

Briefly

Gaither concert Sunday

Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, is hosting another Gaither video concert, 6 p.m., Sunday. This week's concert will feature the video "Something Beautiful." Everyone is welcome and the event is free of charge. Organizers encourage people to enjoy "great gospel music on the big screen."

Volleyball team sets fundraiser

The Colby High School volleyball team is holding a car wash from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, at the Wal-Mart parking lot. The cost is a free-will donation, and the event is to raise money for extra expenses.

Car wash planned next Saturday

The Thomas County Relay for Life committee is planning a car wash from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 22, in the Citizens Medical Center parking lot, 100 College Dr., Colby. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Commissioners meet Monday

Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m., Monday at the courthouse located at 300 N. Court, Colby, starting with a budget request from Jeff Friesen, director of Pioneer Memorial Library. At 9:30 a.m., board members from the Thomas County Historical Society will present their 2007 Budget request. At 10 a.m., David Mayer, a Brewster resident, will request a law or pass a resolution not

allowing any Muslim Mosques be built in Thomas County. Following at 10:30 a.m., is Stan Strange, fair board president and other members discussing the alcohol policy and camping and at 11 a.m., all department heads will be called to talk about budget salaries. Other agenda items include review of the minutes from the July 10 meeting; a discussion about a new emergency alert system; appointment of the county newspaper; review of bills submitted by the emergency medical service; approval of voiding postmaster and communications of contract bills; out-of-District tuition that expired July 1, 2006; approval of voiding postmaster, communications contract bills; resolutions to appoint members to Mid-States Port Authority's Board of Directors and a golf invitation to commissioners from Miller and Associates and an audit letter to County on financial results.

Commodities Wednesday

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park. Laura Withington, with the volunteer office, said items include peaches, grape juice, rice cereal, peanut butter, pinto beans, apple juice and pudding cups. Eligible people may receive them only according to income guidelines on the above date and time only. No other arrangements for pickup will be made. Distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis and may not begin until the advertised time. New income guidelines went into effect July 1. For infor-

mation, call 462-6744.

Advance voting begins next week

To accommodate registered voters in Thomas County for the Aug. 1 primary election, Shelley Harms, Thomas County Clerk, said advance voting will begin Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Starting from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, July 25 and through July 28, voters may vote at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave. Voters can also cast their ballot from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, July 29. The three locations available on election day will be at the Brewster City Hall, Rexford City Hall and Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St.

Bowhunters plan Sunday shoot

The Northwest Kansas Bowhunters are hosting a 3D archery shoot, 1 p.m., Sunday, at the range one-quarter mile north of Colby on Franklin Avenue. Anyone interested in the shoot is encouraged to attend. Participants need not be members of the bowhunters group, said Gordon Rasmussen, member. For questions, call 462-6524.

Scholarship available; deadline near

Colby's branch of the American Association of University Women is offering a scholarship to a Thomas County high school girl who will be a junior or senior in college this fall. Interested girls are asked to pick up applications at Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. Fourth St., Colby.

Weather Corner



Forecast calls for heat wave

Tonight — Clear with a low around 67. South wind around 10 mph.

Saturday — Sunny and hot with a high near 100. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday night — Clear with a low around 70. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday — Sunny and hot with a high near 104. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday night — Clear with a low around 67.

Monday — Sunny and hot with a high near 102.

Monday night — Clear with a low around 68.

Tuesday — Sunny and hot with a high near 101.

Temperatures
Thursday's high, 102
Low this morning, 62
Records for this date, 109 in 1934, 45 in 1943

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

July's precipitation, 1.35

Water Use Report Thursday, July 13

• 2,961,400 gallons

3.5 million = Water Watch.

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.

Proposed rules would limit use of restraint in schools

TOPEKA (AP) — Public schools would be less free to physically restrain disabled and emotionally disturbed students or isolate them from their classmates under proposed rules before the State Board of Education.

The regulations deal with the use of restraint and "seclusion" rooms and are designed to ensure schools use such methods only when a child's behavior risks harming himself or others.

Because there aren't any state regulations, decisions about handling disruptive students are left to Kansas' 296 school districts. Advocates for the disabled want minimum statewide standards.

But the effort faces resistance from educators who argue such decisions should be made locally.

The proposed rules arose from discussions among administrators, student advocates and education groups, and the board plans to discuss them next month.

If board members want to move forward, they'll schedule public hearings.

How schools deal with disruptive, disabled students has become a growing issue because there's an increasing consensus among professionals that physical restraint and seclusion rooms should be avoided, said Rocky Nichols, executive director of the Disability Rights Center of Kansas.

"That consensus is now permeating into all areas," Nichols said.

"All kinds of policy makers are talking."

But Kansas has a tradition of leaving decisions about what happens in the classroom to local boards. For example, while the board sets general academic standards, it doesn't review textbooks or dictate the content of courses.

"To me, this is probably another issue that is a local issue," said board member Janet Waugh, a Kansas City Democrat. "I support local control."

The proposed rules would allow physical restraint only when there's risk of a student harming himself or

others, but ban it as punishment or for "staff convenience." Also, schools would have to train employees in how to properly restrain a student.

Generally, students couldn't be placed in seclusion rooms unless there was risk of harm to them or others, or if the school had an individual education plan that allowed it under specific circumstances.

Only one disabled child could be placed in a room at a time, and an employee would have to be able to see and hear him at all times. After July 1, 2008, all rooms would have to have at least 36 square feet.

For the record

The following arrests or incidents have been provided by either the Thomas County Sheriff's office or the Colby Police Department. All suspects were booked into the county jail and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Thomas County Jail is used by Colby, Oakley, Logan and Thomas counties.

Thomas County Sheriff's Thursday, July 12

• **Burglary, battery, trespass:** James Boney Peptis, 24, formerly of Colby and an infantryman in the U.S. Army stationed in Hawaii, and

Justin James Helus, 25, of Colby, were both arrested at 1:45 a.m. and 2:38 a.m. respectively at a mobile home in the 2100 block of East Fourth Street. The charges included aggravated battery, criminal trespass, aggravated burglary on both with disorderly conduct additionally charged against Helus. According to Sheriff Mike Baughn, the two men entered the residence and started beating up on someone who was staying at that location for the night. The owner of the mobile

home called authorities at 1:36 a.m. when he heard screaming and yelling coming from another area of the mobile home. The tenant said he saw the guest being hit by the two men and when he went to intervene, he was struck by the two men as well. The tenant apparently grabbed a golf club and defended himself, authorities said. However, the guest was taken to Citizens Medical Center with injuries from the alleged attack. Helus is out on bond and Peptis remained in custody.

VOTE, August 1
Republican
BYRON SOWERS
Seeking position of District 1, Thomas County Commissioner



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Byron Sowers, Farmer, Rancher

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