



S&T to buy franchise

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A tentative deal between S & T Communications and Time-Warner Cable has been reached, said Mark Harrod, a spokesperson for Time-Warner in Stanford, Conn.

Amidst recent rumblings that Time-Warner franchises in Colby, Oakley and Trenton had sold to S & T Communications, Harrod confirmed that there was an agreement to sell the franchises, but the date of closing has yet to be determined.

"Time-Warner is normally in the business of acquiring companies," Harrod said today, adding that he was unsure about the exact details as to why those three franchises were sold. He did say that a tentative agreement was reached last Friday. More details of the sale will appear later.

Storms damage Russell

RUSSELL (AP) — Thunderstorms with high winds and some tornadoes made their way through a handful of counties in north central Kansas this week taking down trees and power lines and causing property damage but only a few minor injuries.

"We had three storms converge on the county at once," Russell County Sheriff John Fletcher said. "One from the west, one from the northwest and one from the north."

"We're guessing somewhere between 12 and 18 tornadoes touched down in the county last night," he said. "They were coming down so fast we couldn't keep track of them. Luckily, they wouldn't stay on the ground for long. They did enough damage doing what they did."

Fletcher said he had reports of damage to two houses, a barn and "a bunch of outbuildings and a whole lot of telephone poles."

He said officials planned to fly over the county Thursday to check for additional damage.

Track not closed



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby school district groundskeeper Don Morton inspected the track at Dennen Field this morning. He said the track is still open for walkers and will be open until work starts to resurface the track. Morton said there isn't a solid date yet for the work to begin but he said as long as the gates are open, people are welcome to walk at the track. (This information reached the *Free Press* too late to correct the information in today's SportsLine on page 12.)

Contest fails in attracting participants

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Entries are open for the Thomas County queen and princess contest, but as of Thursday no one had entered, Marie Skolout, who is in charge of the contest, told the Thomas County Fair Board at its Thursday meeting.

She said the deadline to enter is July 23 and the contest will be held July 30 at the Quality Inn. Skolout said the queen and princess buckles just came in and she already has the saddle.

She said she's received calls from as far away as Wichita and eastern Kansas from people expressing an interest in the contest but only northwest Kansas residents can enter.

Another item of discussion at the meeting was carnival insurance.

Board member Darrel Dible said the Thomas County Amusement Association managed to get new insurance for the carnival for this year. Kerry Wark, chairman of the amusement association said this morning insurance isn't going to be a problem. He said the association was finally able to secure insurance for the five days of operation during the fair and year-round liability insurance.

The board also heard committee reports. Groundskeeper Bob Rindel gave an update on the buildings and grounds. He said he's sprayed

around the rodeo pens and that the new mower is working well.

The buildings, he said, are in "good shape" and repairs to the horse barn are complete and painting will soon begin on the steer barn. Gary Garrett gave a report on the rodeo. He said five chutes are already sponsored and they only need one more sold, and feed has been donated for the rodeo stock.

The board also heard a report from county extension agent Joe Leibbrandt. Leibbrandt said he's keeping busy with judging clinics and other 4-H activities, including an upcoming clinic on Tuesday, and painting on Thursday.

He also said the 4-H Building is booked full and the building is being used on a fairly regular basis this summer.

Leibbrandt said fair preparations are going well with most of the judges committed and trophies sponsored.

In other business, the board:

- Received a \$5,000 check from the Thomas County Attorney's drug forfeiture fund and the money will be used for fair premiums.

- The board went into executive session to discuss the groundskeeper job description and wages. When it returned to open session, approved one change to the job description, to say the board will supply the mower and fuel instead of the groundskeeper.

Intelligence committee to release Iraq investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — A highly critical Senate Intelligence Committee report concludes U.S. intelligence analysts remained objective, but got careless, as they estimated the threat Iraq posed prior to the U.S.-led invasion, officials familiar with the report say.

After a yearlong review, the committee on Friday was releasing more than 100 conclusions on the quality and quantity of the intelligence community's Iraq assessments, including estimates on the former government's purported mobile weapons labs, chemical and

biological weapons, nuclear program and unmanned aerial vehicles.

Republicans and Democrats alike on the Senate committee have said their report was a hard-hitting review of the intelligence agencies' performance that would not paint a flattering picture of the CIA.

One U.S. official familiar with the report said it does not charge the agency with losing objectivity but accuses its analysts of not being rigorous or careful in their intelligence assessments.

The report comes as President Bush is deciding when to nominate

a permanent replacement for CIA Director George Tenet, whose resignation becomes official Sunday. Tenet's deputy, John McLaughlin, will then take over.

While it was initially expected that Bush would keep McLaughlin in place through the November election, senior administration officials have indicated Bush wants to find a permanent replacement sooner. Bush said this week he has made no decision.

The Senate report is among a litany of investigations under way into the intelligence community's

recent performance. Bush named two commissions to investigate the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and U.S. intelligence capabilities regarding weapons of mass destruction.

A joint congressional inquiry already delved into the Sept. 11 attacks, finding numerous mistakes that prevented authorities from stopping al-Qaida. The House Intelligence Committee is also looking into the Iraq weapons estimates, among still other independent reviews.

The Senate report is the first part

of a two-phase review, which at times polarized the usually bipartisan Intelligence Committee. Democrats wanted to see the investigation handled in a broad, single phase that would include other issues such as whether senior Bush administration officials misrepresented the analysis provided by the nation's intelligence apparatus as they made the case for war.

Democratic aides say senators will make arguments about the issue of intelligence exaggeration in "alternative views" that will be attached to the report.

Preliminary hearing on theft, burglary postponed

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A continuance was granted for a 32-year-old Levant woman charged with multiple counts of burglary and theft involving prescription drugs.

Kimberly Anne Boardman's preliminary hearing was initially scheduled for mid-June in Thomas County District Court. However, a new date, said Allan Taylor, Thomas County attorney, has yet to be determined.

After her arrest in February, Boardman was charged with burglary, theft, and possession of narcotics and depressants that she allegedly took from the homes of coworkers and other individuals, said Gary Shull, Colby police investigator.

Shull also said their police investigation concluded that Boardman was alleged to have taken prescription medications from a home in the 1100 block of LaHacienda Drive, the 600 block of North School Av-

enue and the 800 block of East Eighth Street, which resulted in the three burglary charges.

About two months after the charges were filed, Boardman's attorney, Todd Stramel, Colby, entered a plea in district court and, on behalf of his client, that she was not guilty to all three theft charges and the one charge of being in possession of a depressant drug.

The three theft charges, which Boardman is pleading not guilty, include a bottle of phenteramine, 12

to 15 morphine sulfate pills, 15 to 18 Oxycodone, one Flovent atomizer, about 20 tablets of endocet and 2 hydrocodone tablets.

When the preliminary hearing is rescheduled, Boardman will also be facing the other 7 charges of which 3 relate to the burglaries and the other 4 charges to possession of an opiate and similar types of pain medications that she is alleged to have illegally possessed, but were unrelated to any of the theft charges she is pleading not guilty on.

Briefly

Fireworks display Sunday

Colby's fireworks display, which was postponed due to rain and thunderstorms, has been rescheduled for Sunday at 10:15 p.m. or as soon as the Thomas County Speedway races finish.

The event will be held at the Thomas County fairgrounds. Each year the display is made possible by the Colby Kiwanis Club and Colby Fire Department through donations.

Amusement group to meet

The Thomas County Amusement Association will meet at 8 p.m. on Monday, reports Wanda Brown, spokesperson for the group. The meeting, to which the public is invited, will be held in the Thomas County Office Complex.

"Just three weeks until the fair," Brown said, as a reminder to all. (A letter updating the organization's plans can be found on page 2 today.)

Voter registration still open

Voters who haven't registered still have time to register to vote in the Aug. 3 primary election. The county voter rolls close at 5 p.m. on July 19 and won't reopen until the day after the election.

For information on registering to vote, call the Thomas County Clerk's 462-4500.

County commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet on Monday at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include: Lynette Koon with the 2005 Soil Conservation District budget request; an update on a Department of Justice grant from John Lygeros; health insurance renewal; and at 1 p.m., the commissioners will meet Lacey and Smith Township board members at McCarty Dairy. The meeting is open to the public.

Volunteers needed at fairgrounds

Volunteers will be needed this year at the Thomas County Fairgrounds to help with the amusement association's games. For those wanting to volunteer time call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce office at 460-3401.

"We are helping to schedule volunteers and would like your name on our sheet," said Jada Tubbs, executive director of the chamber.

Pre-Pickin On the Plains event planned

A pre-festival event in conjunction with *Pickin On the Plains* is scheduled Thursday, July 15 starting at 4 p.m. with registration for the pedal tractor pull open to children ages 4-12. The pedal tractor pull activities begin at 5 p.m. at the Thomas County fairgrounds and is being sponsored free by Farm Bureau Association. For questions on any of these pre-festival activities, call (785) 460-6332.

Colby
Weskan
Sharon Springs



60s and 90s to prevail

Tonight...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the south 5 to 15 mph after midnight. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 5 to 15 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. **Saturday night...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Sunday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s. West winds 5 to 10 mph with higher gusts. **Sunday night...**Mostly clear. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. **Monday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s.

The numbers

Thursday's high, 97

Low this morning, 63

Records for July 9, 107 in 1978 and 38 in 1905 (Colby's coolest July temperature ever)

Year ago today, 91 and 67

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00

July total, 2.22 inches

Soil temperature, 80

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 8 = 1,957 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.

