



COLBY FREE PRESS

Mass honors those who protect, serve



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Honor Guard from the Colby Council held its second annual *Blue Mass* on Sunday at Sacred Heart Church for the purpose of honoring those who protect and serve the community. Dick Parnell, one of the honor guard members, said today there were 15 emergency medical services personnel, 9 police officers, 3 firefighters, and 8 individuals from the Thomas County sheriff's office attending the Mass. Twelve honor guards from Colby took part in the ceremony to include Dr. Tom Barlow, Don Spangler, Ike Donn, Paul Bailey,

Chuck Rogers, James Elling, Kevin Juenemann, Dan Zerr, Dewey Augustine, Dennis Ryan, Jerry Green and Dick Parnell. The *Blue Mass* was the first of its kind in Kansas last year, Parnell said, and this year is still the only one west of Hays. As for the recipients, Police Chief Randy Jones said this was his second year at the event. "We are honored the Knights do this for us and we were pleased at the turnout considering the cold, windy conditions on Sunday. Following the Mass, a reception was held so all the officers could visit with members of the church.

Hospital named in another lawsuit

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A Colby man has filed a civil lawsuit against Colby's hospital alleging negligence during a procedure done at the facility for checking kidney and bladder functions. The petition was filed early last week in the Thomas County District Court.

Dean Birdsall, through his attorney Aaron Krannawitter of Hoxie, is asking for damages in excess of more than \$500,000 for himself and family as a result of the damage to his arm, his lost wages, medical expenses, future problems, pain and suffering and other related issues to include loss of consortium.

Birdsall alleges that in July of 2002 an employee at Citizens Medical Center caused harm to him by injecting dye into his vein in order to check kidney and bladder functions.

While doing this procedure, the lawsuit said, the employee missed

the vein and the dye was injected into Birdsall's arm resulting in severe damage and loss of usage along with continued pain.

Thus far, the medical expenses have exceeded \$10,000 with more expenses in the future. He said he has also lost work time and will incur future losses in wages.

In the lawsuit, Birdsall is asking the court to require Citizens Medical Center to pay for his current and future medical expenses and lost wages of \$10,000 for each; to further pay \$75,000 or more for the damage to his arm and more than \$250,000 for his pain and suffering and loss of consortium with that same amount of \$250,000 or more granted to his wife, Garrah Birdsall, and their children, also because of the damage to their relationship caused by this alleged negligent act.

The employee allegedly responsible for injecting the dye was not identified in the lawsuit.

First taste of winter for northwest Kansas

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Colby's first snow of the year had it looking more like Christmas even though Thanksgiving is this week. Meteorologist David Thede of the National Weather Service office in Goodland said the snow Saturday night was an average first snow.

"The whole area had one to two inches," he said. "That was pretty common."

Thede said the light snow was accompanied by low temperatures and 25-30 mile per hour winds.

For the rest of the week, he said temperatures in the 40s can be expected, with no more snow. He said those temperatures are slightly lower than normal but that's nothing unusual.

Even though roads were icy and snowpacked, local law enforcement said the weekend was mostly uneventful despite the weather.

"Things were pretty good for us," said Colby Police Chief Randy Jones. "People did pretty good."

He did say there was a weather-related accident in town this morning but things were relatively quiet besides the one incident.

Jones said it normally takes one

snow to get people acclimated to driving in icy conditions. He added the salt and gravel put down on city streets did help. Things could've been worse but he was glad they weren't "It worked out good but we have a ways to go yet," Jones said.

He did offer some tips on driving safely this winter and said people need to keep in mind for the coming holidays. Jones said people should drive with the conditions in mind and watch out for icy patches and black ice even if the road looks dry.

Motorists should also keep windshields and windows clear so visibility isn't impeded.

With many people on the road this week because of Thanksgiving, Jones said people should take along candles or a working flashlight, blankets or a sleeping bag and if they have a cell phone, they should make sure it's charged.

He said always knowing one's location and letting someone know your departure time and expected arrival time are good ideas also.

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office and Kansas Highway Patrol reported no accidents over the weekend.

Auger mishap kills Salina man

SALINA (AP) — A Salina man died after getting stuck in a bin auger while working at a farm in Ottawa County.

Dale Drown, 41, was working on his parents' farm Saturday when both of his legs got caught in the auger. Rescue crews arrived about 1 p.m. and tried to free him from the equipment. Two hours later, Drown

died at the scene, said Ottawa County Undersheriff Karmon Kindall.

Kindall said he thought Drown probably was cleaning the bine of the auger and his coveralls got caught and sucked him in. He said Drown's wife and two children were at the scene at the time of the accident.

eBay good tool for Kansas town

MCCRACKEN (AP) — Dave Libberton, who owns Engine Powered Products, a warehouse and Internet business based in Phoenix, recently won the deed to the McCracken school with a \$49,500 bid on eBay.

Libberton and his business partner Suzanne Azzarella will move to Kansas, a state neither knew much about not too long ago. Moving the business and it's stock that now fills a 15,000-square-foot warehouse to the brim, doesn't look to be a quick project. Still, Azzarella said they hope to make the move in the next couple of months.

They chose McCracken as the newest home for the business by accident.

One night on the computer, Libberton was searching through the thousands of pages of listings on eBay. He's a power seller for the site — a title for eBay's top traders — and one night he saw a listing for the Kansas school building.

The next day he showed the listing to Azzarella. From that point on, they e-mailed and called school officials with questions. Then, they scheduled a weekend visit to west-central Kansas to take a tour of the school.

That sealed the deal, Azzarella said.

"We came and met as many people as we could," she said. "We just really got a good feeling about it."

La Crosse school board members said all the bids and inquiries about the McCracken school have dealt them an invaluable amount of free publicity.

News stories not only filled area and Kansas newspapers, but nightly newscasts all over the country. The school's eBay sale even scrolled across the bottom of the CNN news screen.

South-central Kansas

Ordinance requires some residents of tiny town to have firearms, ammo

GEUDA SPRINGS (AP) — Residents of this tiny south-central Kansas community near the Oklahoma border say an ordinance requiring some households to have firearms and ammunition is nobody's business but their own.

The City Council voted 3-2 earlier this month in favor of the ordinance — under which non complying residents would be fined \$10 — because council members believe it's necessary to provide protection in a town that has no local police force, marshal or money to protect its citizens. People who suffer from

physical or mental disabilities, paupers and people who conscientiously oppose firearms would be exempt.

"I think we are losing our rights in this country so fast," said Councilman John Brewer, who initiated the ordinance.

"Protection is one of the duties mandated to city government. This ordinance fulfills the duty to protect by allowing each individual household to provide for his or her protection.

"This is simply using the U.S. Constitution — Second Amend-

ment in particular — to the city of Geuda Springs' advantage."

Sumner County Sheriff Gerald Gilkey, whose department is responsible for policing Geuda Springs, said the ordinance would make him concerned for the safety of his offices when responding to calls.

"I'm definitely thinking officer safety," Gilkey said. "This throws up red flags."

Gilkey said no resident of Geuda Springs has ever contacted his department to complain about the service they've received.

Briefly

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will hold their end of month meeting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday in the commissioners' room at the Thomas County Courthouse. The meeting is open to the public. Also, the courthouse will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. The courthouse will resume normal business hours Monday, Dec. 1.

Benefit soup supper next month

A soup supper fundraising event is planned from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4 at the Colby Community Building to help Lisa Jones, Miss Rodeo Kansas Princess 2002, with expenses throughout the year. The supper is in conjunction with the Scott City-Colby basketball game and the menu includes chili, chicken noodle soup and cinnamon rolls. "Miss Rodeo Kansas Princess is responsible for all her expenses throughout the year with sponsors, fundraisers and

donations used to offset the cost of travel, food, lodging and promotional expenses," coordinators of the event said. The cost will be free-will donation.

Benefit dinner scheduled

A sausage and pancake feed is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 6 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. All proceeds to benefit Willie and Melinda Enfield and their five children. The Enfield's home caught fire several weeks ago and the money raised will go directly to them. If you can donate your time to help cook, serve or clean up or have money you'd like to donate to help purchase sausage and supplies, contact Lori Haberer at 460-6557 or 462-9011. A free-will donation will be taken for the meal.

Christmas Home Tour nears

Kappa Upsilon is once again planning the Christmas Home Tour from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7. This year's event will

feature five homes on the tour with tickets available at either Donelan Jewelry, First National Bank or by calling Linda Vaughn, (785) 462-8882. This year's tour will include the homes of Norm and Betty Behring, Dorothy Stephens, Dave and Sandy Harper, Pat and Deanna Mallory and Dan and Amy Jennings.

Landfill to close for holiday

The Thomas County landfill will close for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. The landfill will reopen during its usual operating hours on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. For questions, call (785) 462-8139.

Wellness Fair seeks participation

Letters have been sent out to area businesses asking them to provide incentives for their employees to participate in this year's Wellness Fair, Jan. 17, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Colby Community College Student Union.

**Something new
on page 3
(check it out)**



A little warmer

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie
forecast

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Lows in the lower 20s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph shifting to the northwest after midnight.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. North winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the southwest after midnight.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s.

Thanksgiving day...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the lower 50s.

Another cooldown is expected to move into the area over the Thanksgiving weekend, according to a peek at the extended forecast.

By the numbers:

Sunday's high, 26
Low this morning, 3
Records for Nov. 24, 75 in 1915 and 0 in 1950
Year ago today, 32 and 30
Weekend precipitation, 0.02
Snowfall, 1 inch
Month's snowfall, 1.2 inches
Month's precipitation, 0.18
Year's precipitation to date, 14.44
2002's precipitation to date, 12.60

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.

