of thanks, hosted by area pastors with special music from "Power Praise Kids" and drama from "True Nation Takers." The event is sponsored by the Thomas County Ministerial Association.



Lots of sun

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie forecast

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Breezy. Highs in the upper 50s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. West winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs around 70.

By the numbers:
Sunday's high, 68

Low this morning, 27

Records for Nov. 17, 80 in 1943 and 2 in 1894

Year ago today, 68 and 24

24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00

Month's precipitation, 0.16

Year's precipitation to date, 14.42

2002's precipitation to date, 12.60

Soil temperature, 45

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

