

## Briefly

### No singles dance planned in June

The Colby Singles Club will not be sponsoring a dance in June. The next dance is scheduled for 8 p.m. to midnight, Friday, July 7, at the American Legion, 1850 W. Fourth St., Colby. All dances are open to the public. For questions, call Carolyn Miller, coordinator, (785) 460-6896.

### County meets Wednesday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m., Wednesday, and not today as previously reported. The meeting will take place in the commissioner's room of the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave. in Colby. Scheduled agenda items include paying bills for May; approving minutes from May 8 and May 15; and signing an agreement for the Thomas County Fair Board and Colby Community College Rodeo

team. Other items: a letter from the Kansas Department of Transportation in regards to an ongoing project; consideration of an amendment to a sewer line road crossing agreement and renewal of premiums for Blue Cross Blue Shield.

The commissioners also plan to review a budget request from the Thomas County Emergency Medical Service; talk about payment of rates for jurors; review of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission May board meeting and 2007 Community Development Block Grant application deadline material.

A letter from the Thomas County Health Department will be reviewed, as well as a letter from the Kansas Legislative Policy Group in Topeka. Various items of mail the commissioners received since their May 15 meeting will be reviewed, as well as a memo from Jim McGuire, custodian and main-

tenance, regarding the smoking structure.

### Day camp deadline Wednesday

The Thomas County Extension office, in cooperation with the local 4-H Council, is sponsoring a day camp from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 6 at Fike Park in Colby. The theme is "Photo Fun Day," said Jan Poore, one of the coordinators. The day is open to 7 to 10 years old.

Children will spend the day learning about photography, games and crafts with lunch provided. Those attending will have a chance to take their own pictures and make their own picture frame to take home. This event is open to 4-H and non-4-H members. The deadline for enrollment and the \$5 fee is due no later than Wednesday, May 31. Only the first 50 children who enroll will be accepted. To register, call 460-4582.

## Energy prices taking toll on Kansas farmers

### Farm management group works with member families

MANHATTAN — The Kansas Farm Management Association, a part of Kansas State University Research and Extension, is one of the largest publicly funded farm management programs in the United States, according to administrator Sam Funk.

Twenty-three economists, who are faculty members in K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics, comprise the association program's professional staff. They work with member farm families in providing production and financial management information for use in decision making. The association's program is

organized into six regional associations.

The K-MAR-105 Association (<http://www.kmar105.com/>) serves as the central information processing unit for the six associations and maintains data banks that are extensively used for K-State Research and Extension activities in agricultural economics.

The Kansas Farm Management Association current membership represents about 2,500 farms.

For information about the association, interested persons can visit its Web site: <http://www.agecon.ksu.edu/KFMA/>.

MANHATTAN — If you think it's painful filling up the car with gas, talk to a Kansas farmer.

Kansas Farm Management Association data showed that gas, fuel and oil prices, combined, jumped an average of 39 percent for KFMA members across the state in 2005.

For northeast Kansas the average is \$68,325, down from \$77,393 in 2004, but above the \$45,629 longer-term average. Southwest Kansas net farm income averaged \$23,779, down from \$29,927 a year earlier, but above the \$21,621 five-year average.

Overall, total costs across all KFMA farms were up an average of 17 percent.

The only section of the state that reflected an increase in net farm income was northwest Kansas, which showed an average \$66,930, up from \$45,801 a year earlier. But, Funk said, that was due mostly to an unusually large change during 2005 in the KFMA member farms in that area. The five-year average for the northwest was \$39,909.

Net farm income among KFMA members in north central Kansas averaged \$42,065 last year, down from \$51,670 in 2004, but above \$37,951 for the five-year average.

South central Kansas data

showed average net at \$36,535, down from \$52,709 and up from a \$34,318 average. Southeast Kansas net farm income was \$76,283, down from \$84,394, but above the five-year \$59,958 average.

While the data on the survey only came from KFMA member farms,

Funk said it's a "fairly good barometer" of how Kansas agriculture is faring.

That 39 percent increase came on the heels of a 21 percent increase in 2004, according to Sam Funk the association's administrator. Fertilizer costs rose on average by 31.4

percent from 2004 to 2005, also making an ever-larger average dollar impact on farms.

The figures were part of an annual summary of KFMA members released recently by the association. In-depth information can be found online at <http://www.agecon.ksu.edu/kfma>.

The summary showed average net farm income for KFMA members in 2005 was \$56,982, down from \$62,604 in 2004, but up from the most recent five-year average of \$43,548. The 2005 summary included survey results from 1,532 Kansas farms.

Funk attributed much of the lower net farm income to soaring energy and fertilizer prices, as well as herbicide and insecticide prices that rose 15.8 percent from 2004 levels.

"Energy components were a gigantic factor, with record or near-record prices weighing on net farm income," Funk said. "With farm income at that level, we had about 50 percent not covering family expenses."

He noted that many of those families are filling in the gap with off-farm jobs or by opening their operations to hunters or others for non-farming purposes.

## Sebelius coy about lieutenant governor choice

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is only a few days away from naming a running mate, but she's not dropping any hints about who will join her ticket as she seeks re-election this year.

The Democratic governor declined Monday to respond to the latest speculation among political activists that her choice for lieutenant governor is Mark Parkinson, a former Kansas Republican Party chairman.

"You'll find out soon enough," Sebelius said Monday, following a Memorial Day ceremony at the Statehouse.

Sebelius said her campaign will release a schedule Tuesday for her announcement, which will come later this week. The governor has

until the June 12 candidate filing deadline to pick a running mate.

The No. 2 spot is open because Lt. Gov. John Moore announced earlier this month that he plans to retire.

Choosing Parkinson wouldn't be an odd move for Sebelius. Moore, a former Cessna Aircraft Co. executive, was a Republican and switched parties shortly before Sebelius put him on the ticket.

Sebelius is courting Parkinson's fellow moderate Republicans, something she did successfully in 2002. Also, no candidate for governor can ignore Johnson County, because it's home to more than 348,000 registered voters, or almost 21 percent of the state's 1.7 million total. Parkinson wasn't available for comment and didn't immedi-

ately return a telephone message left at his Olathe home.

Despite having served as state GOP chairman from 1999-2003, Parkinson is helping manage Johnson County District Attorney Paul Morrison's campaign for attorney general against Republican incumbent Phill Kline. Morrison himself switched parties last year.

Parkinson, 48, also served in the Kansas House from 1991-92 and in the Senate from 1993-96. In 1994, he helped shepherd a new capital punishment law through the Legis-

lature, replacing one that had been struck down as unconstitutional more than two decades before.

Sebelius has said only that she has been looking for a running mate with a broad background. Last Friday, after kicking off her re-election campaign at the Statehouse, she told reporters: "The good news is there's some deep talent out there."

## Weather Corner



### More rain predicted

#### The forecast

**Tonight** — The forecast is calling for a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 54. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 82. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

**Wednesday night** — Partly cloudy with a low near 55. South wind around 10 mph.

**Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high around 85. South wind between 10 and 15 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Thursday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 57.

**Friday** — Partly cloudy with a low around 57.

#### Temperatures

Monday's high, 84  
Low this morning, 51  
Records for this date, 98 in 1989, 36 in 1906

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.12

May's precipitation, 0.53

#### Water Use Report

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday**

• 3,040,800 (May 26)

• 3,405,100 (May 27)

• 3,589,300 (May 28)

• 4,073,700 (May 29)

4 million = Water Warning

4.5 million = Water Emergency

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.



"Playful dog" needs home.

## Dogs, puppies seeking homes

The Colby Animal Clinic found a home for its German Shepherd mix late last week, but is still looking for a few more good homes. In addition to the recent adoption, the clinic still has a one-year-old black chow mix. Clinic officials said he is friendly, gentle and "acts like a big baby." Also animals found Monday night included a female Pit Bull mix adult with puppies found in the 600 block of North Range Avenue.

The clinic is currently looking for the owner(s) of the mother and puppies and a home for the Chow Mix. If the owner(s) do not come forward within a week after the animals arrive, they will be available for adoption.

The only cost for adoption is the price of vaccinations. Anyone interested in seeing these animals are encouraged to stop by the clinic, 810 E. Fourth St. or call, (785) 460-8621.

## Deaths

### Esther L. Cox

Esther L. Cox, 83, of Colby, died Monday, May 29, 2006, in Wichita. Mrs. Cox was born Nov. 1, 1922 in Norton and was a lifelong resident.

She was a seamstress and a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliaries.

Mrs. Cox is survived by her husband, Thurman Cox of Colby; son Butch Cox of Colby; daughter Kay Linville of Garden City; brother

Junior Brier of Colby and five grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Harrison Chapel in Colby. Burial will follow at Beulah Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Harrison Chapel.

Memorials are suggested in her memory to the David Knowles Medical Fund and may be left at any Colby bank or Harrison Chapel.

### Henry L. Elling

Henry L. Elling, 36, of San Antonio, Texas, died Saturday, May 27, 2006.

He was born Sept. 11, 1969. Services are pending with Harrison Chapel in Colby.

### William "Bill" Kleinsorge

William "Bill" Kleinsorge, 78, of Baldwin City, died Tuesday, May 30, 2006, in Baldwin City. Mr.

Kleinsorge was born Aug. 13, 1927. Services are pending with Harrison Chapel in Colby.

More obituaries on page 4 in today's edition



## SUPPER SPECIALS

**May 30 - June 3**

**Evening Buffet  
6-9 PM for \$9.95**  
*(soup & salad bar included)*

*Also serving Daily Lunch Buffet: 11-2*

**MON: Mexican Buffet**  
**TUES: Special: 18 oz. Porterhouse T-Bone Steak**  
*served with side & salad No Hot Buffet available. \$24.95*

**WED: Homestyle Buffet**  
**THUR: Special: USDA Choice 10 oz Strip Steak**  
*with baked potato, salad, and roll No Hot Buffet available. \$9.95*

**FRI: Seafood Buffet**  
**SAT: BBQ Buffet**

**462-6565**

Routine screening and prompt treatment can reduce deaths from breast and cervical cancer.

call to see if you qualify for a free screening

**early detection works**

620-275-5302  
www.preventionworkskansas.com

A message from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Cancer Information Service, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and American Cancer Society.

### RECOVERY.....

The Bright Side of Addiction

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
is there for you and your family

Meetings are Open to the Public  
City Hall Basement  
Tues., Fri. & Sun. - 8:00 p.m.

## American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life  
(available in trade area only)

See American Profile Magazine in today's issue of the




Brought to you by the Free Press and:

1195 S. Range Colby, KS 460-2000

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Faced with a Drinking Problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help

Meetings are Open to the Public  
City Hall Basement  
Mondays & Thursdays - 8:30 p.m.

## MOVIE PASSES

Watch for your name in the Wednesday movie listings for 2 free passes.

(Passes must be used within 7 days.)

Pick up your passes at your:



## 2006 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Join us once again for a fun-filled, learning experience!

**JUNE 5 - JULY 12**

Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Ages 4-13**  
**Mondays - Wednesdays**

For questions call the Colby United Methodist Church Office at 460-2761.

Sponsored by:  
United Methodist Church  
950 S. Franklin, Colby  
Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday

## SLAVENS FAMILY PRACTICE

In order to move to our new location, we will be closed June 1st and 2nd.

BEGINNING JUNE 5TH, WE WILL BE AT 1535 S. RANGE (EAST OF THE QUILT CABIN)

Our phone number will remain the same!

785-460-8000

Thank you for your patience!