



# COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages

## 'Hello, world!'



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Jakob Koon played on the slide at Fike Park Wednesday. He and his brother, Joshua and mother Lynette Koon were enjoying the warm weather. Other families were also out at the park taking advantage of the warmer than usual winter temperatures.

## Repair work board's focus

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Talk of sprucing up the fairgrounds and what needs to be priorities were discussed at Thursday's Thomas County fair board meeting.

At the February meeting, president Stan Strange asked members to come up with a list of concerns to discuss. The board did bring their ideas and came up with a few they think need to be taken care of first.

The consensus was new gates and fencing at the track, a portable speaker system for the sale area, the solar building, kitchen repairs and a new small animal building.

Strange said replacing some trees on the north side of the grounds should also be a priority, along with other beautification ideas mentioned. Board member Darrel Dible suggested getting rid of the concrete slab just south of the 4-H building parking lot, which could be used as the site of a new building in the future.

Mark Bredemeier, board member, brought up putting a gazebo where the queen's barn once stood.

"Those are all valid things," Strange said, adding the trees, fences and speakers are at the top of the list.

A more pressing matter are repairs to the commercial building. Board member Mark Anderson reported at the last meeting the roof is sagging and cross braces holding it up need repair or replacing.

He said repair costs could be be-

tween \$3,500-\$4,500 and the board approved giving Anderson authorization to get the building repaired. However, that is contingent on the estimates not going over \$5,000.

"It needs to be done regardless," Anderson said.

The board also discussed the theme for this year's fair parade.

Thomas County Extension agent Joe Leibbrandt told the board during his report 2005 is the 100th anniversary of 4-H in Kansas.

The board decided that would make a good theme, and decided it will be "Celebrating 100 years of Kansas 4-H."

Also on the agenda was the 4-H dog show. Group leader Carrie Bredemeier told the board the Kansas National Guard Armory, which they use for shows, is being renovated this summer. That is forcing them to look for another location to hold the event which is slated for July 23.

Bredemeier said one option is the gym at the intermediate building at Colby Grade School, which is big enough to put up two rings.

She said renovations at the armory might also affect the spring show scheduled for Saturday, April 30 but isn't sure yet. She also wanted to know if the board would help pay for the cost of renting the armory, which they approved.

Bredemeier added the club members are doing fund-raisers to earn money for a trailer to put their showing and agility equipment in.

## Nominations sought for business, community service

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The search is on for the 2004 Business Person of the Year and nominations for the Community Service Award, said Mary Ann Downing, executive director of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

The deadline to submit names for

either award is Thursday, March 31, she said, with winners to be announced at the Chamber's annual banquet on Friday, April 22.

Only the winners in both categories will be named at the event and nominees must be a Chamber member or an employee of a Chamber member.

In choosing someone for the

honor of business person in 2004, Downing said, the Colby Ambassadors are looking for someone with good business management, a positive attitude, and professionalism.

Along with those attributes, Downing said, the judges are also looking for a business person who has advanced the community of Colby and Thomas County through

their voluntary efforts as well.

In seeking nominations for the community service award, the judges are wanting a person who has volunteered time to their community and done so without pay.

Applications forms are available at the Chamber of Commerce office, 350 S. Range, Suite 10, Colby, Kan. 67701, Downing said.

In addition to the criteria for either award, the judges ask that all nominations be based on the accomplishments in 2004.

At last year's Chamber banquet, Mike Woofert was named the 2003 Business Person of the Year and John Eicher was the Community Service Award recipient.

Two years ago, the Business Per-

son of the Year in 2002 went to two people — Mike and Jackie Wiens, owners of Someplace Special Floral and Gifts and the Community Service Award, also went to a couple, Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel.

For questions about the search for nominees or general information, call Downing at 460-3401.

## Two charged in chase, gas skip

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Two men who led authorities on a high speed chase after a gas skip have been charged in Thomas County District Court.

Gary C. Rutland, 53, Hiawatha, Kan., and Brian K. Pate, 40, Mt.

Olive, Ala. have been charged with fleeing or attempting to elude a police and failing to pay for gas at the BP 24/7 station on Feb. 28.

After a clerk at the convenience store alerted authorities, a high speed chase after Rutland and Pate ensued.

Officers from the Colby Police Department, Thomas County Sheriff's Office and Sherman County Sheriff's Office assisted in stopping the two men on Interstate 70.

Deputies from the Sherman County Sheriff's Office in Goodland headed east to assist Thomas County and Colby officers and road spikes were set up at the Edson exit, Colby Police Investigator Gary Shull said the morning of the incident.

While Rutland and Pate initially denied knowing each other saying one of them was a hitchhiker the other had picked up, they later admitted they did know each other and were on their way to California.

If convicted, and depending on a presentence investigation, both men face up to one year in the county jail and a fine not to exceed \$2,500 for not paying for the fuel. They also face up to 6-months in the county jail and a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer.

## Blown away



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Sue Parks of Colby stood in utter amazement after seeing the tree in her front yard downed from wind Thursday afternoon. Colby police officials and employees from the public works department assisted in the clean up on Grant Street near Pine. Parks rents her home from Junelle Hills, also of Colby.

Colby  
Hoxie  
Oakley



## Hey, they're talking snow

**Tonight...**Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows in the lower 30s. West winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 30 mph early in the evening. **Saturday...**Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. North winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph. **Saturday night...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows in the upper 20s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. **Sunday...**Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow. Highs in the lower 40s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph. **Sunday night...**Cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. **Monday...**Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain or snow in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 40s. **Monday night...**Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Lows in the lower 20s.

### The numbers

Thursday's high, 58  
Low this morning, 22  
Year ago today, 58 and 23  
Records for this date, 87 in 1989 and -20 in 1948  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
Precipitation for month to date: 0.00  
Snowfall for month to date: 0.00  
Soil temperature, 44

### 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.

## Briefly

### 'Hat Dance' planned Saturday in Colby

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club is having a dance Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. in the Colby Middle School auditorium, 750 W. 3rd St. Mike Turner of Wichita will call a "hat dance," said Delma Dible, one of the coordinators.

### Park, third rod pole permits available

Park permits will be raising fees starting Friday, April, 1, said Shelly Harms, Thomas County clerk. The cost of park permits is \$34.50 until Thursday, March 31. In addition, Harms is reminding fishermen that third rod pole permits are now available also at the Thomas County Courthouse, 300 N. Court, Colby. For questions, call Harms at 460-4500.

### Colby school board to meet

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Adminis-

tration Building. Items on the agenda include approval of the consent agenda; a curriculum presentation; reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent; budget discussion; republishing of the 2004-2005 budget; bids on a Suburban/Expedition; setting the date for a special board meeting; personnel issues if necessary and negotiations.

### Silver-haired legislature election next week

An election will be held in Thomas County next Wednesday to elect a representative for the Silver Haired Legislature. To vote in this election, said Glenna Clingsmith, information and assistance coordinator, a person must be registered as a Kansas voter in Thomas County and be 60 years of age or older on the election date. The election will be held during regular business hours at the following poll places: Senior Progress Center — Colby; Red Barn Senior Center — Rexford; and Senior Center — Brewster. For questions, call toll-free the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, (800) 432-7422.

