



# COLBY FREE PRESS

# Wow!

## Nothing beats a pick up when you need a pick up

Even cowboys needs an occasional pick up after hours on the road and then engaging in activities in the arena that can pretty well do them in.

But this is going to the extreme.

Hours of practice, hauling a horse trailer for hundreds of miles and paying thousands of dollars in entry fees, resulted in a big payoff last month for Colby Community College student Cody Stone.

Stone won first place in team roping at a rodeo sponsored by Booger Barter Productions in Guthrie, Okla. In addition to a \$3,000 cash prize, Stone won a 2004 Dodge Ram four-door dually pickup worth \$38,000. He also won a saddle valued at \$2,500 and a jacket.

"My partner, Tyler Johnson from Mound City and I were competing against 1,600-1,700 participants," said Stone.

"We tied for the first place award and I managed to win the tie-breaker which involved roping three steers. The toughest thing about team roping is being consistent with your partner. Tyler is still in high school and we don't often



Cody Stone

have an opportunity to practice together."

This is not the first time Stone has won a major competition.

"I won two state rodeo championships and placed fifth in the National Rodeo Finals last July in Farmington, N.M." Stone said. "I've won six saddles at various rodeos."

The Louisburg freshman is majoring in business at Colby Community College. He plans to continue his rodeo career at a four-year university after receiving his associate's degree.

"College rodeo is a different game," said Stone. "At any given college rodeo, you are competing against 140 of the top cowboys in the nation. Any one of them is capable of winning first place on a given day."

He said that "coach Allen Russell has helped me a lot. He makes it a lot of fun and has improved my roping skills."

Stone has only seen photos of his new pickup. He will be driving it for the first time when he returns home from spring break, that started today for students at Colby College.

"I paid \$750 to enter the competition and will have to pay sales tax on the truck in addition to income tax, but it's still a great deal!"

Cody is the son of Steve and Dehonna Stone of Louisburg.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

City of Colby employee Mat Norman put a branch into the shredder Friday morning at Fike Park. The city is in the process of re-

moving dead and damaged trees and replacing them. The work will continue this week.

## Tree board to use replacement program

By PATTY DECKER

*Free Press Editor*

There's a few less Locust trees in Fike Park, but plans are underway to replace them in the near future, said officials with the city's tree board.

Mat Norman, parks depart-

ment, said he and five other employees began removing the dead trees last week and will continue this week.

So far two of the trees have been completely removed with six more trees scheduled to be cut down.

Members of the tree board

marked the eight trees needing to be removed and plan to replace them with newer and younger trees that are currently growing near the municipal airport.

In addition to Norman, the other five employees from the water and street departments include Jim

Helus, Joe Lobato, Kevin Helus, Dave Berry, and Larry Horinek.

Tree board members are Sharon Steele, chairperson, Marvin Bickner, Mike Woofter, Vernon Flanagan and Mark Blatt.

For questions, call any tree board member.

# Changes in materials make homes stronger at low price

WICHITA (AP) — There's no way to make an inexpensive, tornado-proof home, builders say, but for about \$1,000, a new house can be made to better withstand strong storms and high winds.

Recent improvements in construction techniques and materials, including composite roofing shingles, tie-down straps and ori-

ented strand board, are changing the way houses are being built.

"It's pretty much starting to become an industry standard," said Joe Kutilek, owner of People's Construction Co. of Wichita. "It definitely won't stop a tornado, but it'll keep things from moving so much during high winds. It just makes a house more solid."

The changes grew out of the Federal Emergency Management Administration's study of damage caused by the tornadoes of May 3, 1999, which included destruction in Haysville and Wichita.

The study suggested using oriented strand board panels on the corners of houses, but contractors now routinely use the panels on all

the exterior walls. Strand board, a composite of epoxy, glue and wood fibers, is three times stronger than plywood," Kutilek said.

Engineers also have developed "shear walls" that distribute stress more efficiently for walls that contain abundant glass, said Wess Galyon, president of the Wichita Area Builders Association.

"That makes the overall structure stronger," he said. "Frankly, we've done about as good as we can get."

The changes add around \$1,000 to the construction cost of a typical new home, more for bigger homes with several rooflines.

Homebuyers used to balk at the new techniques and slightly higher prices, but that's not the case so

much anymore, Kutilek said.

"It seems like we have more high winds than we've ever had," he said. "I just think that builders realize it makes a much more solid house." National Weather Service meteorologist Bruce Wightman said it might seem like there is more severe weather in recent years than in the past, but that's not the case.



## Continued warm

**Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...**Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Not as cool. Lows in the lower 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph and gusty. **Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Warmer. Highs in the lower 80s. West winds 5 to 15 mph. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 40s. South winds around 10 mph shifting to the northwest 10 to 15 mph after midnight. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. North winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the east 5 to 15 mph in the afternoon. **Wednesday night through Friday...**Partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid- to upper-70s. Lows in the mid-40s.

### The numbers

Sunday's high, 53; Low this morning, 26  
Records for March 22, 87 in 1910 and +2 in 1898  
Year ago today, 63 and 33  
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00  
March total, 0.74; March snowfall, 1 inch; Soil temperature, 49

### The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

By TISHA COX

*Colby Free Press*

The Army National Guard in Colby is looking for a few good men and women.

1st Sgt. Manuel Rubio with the Detachment 2-170th Maintenance Company, said there are currently about 50 soldiers from around the area assigned to the Colby unit but it isn't at full strength.

"We're short about 15 soldiers," Rubio said. "We're always looking for new soldiers."

Staff Sgt. Donald Frecks, the new recruiter with Colby's unit, said they will be hosting an informational meeting at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 2 at the Colby Armory, 470 S. Range, for high school juniors, seniors and parents, to learn about educational opportunities with the National Guard.

It's just one step the Guard is taking to help bolster its numbers. They also plan more meetings to give oth-

ers a chance to meet the soldiers in the community and to let everyone know more about the National Guard. Rubio said since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, there has been an influx of new recruits ready to serve, but lately there haven't been as many.

Goodland is just one of the communities struggling with finding recruits, Rubio said.

Also with the country at war, Rubio said it's harder to recruit because they get less people with prior service.

Frecks said there many part-time and the National Guard always has full-time positions available.

Rubio said enlisting entails a six-year obligation with two years on reserve status. The selling point for the Guard, he said, is that it's a part-time obligation. People join for different reasons, including patriotic, the educational benefits and many people who have prior service in an-

other branch of the military come home and sign up.

"They can still be home and able to serve their country," Rubio said.

He said the headquarters for the 170th is in Norton. Detachment 1 is in Goodland and Detachment 3 is in Russell. "We're spread out quite a ways," Rubio said.

Battalion headquarters for the units is in Hays with the Hays 174th Ordnance Battalion. He said it is in charge of the western Kansas National Guard units.

"We're a general support maintenance company," Rubio said, adding their job is to rebuild engines and components and make them available for all four services.

He explained if the engine in a truck or tank breaks down while in use in a country like Iraq, a unit like the 995th Maintenance Company has the job of replacing the engine. They will put in a replacement but the broken engine will be sent to the

170th in Colby.

"We rebuild it and send it back to the supply warehouse," Rubio said.

Colby and Goodland work on wheeled vehicles and also have a supply section for maintenance and resupply points. Goodland also deals with recovery and lifting. They are also machinists and do welding and body work.

Russell is the track section. He said it deals with tracked vehicles like the M-1, Bradleys, personnel carriers and any other armored track vehicles currently in use.

Rubio said anyone who joins up locally will be trained in maintenance. He added they also have several female soldiers who have learned the trade. "They're really good mechanics," he said.

Despite the need for more recruits, he said there's a very real possibility the unit could get called up at any time. He noted that several other Kansas units are serving

active duty right now, and said if a need for their services did arise, the unit could get mobilized.

"It could happen at any time," he said. "It's nothing new to us."

Members of the unit were deployed during Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait in 1991. Some are still serving.

Though not with the National Guard, the sons of Butch Herbel, and the grandsons of Jean Herbel, Colby, are just two of many soldiers from around the area who are serving their country on active duty in Iraq. Jean Herbel said Lance Cpl. Austin Herbel is a Marine and Spc. Harold A. Herbel is serving with the Army National Guard. (See page 4)

In May, the 170th will go to the Mojave Desert in California for two weeks of training. They will work on equipment damaged by other units during war games. "Hopefully it'll be a good experience for all the kids," Frecks said.

## Briefly

### Promotion meeting Tuesday

The Colby Promotion Committee will meet at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday in the basement of the Sunflower Bank. All meetings are open to anyone interested in promoting the city and what it has to offer. For questions, call 460-3401.

### Dance team award potluck

An awards potluck for the Colby High School dance team has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday in the high school commons. Members of the team and their families are invited and asked to bring a food dish and table service. Drinks will be provided.

### School board to meet

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. tonight at the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include a public hearing on republishing the 2003-2004 budget, track resurfacing bids, kindergarten program changes, out of district

field trip requests, principal reports and reports from the superintendent and curriculum director and personnel issues.

### Childbirth classes scheduled

Colby Childbirth Education will begin another series of Childbirth Education classes in April. Classes will be held Thursday, April 1, 8, 15, and 29 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Health Sciences Building at Colby Community College. The next class will be a weekend retreat July 9 and 10. To preregister, call Jeanene Brown at 460-4850 or evenings at 462-7105.

### Discounted park permits continue

The Thomas County Clerk's office is reminding everyone that vehicle park permits will be discounted until Thursday, April 1. After that date, said Tracey Perkins, county clerk, the annual costs will go to \$44.50; second to \$24.50; senior and disabled rates, \$22.25 and second at \$12.25. Spring turkey tags are also available, she said. For questions, call 462-4500.

### Free sports physicals offered in May

Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range, will offer free physical examinations for students in Colby, Rexford and Brewster for the 2004-05 school years. All physicals will be given on Tuesday, May 11 with students from Colby Middle School arriving by 5:30 p.m.; Colby High School by 6:15 p.m., and for Golden Plains and Brewster students, 7 p.m. This is a free service for area students who plan to participate in athletic events next year. Any student planning to participate in the physical examination is asked to bring the forms with them, which are available at the schools. For questions, call (785) 462-3332.

### Endowment banquet scheduled

Heartland Christian School will hold its "Partners for the Future" endowment banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 2 at the Colby Community College Student Union. Tickets are \$10 each and the deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, April 1. Tickets available from any school family.

