



COLBY FREE PRESS

Adjusting air packs



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Rick Dickman, Colby assistant fire chief, looked over the air packs today in the city's new rescue truck. The \$130,000 vehicle will replace the older truck which was used in traffic accidents. The new truck also houses the Jaws of Life and entrapment

equipment. With the addition of the new rescue truck, which was budgeted in 2004, Dickman said the fire department now has in its inventory three fire trucks, the new rescue truck, and three county fire vehicles.

Residents in Colby area help Florida

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Red Cross Chapter's emergency response vehicle is on its way to Florida to be used to help with relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley that struck over the weekend.

Except this time, Molly and Jim Oliver of Colby aren't the drivers.

Molly Oliver said two new drivers trained earlier this year—Frank Powers of Gove and Amanda Schmidt of Colby—are on their way to Tallahassee and will then be sent out for three weeks of volunteer efforts to help feed relief workers and area residents affected by the storm. The two were one of a group that trained to help with disaster relief around the country.

She said the pair left early Saturday morning for Montgomery, Ala. but they were told to go on to Florida because the new relief headquarters are now in Tallahassee to be closer to the coast. Once there, Schmidt and Powers will be assigned an area to work.

"They could go anywhere and they'll work out of that disaster site," she said.

This is the first disaster in quite some time the Olivers haven't had to respond, but Molly Oliver said they're glad the area has more volunteers qualified to drive the emergency response vehicle.

"We have mixed emotions," she

"We are elated and excited for them and grateful more people in the community came forward."

Molly Oliver, talking about volunteers with Thomas County Red Cross

said. "We are elated and excited for them and grateful more people in the community came forward."

She said Schmidt called Sunday night and asked her if it would be possible to stay longer than three weeks to help.

Se said their supervisor might let them because the hurricane is one of the biggest disasters since the call up for the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

Because of the scope of the disaster, she said more volunteers from the area might be called up to drive emergency response vehicles already in Florida. If they are needed, they'll have to fly out, but that will only happen if more drivers are requested.

With Denver company

Undersheriff questions 911 renewal

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners approved renewing the county's 911 contract with 911, Inc. of Denver in the amount of \$1,975 at their meeting this morning. The one-year contract takes effect Sept. 1 and is for annual technical support.

The commissioners had a memo from Undersheriff Mike Baughn about renewing the contract, and

Commissioner Ron Evans said Baughn had reservations about continuing with the Denver company.

The commissioners teleconferenced with dispatcher Marlene Pfeifer who said they need a 911 provider or the county won't have 911 services.

She said if the county switched, new equipment would have to be purchased and put in.

She also said they need a new computer for the system because

one of the pieces of equipment is old and parts aren't available anymore.

Commissioner Glen Kersensbrock wanted to talk with S&T Communications to see if they would be able to provide 911 service. Someone from the company will be at the Aug. 31 commissioners meeting to discuss the matter.

The commissioners also discussed a new phone system for the courthouse.

Judge Glenn Schiffner has been

working to get new phones because the court phones were damaged by lightning.

Evans wanted to know if new phones were going in for just the courts or the entire courthouse and also had concerns about compatibility.

Commissioner Duane Dawes said the whole building will be getting new phones at some point.

"They're doing the whole courthouse for \$32,000," he said.

Aircraft company's CEO expecting profits this year

WICHITA (AP) — Raytheon Aircraft should make money this year, its chief executive officer said, after earlier projections that it would break even or show a loss.

"We've turned a corner," Jim Schuster told The Wichita Eagle. "We still have a lot of work to do."

Last month, Schuster told Wall Street analysts that the airplane manufacturer is on track to make \$30 million to \$35 million this

year after posting a small profit in 2003. That follows several years of cutting costs, improving customer service and sales support, property sales, product upgrades and outsourcing. While Schuster said some of those decisions have been "brutal," he added: "We're doing the right thing."

Schuster said Raytheon Aircraft should be generating more than \$200 million a year in profits based on its annual revenues of about \$2.3 billion.

Wichita diocese setting up group for victims

WICHITA (AP) — Saying that sexual abuse by clergy crosses denominational lines, the Catholic Diocese of Wichita is setting up an ecumenical group for victims of such abuse.

"We're taking the approach, 'Build it and they will come,'" said the Rev. Paul Coakley, vice chancellor of the diocese.

"We know that there's a problem, we know that people have been

hurt, and we want to help with the healing."

But in working to establish the new group, the diocese continues to withhold its endorsement of an existing support group for Catholic victims of abuse.

For the past 18 months, a support group sponsored by the Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests—or SNAP—has met in the Wichita area.

But the diocesan newspaper has not carried information about the group's meetings, and the diocese has no immediate plans to endorse SNAP's efforts.

"Our basic position is, until that group has a track record of positive healing, we're not willing to give it an endorsement," said Monsignor Robert Hemberger, interim administrator for the diocese. "I'd just love to hear from some of their

people who have been through the process who say, 'That was just the greatest thing that happened to me.'"

The diocese's stance disappointed Janet Patterson, coordinator of SNAP's Kansas chapter.

"I don't understand what their definition of 'healing' is," Patterson said.

"I think we can easily complement what they're doing."

Colby
Selden
Rexford



Looks like the 90s Tuesday

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. A 20 percent chance for thunderstorms. Winds easterly 5-10 mph. **Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 5-15 mph with higher gusts. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 10-15 mph and gusty. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance for thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. Winds out of the east 10 mph. **Wednesday night...**Partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance for thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

The numbers

Sunday's high, 81
Low this morning, 55
Records for Aug. 16, 106 in 1929 and 50 in 1979
Year ago today, 93 and 61
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.45
August total, 1.23
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

• Aug. 13-4-15 = 2.027 million gallons (daily average over that period).

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

County fair premium checks ready

Premium checks for this year's Thomas County Free Fair are now ready to be picked up at the County Extension office, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions, call (785) 462-4582.

Licensed childcare provider class set

Smart Start Northwest Kansas and Colby Community College Resource and Referral are sponsoring a class that is open to anyone who is interested in becoming a licensed childcare provider. The class will be held Thursday, Sept. 9, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Colby College Student Union room 106. The class is free and anyone interested in information or to register is asked to call 1-(888)-634-9359, ext. 250.

Colby school board to meet

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. today in the board room of the administration building. Items on the agenda include track resurfacing, reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent, tour of district facilities, superintendent evaluation, eligibility rules for athletics, resolution to destroy old records, emergency substitute license requests and personnel issues if necessary.

High school swim party set

The Colby High School dance team is hosting a swimming party for

all Colby High School students from 8-10 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community College swimming pool. Cost of admission is \$2.

Divorce Care classes begin Thursday

A 13-week Divorce Care course, which includes topics of forgiveness, financial survival, child care and new relationships, will begin Thursday at Colby Wesleyan Church. The course will help those who are separated or divorced understand and heal from the pain and loss that occurs from divorce, said Karen Merryman, one of the organizers. The program is biblically-based and open to anyone. For questions or to register for the classes, call Merryman at 460-9077.

Horticulture Day planned this month

The K-State Research-Extension Center in Colby is planning a Horticulture Day from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24, at 105 Experiment Farm Road. There will be speakers and displays with topics ranging from tomato and pepper trials and soil preparations to lawn care, general gardening and trees. Registration begins at 6 p.m., introductions at 6:15 p.m. with the program from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For questions, call 462-6281.

Heartland Share delivery set for Aug. 28

Heartland SHARE delivery is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 at Sacred Heart school gym. For information or to find out what qualifies a person to receive shares, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

