

Commerce department honors Colby and other area businesses

HAYS — Colby, Goodland and Oakley were among many businesses in northwest Kansas recognized for the contributions they make to their local communities and to the state economy.

Providing the forum to honor those businesses, officials from the Kansas Department of Commerce held a regional awards ceremony Friday at Fort Hays State University in Hays.

The ceremony was one of many as part of Kansas Business Appreciation Month, which continues until the end of June.

Colby's C&M Truck Repair was one of 18 merit award winners for service, along with other area towns to include Oakley, Goodland, and Hoxie.

"It is a pleasure to recognize these outstanding Kansas companies,

which have all been nominated by people and organizations in their communities," said Lt. Governor/Commerce Secretary John Moore. "Not only do these businesses provide jobs and economic opportunity for citizens, they also contribute to the quality of life through their support of community activities."

Seven regional ceremonies are being held statewide throughout the month of June, he said, and at each ceremony, one company in each of four categories to include distribution, manufacturing, retail, and service is selected to win a Regional Achievement Award, Moore said today.

In the Northwest Kansas region, the winners of Regional Achievement Awards are: Heartland Marketing and Assoc. Inc., Phillipsburg, in the distribution category;

Dessin Fournir Companies, Plainville, in manufacturing; Doerflers' Harley-Davidson Buell, Hays, in retail and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Hays, in service.

There were no merit award winners in the distribution category; however, Western Plains Energy, LLC in Oakley received the award in manufacturing. Others in that category included B and B Redimix, Inc., Stockton; Bird City Bird Seed, Bird City; Cross Manufacturing, Inc., Hays; New Age Industrial Corporation, Inc, Norton; Schneider Pallets, LLC, Natoma; Schultz Welding, Lucas; and Tischlerei, Inc., Osborne.

Merit award winners in retail saw an Oakley business — Oakley Farm and Home Center — receiving an award. Other winners in that category were: A&W Root Beer

Drive-In Restaurant, Russell; El-dorado Western Wear & Mexican Imports, Goodland; Garden of Eden, Lucas; Gene's Heartland Foods, Smith Center; Grinnell Furniture Store, Grinnell; Hennick Ace Hardware Lumber and Supply, Sharon Springs; Peking Garden Chinese Restaurant, Russell; Prairie Ag & Auto, Palco; Scott-McCoppin Book Store, Phillipsburg; Signature Nurses, Inc., Phillipsburg; Stuff n Such, Downs; Sue Veneers' Engraving Studio, Stockton; Yost Farm Supply and Yost Ford, St. Francis

Along with Colby, Oakley's Palace Community Theater was recognized in service, along with Goodland taking four service awards for its Goodland KOA Kampground, Best Western Buffalo Inn Motel and Restaurant, Goodland Regional

Medical Center and Sherman Theatre.

In Hoxie, Sheridan Estates was recognized for its service to customers.

Other service winners in northwest Kansas were: Advantage Realty, Hubert S. Radke and Son Dirt Construction, and Dean's Auto Repair, all in Russell; Howell House Bed and Breakfast, Downs; Jack's Automotive Repair and Towing, Grainfield; Lock's Electric, Sharon Springs; Midway Co-op, Inc., Osborne; Northwestern Printers, Inc. and Rein's Repair, both in Hays; and Tina's Bar and Grill and World Pest Control, both in Plainville.

The other Business Appreciation Month events are being held in Overland Park, Atchison, Burns, Ogden, Rozel, and Coffeyville.

Money to promote the Business Appreciation Month activities was provided by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund, which is derived from state lottery proceeds, said Druse, and also by the Kansas Cavalry, a volunteer group whose members support economic development and serve as business ambassadors for the state.

"The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas," said Sally Lunsford, director of public information for the organization.

For questions about how businesses were chosen or general information, call Kristy Druse at (785) 296-3805 or mailto:kdruse@kansasccommerce.com.

Norton school board raises cost of meals

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton Telegram

NORTON — It's going to be more expensive to get a hot meal at Norton schools next year, but compared to the cost of fixing a meal, the prices are still a bargain.

Superintendent Greg Mann told the Norton School Board at its meeting last week that the district charges less than most other state schools for meals.

Area News

He said the district needed to raise the meal prices to keep up with the cost of food. The prices haven't been raised for many years, he said.

Norton board member Gary Lacy asked why the district hasn't needed to raise prices until now.

"A real effort has been made to control costs," Mann said. "Also,

for the past several years, we've transferred money into the food service budget.

"With this increase, I don't think we'll have to transfer money this year.

"We don't want to have to keep transferring money. We want the food service budget to be self-sustaining."

He said an increase of 15 cents per lunch and 10 cents per breakfast

should bring in about \$19,000 in additional money and an increase of 10 cents per lunch and 5 cents per breakfast would bring between \$12,000 and \$14,000 extra.

The board decided to go with the lower increases so lunch prices will now be \$1.30 for kindergarten-grade 3, \$1.40 for grades 4-6, and \$1.60 for grades 7-12. Breakfast prices will be 75 cents for K-6 and 90 cents for 7-12.

State climatologist provides weather radio tips

MANHATTAN — Stormy weather of late can serve as a reminder that if you don't already own a weather radio, perhaps you should, said Mary Knapp, Kansas state climatologist who is based at Kansas State University Research and Extension in Manhattan.

Early warnings can help minimize the risk of injury or death from a storm, and give a "heads up" in time to move the car to a sheltered area or secure porch or patio furniture, she said.

The safety radios are typically referred to as "NOAA weather radios." NOAA, (pronounced like Noah), is short for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the parent organization of the National Weather Service.

The radios are typically battery powered and capable of receiving one or more of seven national broadcast bands (or frequencies) designated by the National Weather Service for broadcast of storm watches and warnings.

"Local stations usually pick up the information and interrupt local programming, but the battery-pow-

ered weather radios will work when the power is out and in places where television and radios may not be, such as a storm shelter," she said.

A basic model, which can be purchased for as little as \$20 to \$30, will beep and broadcast severe weather alerts.

More sophisticated models offer filtering capabilities that allow owners to fine-tune radio alerts to their geographic area. The filtering systems are called "Specific Area Message Encoding" or SAME, for short, Knapp said.

"High-end models also provide text messages and accessories such as strobe lights that can be helpful to those who are hearing impaired. Some will even shake the bed," she said.

Weather radios are sold at discount department and electronic stores and are also available on the Internet at "The Weather Radio Store:" www.noaa-weatherradio-store.com.

"While buying local can speed the process or simplify returns, checking the Internet site can give prospective buyers an overview of

Basic radio offers protection

When clouds moved in more quickly than anticipated during a recent 4-H geology trip in the north central part of the state, Wabaunsee County, 4-H volunteer, Tony Foster, used a small, hand-held radio to monitor weather warnings and the presence of lightning.

When Foster picked up a crackling noise that signaled lightning nearby, he alerted 4-

H members and their families to conclude their searches for rocks and minerals and return to the cars as quickly as possible.

Foster's use of the moderately-priced radio minimized risks for more than 225 people.

"Buying a weather radio is the first step. Learning to use it and doing so truly can save lives," said Kansas' state climatologist Mary Knapp.

the features available and may provide a greater selection," Knapp said.

"Once purchased, though, don't wait for a storm to try it out. Read the manufacturer's instructions and test features in the home, car and storm shelter to make sure the radio works in locations where it will be used," said Knapp, who recommends replacing batteries periodically and storing a few extra batteries in a storm shelter.

Knapp maintains a NOAA wea-

ther radio map and frequencies in the Weather Data Library and on the Web at K-State Research and Extension's Web site: www.oznet-ksu.edu.

Bird City questions recycling charges by council members in St. Francis

By SANDY BARNHART

St. Francis Herald

BIRD CITY — The cost of recycling has been discussed at the St. Francis City Council meeting for many months and was again on the recent agenda with comments about the charge coming from Bird City.

When the discussion ended, the council agreed to charge the same amount.

For the last several months, the city of Bird City has brought its recycling items to the center in St. Francis and the city of St. Francis has not charged for this service.

However, there is expense involved with running the center and, at the St. Francis City Council meeting in May, the council agreed that some compensation was needed.

After doing some figuring, they agreed that Bird City should pay 20 percent of the recycling costs.

However, at last week's meeting, Councilman Roger Jensen informed the other members that the Bird City Council had contacted him concerning the fee and they

wanted a more itemized account of the figures.

Both Councilman Jensen and Superintendent J.R. Landenberger had come up with a charge of \$220 a month or 20 percent of the costs.

Jensen went through the recycling center figures with the council noting that it costs approximately \$13,567 a year to operate the recycling center or \$1,130 a month.

He said he estimated that Bird City accounts for approximately 20 percent of the recycling items being handled in St. Francis.

St. Francis is responsible for paying the utilities, and insurance on the building as well as the wages for employees and the cost of transportation to Colby.

The money received after the items are taken to Colby goes into the Northwest Kansas Recycling Organization.

The estimated cost for handling the recycling items from Bird City totaled \$226 a month.

The council decided to keep the charge the same with the previous

charge of \$220 a month for Bird City.

Bridal Registry

Janelle Adams & Lance VanKooten

June 26, 2004

HOUSE OF WOOD FURNITURE

480 N. Franklin • 460-6699
Downtown Colby

Now YOU CAN HELP STOP CHILD ABUSE BEFORE IT EVER STARTS.

To learn how you can help, call the National Committee to prevent Child Abuse today.

Ad Council 1-800-CHILDREN

Make a Difference RECYCLE

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life
(available in trade area only)

See American Profile Magazine in today's issue of the

COLBY FREE PRESS

Brought to you by the Free Press and:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

1195 S. Range Colby, KS 460-2000

"Neighbors helping neighbors"

Thank You!

The Thomas County Fair Board would like to thank every individual and business who donated time, machinery, employees, food, money, encouragement and ideas to the 2003 Thomas County Free Fair.

We especially thank the businesses, families and individuals listed on the **Wall of Support**. These individuals went the extra mile in supporting the fair and helped to make the fair a success. We thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued support for the fair and the newly formed Thomas County Amusement Association as they begin building Thomas County's home-owned carnival.

Thank you again for your support and we ask that you please thank and support those individuals listed below:

Colby Ag Center L.C.
Steve & Cheryl Baird
Terry & Kathaleen Feldt
Total, Stop 2 Shop East
Pepsi Bottling Group
VFW
Time Warner Cable
Gayle & Linda Dible
High Plains Printing
Gary Garrett
Golden Harvest Seeds
Brown's Plumbing
Palace Drug Store
Golden Hardware
Tim & Amy Huffles
Cornerstone Ag LLC
Cooperative Ag Service
Stan's Automotive Inc
Peoples State Bank
Audrey Hines
Mark & Cindy Anderson
Larry Washburn Optometrist
Wark's Embroidery & Gifts
Lang Diesel Inc.
Hoxie Feed Yard
Quality Inn
Days Inn
KQLS/KXXX Radio
Donelan's Jewelry
Comfort Inn
Arby's
Village Inn
Woofter Construction
Jim's Electric
Bickner Electric
Gary Adrian
Cervosky Insurance
Office Works
Stan Strange Family

Polished Nail
Vanderbilt's
Oakley Vet Service
Coors
OutWest
Trinity Lutheran Church
Twice Sold Tales
Du Pont/David Kriegshauser
Holdiaiy Inn Express
Welk-Um Inn
Great Western Tire
Bartlett Grain of Levant
Colby Implement
J-J Oil Company
First National Bank
Rick & Judy Epp
Hi-Plains Coop Assn.
Western Ks. Farm Credit Serv.
Malcolm Piano Studio
Malcolm Rentals
Western Sprinklers Inc.
Dougherty Implement
Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball
John Cranston Cattle Co.
Colby Convention & Visitors Bureau
His Shop
Sears Roebuck & Company
Colby Community College
Justin Alexander
4-D Farms, LLC
Grinnell Locker
Stephen's Construction Inc
Brad & Marie Skolout
Ben Hoeting
Rexford Grain
Sunflower Bank
Mark Miller
Gem Enterprises
State Farm Insurance, J. Johnson

Hope you can join us for this years Fair!!

August 3rd - 7th

BBQ - Aug. 4th; Rodeo - Aug. 3rd & 4th;
Demo Derby - Aug. 5th; Races - Aug. 6th & 7th;
Parade - Sat. Aug. 7th @ 10:30 a.m.