



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Extension center asks for budget increase

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners heard a budget request from Dan O'Brien of the Northwest Research-Extension Center at their meeting Monday morning.

O'Brien submitted a proposal requesting \$109,000 for the extension station.

"We are fulfilling our obligation to you," he said, adding he was getting the request in early.

Last year, the extension farm received \$105,000 from the county.

O'Brien said this year Kansas State University is giving them

three percent more money than last, an order that came down from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

"We're getting some help from Kansas State University," O'Brien said.

O'Brien said the county's extension office is getting by with one agent right now but they might be able to hire extra help in a few months when he finds out what K-State's budget will be.

"I'm glad to see K-State is giving a little more money," said commissioner Ron Evans. "This is encouraging in that respect."

Commissioner Glen Kersen-

brock said the budget request was "reasonable" and the county's extension resources are doing a good job.

O'Brien said some costs have gone up, like the contribution to employee insurance and they've had to deal with increasing gasoline prices but he said that was to be expected.

The commissioners also asked extension agent Joe Leibbrandt how fair preparations are coming along.

"Everything's in good shape," he said, adding he has some summer help and that is an asset.

## Fair board looks at repairs, advertising at recent meeting

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Advertising for the fair was one of the items on the agenda at the Thomas County Fair Board meeting Thursday night.

Board member Liz Strand said the advertising committee has met already and is working on advertising and getting sponsorship for the fair, through both spots on the wall of support and also selling arena banners to hang in the arena during the rodeo and fair races.

"They've started talking to

people already," Strand said, adding fair preparations are right on track. "I think it's rolling along all right."

Strand said they also talked about the damage to the newly re-sided horse barn last month.

She said it's going to cost \$551 to repair the doors and Colby Community College is paying for the repairs.

At a special meeting last month, board president Stan Strange said they found out who damaged the horse barn last month.

He said the board suspected it was a member of the Colby Community College rodeo team who had backed into the doors and head rodeo coach Allen Russell confirmed it, although he wasn't able to track down the person responsible.

Strand said the barn wasn't the only building discussed.

The roof on the new bathrooms at the fairground will have to be replaced because of damage from recent storms.

"It was pretty much ripped apart," she said.

## Republican convention Saturday

A special Republican party convention will be held Saturday at the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus in Colby to select a temporary replacement to fill state Sen. Stan Clark's

40th District Senate Seat. Registration starts at 5:15 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The convention is open to the public.

Clark, 49, was killed Saturday, May 29, when his car was rear-

ended by a tractor-trailer on Interstate-70 during a dust storm.

The accident happened approximately nine miles east of Oakley when the dust storm reduced visibility.

## Time marches on once again at community building

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A lot of things happen at the Colby Community Building.

Even keeping track of the time.

The large clock on the front of the structure, enabled for a couple of years, is back doing its thing, thanks

to several people.

The Colby Community Building manager Ryan Sturdy said maintenance staff members at the facility Larry Dilts and Kyle McLaren repaired the clock, returning it to working order for the first time in several years.

They also received help from Dick Snider.

He said it took a while to get things going because they lacked the parts and knowledge needed to fix the timepiece.

"It's something we've wanted to fix for a while," Sturdy said.

"We had to get a couple of new parts for it and put it back together."

Once the parts were in hand, it only took several hours to do the repairs.

"It was a fairly lengthy process to find the parts and get the equipment we needed," he said.

Sturdy said broken gears stopped the motor-clock mechanism from working.

He said they put in a new motor and bearings.

The Colby Community Building is once again keeping track of the time.

## Car bomb blows up in crowd killing 35, wounding 138

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A sport-utility vehicle packed with artillery shells blew up today in a crowd of people waiting to volunteer for the Iraqi military, killing at least 35 and wounding 138.

The explosion in Baghdad was the latest in a surge of attacks on U.S. coalition forces and their Iraqi allies ahead of the transfer of sovereignty to Iraqis on June 30.

The blast scattered bodies and debris across a four-lane highway outside Baghdad's Muthanna airport, which is used as a base by both the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and the U.S. military. The explosion could be heard for miles and sent a cloud of smoke over the city.

No American or Iraqi troops were injured, U.S. Army Col. Mike Murray said today.

Many of the victims had just gotten off a bus at about 9 a.m., Murray said. About 100 volunteers were trying to enter the recruiting center when the sport-utility vehicle crashed into the crowd, said Capt. Hani Hussein of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps.

"We were standing waiting for our turn to register," Rafid Mudhar told The Associated Press from his hospital bed in Karama Hospital. "All of a sudden, we heard big explosion and most of those standing fell on the ground including me."

He said he was unconscious for a

while, then managed to reach a nearby ambulance.

Bloody bodies covered in dust were scattered around the blast site. One dead man lay prostrate in the center of a highway median.

Iraqi security forces tried to help the injured as blood-soaked victims were loaded into ambulances and cars. U.S. troops milled around the scene.

At least one artillery shell could be seen lying on the road. Insurgents in Iraq often fashion bombs out of artillery shells and other military ordnance. Health Ministry official Saad al-Amili said at least 35 people died and 138 were injured.

Surrounded by Western security

guards and Iraqi police, interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi visited the scene of Thursday's blast and described it as a "cowardly attack."

"We are going to face these escalations," he said. "The Iraqi people are going to prevail and the government of Iraq is determined to go ahead in confronting the enemies, whether they are here in Iraq or whether they are anywhere else in the world."

Yas Khudair, a member of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, said all the victims were "poor people" who "wanted to volunteer to support their families."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the string of recent at-

tacks would not affect the handover of sovereignty.

"The terrorists used to justify their terror saying it was against the occupation. The occupation is going to end in 12 days time; now the terrorists appear to be trying to stop the transfer of power to the Iraqi people themselves."

"We and the Iraqi people will not be deterred. The transfer of power will take place. Iraqis will take control of their lives."

An explosion next to a convoy of water trucks killed one Hungarian soldier and wounded another today, 40 miles northeast of the Hillah base south of Baghdad, the Hungarian Defense Ministry said.



### 70s and 50s

#### Colby-Oakley-Hoxie

#### Tonight...Thunderstorms

early in the evening. Lows in the 50s. Northeast winds 10-20 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. 20 percent chance for thunderstorms.

Highs in the 70s. Southeast winds 10-20 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy. 40 percent chance for thunderstorms. Lows in the 50s. **Saturday...**Chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the low 70s.

#### The numbers

Wednesday's high, 73

Low this morning, 54

Precipitation June 14-15, 0.95

Precipitation June 15-16, 0.52

June total, 2.21

Soil temperature, 72

#### 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.

#### Water use

• June 14 = 3.220 mil. gal.

• June 15 = 1.326 mil. gal.

• June 16 = 1.589 mil. gal.

#### Water advisories

• Water **Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

• Water **Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

• Water **Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

## A nother time



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Mandy Edmundson of Colby portrayed Mochi, a Native American woman who survived the Sand Creek Massacre, during reenactments given by youth Tuesday under the Chautauqua tent. The children, who attended the Youth Chautauqua Camp starting last Thursday through Tuesday, all gave performances of various historical figures from the time when Kansas was still a territory.

### Wheat harvest office open

The Colby wheat harvest office is open for the 2004 season. Roger Hale, who runs the office, said they are at a new location and have a new phone number this year. The office is at the east end of the Oasis Travel Center this year. For information, call the new number at 460-0800.

### Bowhunters hosting shoot

Northwest Kansas Bowhunters will host a 3D fun shoot Sunday, June 20 at the archery range, which is 1/4 mile north of Colby on Franklin. Starting time is 1 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children. Call Gordon Rasmussen at (785) 462-6524 for more information.

### Benefit garage sale Saturday

There will be a benefit garage and bake sale from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, at 1280 W. Sixth. Proceeds will benefit Kristi Pollonais, the daughter of Rich and Judy Epp. Kristi has been hospitalized and undergone surgery for a staph infection in

her knee. Proceeds will help Kristi with medical bills and other expenses. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Mike and Jeanette Fortkamp at 460-0352 or Karen Merryman at 460-9077.

### Donations sought for fireworks

The Colby Kiwanis Club is reminding all businesses that it's once again looking for "shell" sponsors to defray costs on this year's fireworks display. All \$20 shell donations will go toward the celebration. If interested, call the Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401.

### Water garden tour planned

The Northwest Kansas Transition Council will have a water garden tour in the Colby area on July 10. Tickets will be available June 23 with purchase locations announced later. The event will raise funds for projects for the 2004-2005 school year. The projects will assist at-risk students and disabled northwest Kansas students in preparing for post-secondary training, employment and independent living.

