



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Special dig sites set up around area

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

GOODLAND — Trowels are sharpened and the sites staked out at three locations along Middle Beaver Creek near Kanorado.

Every morning for the next two weeks, volunteers will board a school bus before 8 a.m. for the trip to the Kansas Anthropological Training field school.

The special dig targets an area where over the past few years has produced artifacts and bones are among the oldest possible evidence of humans on the High Plains.

Dr. Steven Holen of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and Dr. Rolf Mandel of the Kansas Geological Survey are leading the excavation, with support from the University of Kansas and the state Historical Society.

The digging began Saturday and continues through June 19, with volunteers excavating the creek banks in a methodical, scientific search for more bones and artifacts to support the theory that there were people out here as early as 12,200 years ago.

Headquarters for the Kansas Anthropological Association's program is Goodland High School, where registration is held and a lab has been established in the cafeteria.

Besides the field work and the



Mike Baughn

lab, there are evening programs open to the public. Wednesday, people can bring anything of a fossil nature to Collector's Night beginning at 7 p.m. (MDT) at the high school cafeteria.

"We welcome people to come to the high school and check out the lab during the day," said Sharon Sage, event coordinator.

"The collector's night is a good chance for people to bring things to have the experts identify the items.

"There will be a site tour of the excavations at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. To take the tour, people need to come by the high school and sign up by 5 p.m. on Thursday.

"This tour will give people a chance to actually see the three sites. The pre-registration is to be able to arrange for transportation from the high school to the site."

The final evening program will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, when the volunteers will gather for an ice cream social and resume to review what has happened during the two weeks.

Sage said there will be a silent auction to help raise money for the Anthropological Association for upcoming digs.

Evening speakers include local historian Mike Baughn or Marilyn Cooper, who will talk about the July 1867 Kidder Massacre at 7 p.m. on Friday at the high school. Tuesday at 7 p.m., Janice McLean of the state Historical Society will speak on "Patterns of High Plains Lithic Resource Use."

Next Friday at 7 p.m., Chris Widga will talk about the Claussen site excavation last year.



There are eight locations in the city with ordinance violations, said Doug Lewis, enforcement officer. Two of those properties included 440 W. Plum (left) and 505 S. Lincoln (right). At the West



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Plum site, there are many dangerous hazards in and around the house, which has been vacated. At the S. Lincoln address, city officials were concerned about the outside appearance.

## City to review violation orders

By Patty Decker

*Free Press Editor*

Colby council members will hear updates regarding the property violation orders when they meet at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in council chambers.

The deadline, approved by the council last month, for compliance on those orders has expired and Doug Lewis, enforcement officer, will provide current pictures and progress.

The council is expected to take action depending on improvements or lack of compliance at the following sites: 440 W. Plum (Jay A. Epard); 903 Court Terrace (Wesley Rathbun); 660 N. Franklin (Greg Griffin); 955 W. 5th (James H. Bliss); 360 W. Webster (Lloyd G. Lunsway); 505 S. Lincoln (Michael D. Lewallen); 445 S. Range (Donald Thieler) and 480 N. Country Club Dr. (Birkley

A. Barnes).

In addition, another property will be discussed and possible action could be taken.

In other business:

- The council is expected to approve a resolution on the 2006 communications agreement between the city and county.

- Approval of the Thomas County Fair Parade route planned Saturday, Aug. 6, at 10 a.m. is on the consent agenda. The council will take action on the route starting at Fike Park, then south on Franklin Avenue to Cedar Street, then West on Cedar Street to Range Avenue and the county fairgrounds.

- The council could approve the optional contract agreement for Regional Hazmat Response Team in Colby.

- Brian Staats, Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, will review the 2004 audit of city financials and

answer any questions.

- The council will review the 2006 city and utility budgets in order to provide time for preparing the budget for deadline publication and approval.

- Issuance of industrial revenue bonds in the amount of \$1,023,753 for Truck Town will be either approved or denied.

- Following a motion to hold off on private hangar approaches with the airport project at its last meeting, the council will consider interest rates and whether or not to proceed with the project.

- Whether to charge Woofter Pump and Well on the city's well project, which was due to be completed by May 20, or to waive the fee will need approval from the council.

- A request to park a motor home within the city limits has been requested. The council will need to

decide whether it wants to approve such a request or not.

- Charlotte Linsner, Northwest Kansas Family Shelter, is expected to request funding from the city to support the facility.

Last year, the city contributed \$750.

- A weed notice was sent to a property owner and to date compliance has not been done. The council will need to consider what steps are next.

- All towing services within Colby have provided information to the council for its review. The information is for discussion only and no action is expected.

The council meeting is open to the public. For an agenda, call Jo Strange, assistant to the city manager, 460-4410 or stop by the office, 585 N. Franklin Ave.

## Transfer calls top agenda

By Tisha Cox

*Colby Free Press*

How personnel with the Thomas County Emergency Medical Services can be enticed to be on call to transfer patients from Colby to other hospitals was discussed at this morning's county commissioners meeting.

Emergency medical services director Kathy Wright and Ken Gatlin, also with the emergency medical services, and Citizens Medical Center Chief Executive Officer and President Janice McCart were on hand to talk about the matter.

McCart provided information from other counties on what their personnel are paid for transfer calls and how much they charge for such services, which showed that Thomas County is comparable to other counties in the area.

Commission chairman Ron Evans said he would like agreement from the volunteers to be on call for 24 hours for transfer calls only, whether it's one or three days or an entire week. He and fellow commissioners Ken Christiansen and



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Thomas County commissioner Ron Evans talked while commissioner Paul Steele went over emergency medical services information from other counties at their meeting this morning.

Paul Steele wanted to know what it would take for them to do so.

Evans said it could cost an additional \$17,000 a year to pay volunteers, compared to the cost of paying four to six people full-time to do nothing but transfers.

"The first option makes the best sense to me," he said.

Wright said they need to consider that the volunteers all have full-time jobs.

During the discussion, McCart suggested a survey to find out what

it would take, an idea the commissioners thought would yield answers.

Steele requested her help with putting the survey together.

"A survey is the first place to start," he said.

Evans thought the discussion was fruitful and also added that the survey and the dialogue could be used to resolve any future problems.

"Maybe some good can come out of this," he said. "The circumstances of the other day aren't im-

portant." Currently, the county has about 30 volunteers and full-time personnel, of whom Gatlin said five or six have been taking many emergency calls of late.

Wright said some have asked to be taken off the transfer list.

Gatlin said the problem could be alleviated by getting more volunteers, but, he said, finding people to do transfers at night if they receive a call is much easier than during the day because of full-time jobs and other commitments.

— an \$800 bid from Jim's Electric and another from Bickner Electric for \$1,926.36.

The \$800 bid was selected.

Harms said they will probably put two lights in each stairwell and they will be installed to also shed light into the upstairs and downstairs hallways.

## Saddam faces trial for executing leaders

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Former dictator Saddam Hussein will stand trial for a range of charges — from gassing thousands of Kurds to executing political and religious leaders, according to a list of the cases against him obtained from the special tribunal Monday.

Insurgents opposed to Iraq's new government, meanwhile, launched mortar attacks that killed six civilians in the country's north, officials said Monday.

Iraqi officials want the case against Saddam, who could face 500 charges if prosecutors were to proceed on all counts, to concentrate on about a dozen thoroughly documented cases that authorities believe the ousted leader will be convicted on.

A list obtained by The Associated Press early Monday from the special tribunal, which will hear the case against Saddam and 11 of his henchmen, showed that prosecutors seem to be concentrating on 14 cases concerning his alleged crimes.

Many received international attention during Saddam's three decades in power.

The list contained few details, but among the crimes the tribunal says Saddam committed were:

- Executing at least 50 Iraqis in 1982 in the Shiite town of Dujail, 50 miles north of Baghdad, in retaliation for a failed assassination attempt against Saddam.

- Killing and deporting 8,000 members of the powerful Kurdish Barzani tribe, of which the current Kurdistan Democratic Party leader, Massoud Barzani, belongs.

- The 1988 chemical weapons attack on the Kurdish town of Halabja that killed an estimated

5,000 people.

- Executing prominent religious and political figures.

- Ordering the seven-month occupation of Kuwait that was ended by the 1991 U.S.-led Gulf War.

- The 1991 suppression of a Shiite uprising in southern Iraq.

Iraqi authorities believe the trial against Saddam, which could commence within two months, will have a major effect on curbing the violent insurgency, which has killed at least 844 people since the new Shiite Muslim-led government was announced April 28, according to an Associated Press count.

Separate mortar barrages Sunday and Monday apparently targeting police stations in the northern city of Mosul killed six Iraqis, including two children, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

Gunmen also killed an Egyptian with U.S. citizenship in western Baghdad, police Lt. Hamid Zaki said Monday. The victim, identified as Ahmed Kamal, was shot dead Sunday while driving his car. Zaki said Kamal worked as a contractor with Iraq's Electricity Ministry. Egyptian and U.S. embassy officials had no immediate comment.

A U.S. soldier was killed Sunday when a roadside bomb exploded near a military patrol in northern Iraq in the province of Kirkuk, the military said Monday.

At least 1,669 U.S. military members have died since the Iraq war began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Iraqi police shot at a suicide car bomber, whose vehicle still exploded at a western Baghdad checkpoint Monday, wounding three police and three bystanders, a police official said.

## Nobody fell down stairs at county courthouse

By Tisha Cox

*Colby Free Press*

Emergency lighting is going in at the Thomas County Courthouse, but not because anyone took a fall off the stairs, said Shelly Harms, county clerk.

Harms asked that a clarification be made to a story in last Wed-

nesday's *Free Press* that stated "someone slipped and fell going down the stairs," prompting a request for emergency lighting. That did not happen.

Harms said part of the reason for the lighting was prompted by a power outage at the courthouse back in February.

She said the power went out late in the day and it was difficult to see down halls and stairwells.

Not having safety lights, Harms said, could be a liability if someone did slip and fall. At last Tuesday's county commissioners meeting, the governing body approved putting in the lights. Two bids were received

