



COLBY FREE PRESS

Lil' Firecrackers



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Citizens Medical Center played host to an Independence Day celebration of a different kind — two births. **LEFT:** LaDonna Durham, of Selden, with her daughter, Morgan Elizabeth Durham, who was born at 1:46 a.m. July 4. **ABOVE:** Jason and Monica Konrade of Colby, with their son, Jonas David Konrade, who was born at 7:08 p.m. Morgan weighed 4 pounds, 4 ounces and is 17 3/4 inches long. Jonas weighed 8 pounds, 9.5 ounces and is 20 1/2 inches long.

Colby hires new director of utilities

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The city has a new public utilities director starting next week and following introductions at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Marc Gilman of Colby was named to the position after Gerry Bieker resigned effective Thursday, June 17, to accept a job in Paola.

Born and raised in Colby, Gilman said he is glad about being selected. "I am proud of our town," Gilman said Tuesday night, "and I believe my construction background, being a lifetime resident and my education make me qualified for the job."

Gilman is a 1968 graduate of Colby High School, a graduate of Colby Community College and a Kansas State University alumni.

Prior to taking the city position, which becomes effective on Monday, July 12, Gilman said he was self-employed since 1976 as a general contractor in Colby.

"I am ready for a change," he said about becoming the public utilities director, "and this is a better job

opportunity."

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said a special committee was selected to review applications for the position almost two months ago.

A total of seven applications were received, she said, with Mayor Warren Hixson, Council President Eugene Wieland and herself reviewing the information. Armstrong said they received about half of the applications from outside Colby and the other half within the area.

"We began the process in mid-May after Gerry told us he was leaving," she said. As for the final selection, Armstrong said the committee is glad about their choice.

"We are thrilled to have Marc on board," she said Tuesday, "and I look forward to a good working relationship with him."

Armstrong said she is also pleased that someone in this position is committed to the community, referring to Gilman's lifelong residency.

Hixson added that he was happy to see someone from Colby qualified and who was also familiar with the city.

The public utilities director is responsible for overseeing all aspects of streets, sewer, water, electrical, parks and sanitation.



M. Gilman

Colby College's board of trustees elect new chairman

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College board of trustees elected a new chairman, as well as other officers at its Tuesday meeting. Board member Curt Stephens was selected as chairman, replacing Kenton Krehbiel, Don Kready was elected vice chair, Larry McDonald as treasurer and Dr. Mikel Ary, college president, as secretary.

Kready was also chosen as the board's representative to the Kansas Association of Community Colleges and board member Larry Arehart will remain the board's rep-

resentative on the endowment association.

The board approved a bid in the amount of \$16,182 from Roofmasters in Colby to complete a roofing project at Living Center East. Ary said the school has deferred spending on the roofs for a while but needs to do a few repairs now. Weathercraft Company submitted the only other bid for the project, which was for \$38,893.

A second project was for printing new college catalogs. The winning bid of \$6,858 was from Phillips Brothers Printing in Springfield, Ill. for new college course catalogs,

"We think \$3 is modest compared to Garden and Dodge."

Mikel Ary, president regarding technology fees

which Ary said needs to be done every two years because of updates and course changes.

Seven other bids were submitted, including Central Plains Book Manufacturing of Winfield, \$6,891; Mennonite Press, Inc. of Newton, \$7,704; Creasy Printing

Services of Springfield, Ill., \$7,790; Intermountain Color of Boulder, Colo., \$7,791.22; Liberty Press of Springville, Utah, \$8,823.34; Consolidated Printing of Salina, \$9,975 and Color Impressions of Wichita, \$10,764.

Arehart asked why no local com-

panies submitted bids. Public information officer Deb Schwanke said most of the local printers aren't set up to do the four color process, which the catalog requires. She said the college usually prepares the catalog and puts it on compact disc, then sends it off for printing.

The board also briefly discussed the budget. Dean of finance Ken Johnson said the county's evaluation went up about \$2.5 million, which will allow the college to keep its mill levy at the same level, but he did recommend the school enact a \$3 per credit hour technology fee to on-campus students.

He said it would help the school make its lease payments on new management software.

Ary said the fee is still less than other community colleges around the state and is also fair considering the school already raised tuition and other fees this year.

"We think \$3 is modest compared to Garden and Dodge," he said.

In other business, the board approved:

- Contracts for outreach instructors, telenet monitors, adult basic education instructors, outreach coordinators and summer supplemental contracts.

Bluegrass ticket outlets, previews highlighted

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

In less than two weeks and for the ninth year in a row, organizers will again bring "Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival" to the area.

This year's event is scheduled from Friday, July 16, through Sunday, July 18, at the Thomas County Fairgrounds and will feature live acoustic music from nine musical acts, said Susan McLemore, one of the coordinators and Colby entertainer.

Among the many performers are *Cherry Holmes* from Arizona, who won the Bluegrass Music Association's 2003 Entertainer of the Year

award and has been featured at the Grand Ole Opry, along with playing across the country; *Exit 81* from Arkansas; *The Bluegrass Patriots* of Colorado; *Spontaneous Combustion* of Missouri; *Sappa Strings* of Colorado; *The New Old-Timers* of Hill City; *The Pearce Family* of Wallace; and *Larry Booth* and the host band, *The McLemore Family*, both of Colby.

Emcees will include Marshall Allen Bailey of High Plains Public Radio and Trey Allen from Colorado, who will share their humor and cowboy poetry, McLemore said.

In addition to the festival, there will also be free pre-festival activi-

ties that will kick off on Thursday, July 15, starting at 5 p.m. with the Farm Bureau Association's Pedal Tractor Pull.

"This event is open to all children up to age 16," she said. Following the pedal tractor pull, there will be a potluck and jam session at about 6:30 p.m.

Once the festival gets underway on Friday, July 16, many other activities will include, "Make and Take" crafts, horse-drawn wagon rides, a youth bluegrass contest (which will include a singing category for ages up to 19), a gospel sing-along and lots of jamming all for one ticket price.

"There will be plenty of craft and

food vendors on the fairgrounds and 4,000 square feet of shade to protect the audience at this outdoor event," she said.

Shows will begin at 6:30 p.m., Friday, and conclude at 2:15 p.m., Sunday.

"The festival will be a lot of fun and you won't want to miss it," McLemore said.

Tickets are now available at Dave's His Shop, House of Wood, F&M Branch Bank at Dillons and at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

For questions or ticket information, call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, (785) 460-7643 or (800) 611-8835.

Colby
Ludell
Halford



Simply put: h-o-t

Tonight...Partly cloudy, then clearing late. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. **Thursday...**Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. **Thursday night...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms then mostly clear after midnight. Lows in the mid 60s. **Saturday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s.

The numbers

Tuesday's high, 80
Low this morning, 58
Records for July 7, 106 in 1973 and 44 in 1908
Year ago today, 94 and 64
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
July total, 2.22 inches
Soil temperature, 70

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

- July 2-3-4 = 1.460 million gallons average
- July 5 = 1.459 million gallons
- July 6 = 1.310 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.

Briefly

Deer, turkey, elk applications available

The Thomas County Clerk's office has received the 2004 deer, turkey and elk applications, along with information booklets. Applications to the Department of Wildlife and Parks must be received or postmarked no later than Friday, July 16. For questions, call (785) 462-4500.

Items still needed for camp

Donations are still needed for Girl Scouts in Colby who will be attending summer camp during mid-July at Camp Hansen, Kirwin Lake, said Brette Pfeifer, coordinating activities. Thanks to the overwhelming response, Pfeifer said, they now have enough 45s and coffee cans; however, pillow cases (whites and light pastels); clear fingernail polish; rubber O-rings; clear sealant spray, and bubble gum are needed. Pfeifer said she would be glad to pick these items up by calling her at 460-6006.

Fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include Thomas County

Extension agent report, financial report, bills, committee reports, storage rates, groundskeeper job description and wages and Old Settler's Day. The meeting is 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.

Heartland SHARE delivery Saturday

Heartland SHARE delivery is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Sacred Heart School gym. A share is \$17.50 plus two hours of volunteer community service. There are few shares left. If anyone is interested in ordering, they should call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

