



COLBY FREE PRESS

Brownies take tour Thursday

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

The Thomas County American Red Cross blood drive at the Colby Community Building Wednesday exceeded its goal for donations.

Jackie Stephens, one of the event's coordinators, said the goal was 130 units of blood but there were more donations than that.

"We had 147 productive units of blood," she said. "Of that, there were 15 first-time donors. We had 170 people come in."

There were several deferrals, Stephens said, because if people had low iron, a cold or were on certain medications, they could not give blood.

Also, some people didn't fill their donation bag but she said it sometimes happens.

At the last blood drive, Stephens said 148 people came in and there were 136 productive units of blood and only five new donors.

She was happy with they exceeded the goal and picked up some new donors.

"We had a good turnout," Stephens said. "We were happy about that."

The 15 new faces will add to the donor pool the next time there's a blood drive. Stephens was also pleased with the fact there was such a wide variety of



donors, ranging from college students to older citizens.

"That's always great to get," she said.

Evelyn Mannebach of Colby gave blood for the second time at the

drive. The first time she decided to give blood was a spur of the moment decision. Mannebach said she was driving by once and saw the sign and decided to donate.

There was one change imple-

mented at the drive.

Stephens said donors must furnish photo identification, like a driver's license, before they can donate. If they don't have a license, two other forms of identification

must be furnished.

She said it's to ensure the safety and security of the blood supply. There will be another blood drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 7 at Colby High School.

Mishaela has seven brothers

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

It's only two days away from the Wellness Fair and officials said all the booths, presentations and representatives are ready for fairgoers.

The times for this year's fair are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, in the student union of Colby Community College. There will be a nominal registration fee of \$5, which will include admission into the fair and many of the health screenings and educational locations, said Jeanene Brown, on the publicity committee.

"By registering for the fair," she said, "participants were also eligible in various lab screening tests."

Those tests were drawn prior to the fair and results will be available on Saturday with healthcare providers explaining the results.

Talks on these laboratory test results will be held at 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and noon in room 106 of the student union.

Another highlight at this year's fair, said Tracey King, also with the publicity committee, will be a talk on osteoarthritis presented by Brad Rea, PA-C from Hays Orthopedic Clinic. The talk is entitled, "Living with Osteoarthritis," and will be held at 10:30 a.m., also in room 106.

Other areas of interest for fair participants, which are included in the \$5 registration fee, are fitness testing with emphasis on cardiovascular endurance, body fat analysis, flexibility and blood pressure; oral cancer screenings; skin cancer screenings; prostate exams; urinalysis; posture screening; video otoscope; the children's area with many fun activities and photo (vision) screening for young children.

Other opportunities for participants include the Lion's Health Screening van that will be available to Wellness fairgoers. The tests at the van include hearing, vision and glaucoma screening, finger stick blood sugar tests and blood pressure.

Other screenings that will have costs include the osteoporosis screening for high risk fairgoers at \$12; colorectal cancer screening at \$5 and tetanus vaccine at \$15.

In addition, there will also be discounted rates that participants can sign up for the day of the fair and complete at later times. Those include a mammogram for \$50 and women's health exams (pelvic, pap smear and breast) for \$20.

"Please take this opportunity to visit many of the health-related educational booths," King said. "We hope everyone will mark their calendars now for this once a year wellness opportunity."

The Wellness Committee is made up of representatives from many area agencies and organizations.

For information or questions about the fair on Saturday, call Brown at (785) 460-4850.

Ashleigh, Jessica and Tiffany look forward to camping

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

The recent holiday season might

have become a sad memory for one Colby woman if not for the honesty and diligence of city employees who didn't give up the search for a priceless heirloom — her wedding rings.

Paige Gawith, who teaches 8th grade English at Colby Middle School, said it was "one of those days" back in early December when the rings were lost having been busy

with so many activities and family obligations that day.

Among those activities, Gawith said she is the Washington, D.C. trip sponsor and as one of the fund raising events, her students work the concession stand for basketball games at the Colby Community Building.

After helping the students get set up at the concession stand on that Thursday, Dec. 4 evening, she said she sat down to watch the high school basketball game with the

Eagles playing Scott City.

As she finally had the opportunity to catch her breath for what seemed to be the first time that day, she noticed her diamond engagement ring and wedding band were not on her finger.

Trying not to panic, Gawith said she mentally backtracked where she had been before sitting down in the stands.

"That night, I searched the community building, through the back parking lot near the swimming pool, and all over my house," she said. "Because it had been a busy day, the rings could have been just about anywhere."

Gawith said she even took out each piece of trash one by one to

check the can, but to no avail. After exhausting all possibilities, she called Ryan Sturdy, recreation director, at the community building, the Colby Police Department and Colby City Hall.

The next morning, she said she retraced her steps and for days didn't hear anything from city sources finding the rings.

"I was sure it was lost for good," she said this week. Then just after the new year or about a month later, she got a call from LaVon Wagoner with the public works department saying they found a setting, but no diamond.

Wagoner said one of the city employees, Robert Taylor, while taking down lights from one of the

electric poles between city hall and the community building, discovered the engagement and wedding ring welded together, but without the diamond.

From there, he took the bands back to Wagoner who in turn called the community building and then city hall trying to find out if anyone had inquired about the lost rings. Prior to meeting with Gawith, Wagoner said she arrived at the location where the bands were found and thought she would look around for a few minutes. After rummaging around, Wagoner said she saw what looked like prongs and to her surprise she uncovered the diamond.

When Gawith said she arrived, Wagoner was able to give her the

Allison and Hailey begin selling cookies

TOPEKA (AP) — Livestock Commissioner George Teagarden has proposed a state program for tagging livestock so that diseased animals can be tracked more easily.

The House Agriculture Committee agreed Wednesday to sponsor Teagarden's bill, which would require farms, ranches and feedlots to

register with the state and to place identification tags on each animal. The program would begin with cattle.

Producer groups and state and federal officials have been talking about a national animal identification system for about 18 months, Teagarden said. Those talks became

more urgent after the nation's first case of mad cow disease was confirmed last month, he said.

Teagarden said government officials and producer groups envision giving all animals ear tags that can be read by electronic monitors in ranches, feedlots and sale barns, with information going into a cen-

tral U.S. Department of Agriculture computer.

He said the state could start registering ranches and feedlots by June, tracking cattle that move across state lines by 2005 and monitoring cattle's movement in Kansas by 2006. Eventually, the system will include other livestock, he said.

Briefly

Ag profitability meeting set

The 2004 Ag Profitability Conference will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 5, at City Limits in Colby. The event begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. followed by a presentation on water issues in western Kansas, breakout sessions, lunch, a presentation on land values and cash rents. Registration is due by Thursday, Jan. 29. For information, contact the Thomas County Extension Office at 462-4582.

'Great Strides' meeting Sunday

The first meeting for the 2nd Annual Northwest Kansas "Great Strides" walk-a-thon benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, at the home of Doris and Craig Reed. Anyone interested in getting involved should call Doris Reed at (785) 465-7907.

Amusement Association to meet

The Thomas County Amusement Association will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, at the Thomas County Office Complex. With only a little over six months left until the 2004 Thomas County Fair, association members need to continue preparations. Anyone wanting to offer assistance is encouraged to attend the meeting.

Farming seminar this month

There will be a "Planning for Success Seminar," Thurs-

day, Jan. 29 at City Limits Convention Center in Colby. The event starts with registration at 9:30 a.m. followed by workshops starting at 9:50 a.m. Topics include profile of a successful ag operation, financial challenges of beginning farms, legal overview, risk management and marketing, tenant/landlord relationships, getting the most out of your banker and services for beginning farmers. Pre-registration is due for meal purposes on Jan. 20 to the Thomas County Extension Office at (785) 462-4582.

Childbirth classes continue

Colby Childbirth Education has started its January series. The last two sessions will be on Thursday, Jan. 22, and Jan. 29 from 7-10 p.m. at Colby Community College. For questions or enrollment, call Amy Hutfles at 460-4344.

Obedience school Tuesday

The Thomas County Trackers 4-H Dog Club will once again be offering obedience training this winter and spring. Although the orientation meeting was Tuesday, interested persons can still attend next Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the 4-H building. For questions, call (785) 460-3816.

Jaycees sponsoring 'Coats for Kids'

The Colby Jaycees are hosting "Coats for Kids" from 9-11 a.m. Saturday at the Jaycee Center. Kids who have outgrown a coat or kids needing a coat can come with their par-

ents to pick out a coat or jacket donated by members of the community.

Some adult coats are also available. The event is open to the public. For information, call 460-7147.

County fair board meets tonight

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. tonight at the Thomas County 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include the Extension Agents reports, financial report, bills, committee reports on the buildings and grounds, carnival, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising.

Also on the agenda are the year-end audit and barbecue bids. The meeting is open to the public.

Genesis annual meeting today

Genesis -Thomas County, Inc. will hold its annual meeting at 6 p.m., today, in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S Range, Colby. The regular meeting will follow the annual meeting. Persons interested in Genesis are encouraged to attend.

Workforce Center has new hours

The Colby Workforce Center (formerly the Job Service Center) is now operating under new hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The center is located at 485 N. Chick.



Slight cool-off

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. South winds 5-15 mph, switching westerly after midnight 5-10 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. High in the 50s. Winds out of the north 10-20 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy, lows in the lower 20s. Winds out of the north 10-15 mph. **Saturday...**partly cloudy early, then clearing. Cooler. High in the upper 40s. North winds 5-15 mph, with higher gusts.

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 59
Low this morning, 23
Records for Jan. 15, 70 in 1943 and -15 in 1979
Year ago today, 32 and 16
Month's precipitation, 0.05
Month's snowfall, 1 inch
2003 precipitation to date, trace
Soil temperature, 34
The sources:
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

