



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Woman files for office in Logan, Thomas counties

# Unusual political situation unfolds

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A Colby attorney will be challenging the Logan County Attorney during the August primary and look to unseat the Thomas County Attorney in November.

Andrea Wyrick, a Republican, and owner of Wyrick Law Firm in Colby, filed for the position of county attorney in both Logan and Thomas counties, and, according to the

Kansas Secretary of State's office there are no statutes saying someone cannot run in more than one county for the county attorney position.

"I have never seen this happen," said Tracey Perkins, Thomas County Clerk, about Wyrick's decision to file in both counties.

If elected in both counties, Perkins added that Wyrick would not have to give up one

or the other position either.

"The statutes don't require the county attorney having to live within that county," she said.

"In fact, the Secretary of State's office told me that there are counties within the state that share an elected official in two or more places."

The current county attorney in Logan County is Douglas C. Spencer, also a Re-

publican, which will mean that Wyrick will need to win enough votes from Logan County voters in order to be on the November ballot for the position.

In Thomas County, Wyrick will not face off with Allan Taylor, the Democratic incumbent, until November since there are no challengers within either the Republican or Democratic parties.

Taylor was first appointed to take Perry

Murray's place in April of 1988. He then ran for the position of Thomas County Attorney in August of 1988. He won the election in 1988 and has been re-elected ever since, making his time in office more than 16 years.

Neither Wyrick, Taylor or Spencer could be reached for comment.

The primary is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 3.

## How about this one?



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The Fourth of July celebration is bringing many people out to buy fireworks. Earlier today Jessi Kriss, 9, (right) and her sister, Krisstal Kriss, 12, were shopping for just the right items to make

the holiday even more special at the fireworks tent near Dillons off South Range Avenue. The Colby Police Department is reminding everyone that fireworks are not legal in the city limits.

## Board transfers funds, talk mill levy increase

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Colby School Board approved year-end transfers at its meeting this morning.

JoDeYoung, district financial officer, said the transfer of \$230,444 was to forward-fund three programs for the 2004-2005 school year.

She said \$85,000 was transferred to special education, \$52,641 for inservice education and \$92,603 for food service. The money was transferred from the general fund to each area.

"It reduces the amount of money you have to transfer next year," DeYoung said.

"We try to be consistent. It's a routine transfer."

Budget talks also brought up the possibility of raising the district's mill levy. She said the board could decide, if it had to, to raise it up to five mills.

"They do not want to raise taxes," DeYoung said.

An enrollment loss of up to 30

students this fall could cause the district to lose up to \$96,000 in state aid and she said the district would have to make it up somewhere, either through cutting programs or raising the mill levy, but she said it would probably be a combination of the two if worst comes to worst.

"We will have to do something because we don't want to raise the mill levy," she said.

Board member Joel Powell said he would have a hard time increasing the levy so much because people are being taxed more without making more money.

"I'm not anxious to pay more taxes," he said.

Board member John Cranston said he also wasn't looking forward to the prospect but said he would support an increase if necessary.

DeYoung said if the district's valuation goes up, the mill levy increase would go down.

The next school board meeting is at 7 p.m. on July 19. For questions, call the administrative building at (785) 460-5000.

## Fire and police departments issue caution using fireworks

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Fourth of July holiday this coming weekend means people will want to celebrate the country's independence with a few fireworks. However, Rick Dickman, Colby's assistant fire chief said it can't be done inside city limits.

"In the city limits, no fireworks are permitted," he said.

Dickman said class "C" fireworks are legal in Kansas, which includes everything from firecrackers to fountains, but items like bottle rockets, cherry bombs and larger explosive fireworks are illegal. He said anything that is a projectile or

ends with an boom in the air is illegal. An alternative is the annual public fireworks display that will be held Sunday night at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Dickman said the Kiwanis Club sponsors the yearly event.

"It's still a hand-fired show," he said. "There should be more than

500 shots in the show this year so it ought to be pretty impressive."

Dickman said it should last about 20 minutes and the best viewing areas will be in the east pit area, which will be open and also the parking area on the north side of the grounds. The grandstand will also be open. In case of rain or bad

weather July 4, the display will be on Monday instead.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said his department won't be doing any extra enforcement on fireworks, but if they get many complaints, they will start writing citations.

"The bottom line is they're not

supposed to discharge or possess in city limits," he said, adding it is illegal for fireworks to be sold outside the city limits.

He said if anyone is going to set off fireworks on their own, they should do it where they have permission and also in a safe environment.

## Colby Winona Grainfield



## Heavy rainfall a possibility

**Tonight...**Cloudy with thunderstorms likely with heavy rainfall a possibility. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent. **Thursday...**Mostly cloudy with showers likely and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. Southeast winds around 10 mph. Chance of showers and thunderstorms 60 percent. **Thursday night...**Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph shifting to the southwest around 5 mph after midnight. Chance of showers and thunderstorms 30 percent. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. Southwest winds around 5 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

### The numbers

Tuesday's high, 78; Low this morning, 53; Records for June 30, 107 in 1933 and 41 in 1918; Year ago today, 84 and 57; Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00; June's total, 3.20; Soil temperature, 73

### 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 29 = 2,392 million gallons..

### 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.

## 'Picnic In the Park' features Shannon Myers

June's "Picnic in the Park" lineup is now history and Shannon Myers ushers in the July performers at noon on Thursday in Colby's Fike Park.

The popular noontime summer program kicked in its new season on June 3 and the final stage attraction

will be July 29.

Thursdays are set aside for the event.

Following Shannon Myers to the stage will be Shawna Eberle on July 8; Amanda Kidder on July 15; Monica Bugbee Miller and Carla Bugbee Haggard on July 22; and

Larry Booth on July 29.

June's performers included the McLemore Family, Sappa Strings (Wayne and Millie Lauritsen), Jan Barnum and Amy Kendrick.

There is no admission and the "musical menu" is a joint project of the Colby/Thomas County Cham-

ber of Commerce, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press.

"Bring your sack lunch, a lawn chair or blanket, and relax in the shade of the old apple tree," said Tom Dreiling, the newspaper's publisher.

## Sprout damage is worst in northwest Kansas

WICHITA (AP) — Sprout damage in the winter wheat crop appears confined mostly to northwest Kansas, the state's chief inspector said Monday.

Randy McCormick, vice president for the Kansas Grain Inspection Service, said the agency's office in Colby is seeing some sprout damage in samples coming in for

grading. Its Dodge City office has also seen a "little bit" of sprout damage, he said.

"Colby is the worst area," McCormick said. "They had the worst of everything — the drought, the freeze and now we are seeing sprout damage."

Affected samples seem to be coming primarily from southeast

Thomas County and northwest Gove County near Oakley, he said.

Grain inspectors have not found any sprout damage in samples brought to their offices at Concordia, Salina, Hutchinson, Wichita, Topeka and Kansas City, he said.

It is still too early to estimate statewide yields, McCormick said,

but test weights are mostly running 58 pounds per bushel or better.

Meanwhile, Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service reported Monday that wheat harvest statewide was 69 percent complete.

The agency ranked wheat condition as 24 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 26 percent good and 3 percent excellent.

## Briefly

### No Free Press on Monday

July 4th falls on Sunday this year, so much like most businesses, the Colby Free Press will not publish a paper on Monday, July 5th, the designated holiday. Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, July 6.

### Childbirth classes planned

Colby Childbirth Education will be conducting a class for expectant mothers. This class, said Amy Hutfles, coordinator, is a weekend retreat and will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 9-10. For information or to enroll please call Hutfles at 460-4344.

### Gaither video concert July 4th

Colby Wesleyan Church will feature a special Gaither video Fourth of

July concert at 6 p.m. Featured will be "God Bless America" and "Let Freedom Ring." The concert will be on the big screen and is free and open to the public.

### Program signup deadline looming

The cutoff date for applications to be considered for funding in this year's Grassland Reserve Program is July 16.

Stop by the local United States Department of Agriculture Service Center and visit with the staff at the center or local conservation district to determine if the Grassland Reserve Program will help in your farming operation.

The Colby office is at 915 E. Walnut. For information, call (785) 462-7482 or visit on the Internet at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

