

Fashion show



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Rachel Juenemann was one of many 4-H members who showed off clothing they had made during a fashion review at Prairie Senior Living Complex. It is one of the many activities for the Thomas County Free Fair, which starts Tuesday.

Tree disease found in Thomas County

Thomas County Extension Office received a positive diagnosis for Pine Wilt Disease earlier this week, said Doug Musick, extension agent.

“The sample was submitted by the Thomas County Extension office for a tree located just north of Colby,” he said.

“This is the first confirmed case of Pine Wilt disease in Northwest Kansas, although there have been other suspect cases that weren’t tested.”

Musick said this disease is significant because once a tree becomes infected there is no treatment and the disease always kills the infected tree. Homeowners should be on the lookout for pine trees whose needles turn brown over a two to six week period.

“Sometimes only a few branches will turn brown first but soon the entire tree will turn brown.”

What is Pine Wilt disease?

Pine Wilt disease is not a bacteria, fungus or virus as we tend to think of with most diseases. Instead it is a condition caused when Pinewood Nematodes infest a tree. As they multiply and feed they destroy the resin canals in the tree, clogging the tree’s water moving system and the tree dies from what appears to be severe drought stress.

Pinewood Nematodes can’t move from tree to tree on their own. The usual method Pinewood Nematodes spread is by the Pine Sawyer beetle which is a host for the nematodes. The beetles are capable of flying for several miles but commonly stay close to where they hatched if there are suitable plants for feeding and egg laying nearby.

How to reduce the spread

The best management practice to reduce the spread of this disease, Musick said, is to remove all dead pine trees. Dead trees serve as reservoirs so they should be cut

promptly and burned, buried, or chipped. Trees that die during late fall or winter don’t have to be removed until early spring as the beetles will not be active until warm spring weather arrives. Resist the temptation to harvest dead trees for firewood as the beetles will continue to emerge from the logs and spread the nematodes. Use of insecticides and nematicides has not proved effective in stopping the spread or severity of the disease in trials conducted across the Midwest.

Testing for the disease is around \$10 therefore I don’t recommend testing every dead pine tree for the disease, rather remove dead trees as suggested above.

There is a wide range of susceptibility to Pine Wilt among different pine trees. Scots Pines are very susceptible to Pine Wilt. Luckily we don’t have a large number of Scots Pines in Thomas County. However, Austrian Pines, which are the most common pine species in Thomas County, are also very susceptible to the disease.

White Pines and Ponderosa Pines have good resistance to the disease. Young trees less than 10 years old seldom contract Pine Wilt.

Overall the disease won’t spread to a large percentage of the population in one year. However, the rate and extent of infection in our area will depend largely on how quickly dead pine trees are removed. Often where a few trees have died from Pine Wilt but not removed is where the greatest tree loss can be expected. Therefore treat every dead pine tree as if it is infected and remove it the first chance you get.

For questions, call the Thomas County Extension office at (785) 460-4582; e-mail: dmusick@oznet.ksu.edu or stop by the office, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby.

Father pleads guilty

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A Liberal man facing a possible death penalty for setting fire to a camper as his two young sons slept inside pleaded guilty Wednesday to reduced murder charges as jurors were being chosen for his second trial.

Robert Fox, 55, admitted as part of a plea agreement that he caused the deaths of Chance Fox, 6, and Rowdy Fox, 4. The boys lived with their mother in Hooker, Okla., and were visiting their father in southwest Kansas when they died on March 27, 2004.

Jury selection had begun Tuesday in Sedgwick County District

Court, where the trial had been moved from Seward County in southwest Kansas.

Initially charged with capital murder and first-degree murder, Fox pleaded guilty to two counts of reckless second-degree murder as part of an agreement reached Wednesday afternoon.

He faces nine to 41 years in prison on each count.

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.

Small-town Kansas has big dividends

By Ron Wilson, Director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

“Would you like dividends with that?” That’s not the type of question you would get at your typical hamburger joint. But what if the principle of franchising which has worked so well in the fast food business could be applied to the financial service industry?

Or, put another way, in the insurance and related services industry, is there a way to combine the benefits of a large, national business with the strengths of local ownership and customer service? Brooke Corporation believes that there is – and that belief has spawned a phenomenal business, based in rural Kansas.

Rob Orr is the CEO and chairman of the Brooke Corporation in Phillipsburg. Rob is founder of this remarkable company, which goes back to his rural roots. Rob and his brother Leland Orr, the Brooke Corporation’s Chief Financial Officer, were born and raised in the Phillips County town of Logan, population 589. Now, that’s rural.

Rob was a banker in Smith County, and Leland was an account

ant when they started their own company to purchase an insurance agency. With the tough market in the insurance industry, the idea was born to affiliate with other community banks that had insurance agencies like theirs.

In 1996, the company adopted a “franchise” approach to expansion. In other words, just as successful companies in other fields have grown themselves by offering franchise opportunities to local entrepreneurs, Brooke Corporation did so in the insurance and related services industry. Brooke offers insurance policies and financial products, marketing support, and financing, so that a local owner can create or acquire an insurance agency.

I remember being in Phillipsburg for the Huck Boyd Community

Center groundbreaking ceremony, where it was announced that Brooke would locate its main office in Phillipsburg.

The processing center for Brooke Corp. remains in Phillipsburg, where an advertising center is now also under construction. In 1998, a national office for Brooke was established in Overland Park, Kan. Regional offices were later opened in Kansas City, Dallas, Denver, Nashville, and Sacramento.

Services are delivered through three company subsidiaries: Brooke Franchise Corp., which distributes insurance and provides administrative services for the franchise network’s agents; Brooke Brokerage Corp., which sells insurance to those franchisees and others at a wholesale level; and Brooke Credit Corp., which provides fi

nancing to help Brooke’s franchisees expand.

The Brooke Corp. philosophy is based on the belief that insurance is usually distributed more efficiently by local business owners than by employees of large corporations and that local business owners are more likely to know and to satisfy their customers.

The results of this approach have been phenomenal. In 2005, Brooke Corp. had total assets of \$135 million, up from \$108 million in the previous year. Profits grew by 45 percent.

Brooke had 647 employees and 552 franchise locations in 29 states from Florida to California in 2005, and that’s up to more than 600 franchise locations currently. Those 600-plus locations are up from just 106 locations in 2001.

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Brewster
will meet on the 8th day of August, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Building for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at Judy Reid Residence and will be available at this hearing.
BUDGET SUMMARY
Proposed Budget 2007 Expenditures and Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2007 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	2005		2006		Proposed Budget 2007		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	107,894	21.111	129,900	20.608	166,300	56,662	20.690
Employee Benefits	46,980	15.694	46,341	10.819	54,100	21,963	8.020
Special Fire	0	1.877	7,330	1.828	73,496	5,478	2.000
Township General		2.175		2.175			
Special Highway	2,582		15,000		14,643		
Water	29,447		41,800		89,514		
sewer	17,323		8,000		18,459		
Tash	14,024		15,000		35,549		
Totals	218,844	40.857	263,371	35.430	472,061	84,103	30.710
Less: Transfers							
Net Expenditure	218,844		263,371		472,061		
Total Tax Levied	95,633		87,895				
Assessed Valuation	2,472,378		2,635,116		2,738,587		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,							
i.O. Bonds	2004		2005		2006		
Revenue Bonds						0	
Other						0	
Lease Purchase Principal						0	
Total	0		0			0	

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
Dudy Reid
City Official, Title City Clerk

Public Notice

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Thomas County
will meet on the 14th day of August, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Commissions Room, 300 N. Court, Colby, Kansas for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at the Thomas County Clerk's Office, 300 N. Court, Colby, Kansas and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY
Proposed Budget 2007 Expenditures and the Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2007 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	2005		2006		Proposed Budget 2007		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	1,741,503	8.251	1,761,116	6.727	1,994,544	365,063	4.518
Road & Bridge	1,295,100	8.281	1,245,919	8.194	1,278,200	678,568	8.397
Additional Road Levy	52,734						
Noxious Weed	173,786	1.037	148,770	1.032	160,770	86,941	1.076
Employee Benefits	512,126	5.204	509,693	6.301	552,000	491,075	6.077
Ambulance Service	225,947	1.149	249,224	0.851	300,000	24,535	0.304
Reappraisal	66,007	0.792	88,583	0.768	90,183	63,015	0.780
Service Program for Elderly	68,269	0.810	68,010	0.810	69,828	61,727	0.764
Direct Election	12,550	0.200	42,665	0.538	31,200	24,682	0.305
Historical Society	66,981	0.760	65,000	0.763	80,000	75,542	0.935
Extension Council	96,361	1.254	109,500	1.177	119,676	96,848	1.198
Free Fair	67,000	0.800	67,000	0.777	67,000	59,420	0.735
Mental Health	45,928	0.520	44,000	0.524	44,000	39,705	0.491
Mental Retardation	84,071	0.956	80,639	0.961	80,639	72,772	0.901
Special Liability		0.201	15,149	0.178	31,000	14,009	0.173
Sanitary Landfill	289,879	1.436	321,520	1.969	346,050	153,028	1.894
Community College Tuition	636		5,222				
Special Alcohol Program	28,349	0.108	15,156	0.009	30,000		
County Health	234,579	1.041	174,275	1.046	239,770	122,111	1.511
Household Hazardous Waste	14,506	0.064	15,650	0.101	38,600	33,648	0.416
Building Maintenance	36,887	0.729	113,500	0.750	105,500	60,609	0.750
No Fund Warrants	157,717	1.930	157,716	1.912	177,716	159,478	1.973
Noxious Weed-Equip Reserve	7,097						
Ambulance-Equip Reserve	38,136		19,804		19,805		
Special Equipment	187,888				82,714		
Special Highway Improvement	96,616						
Equipment Special Reserve							
911 Fund	58,977						
Maternal & Infant Grant	201						
Family Planning	33,149				12,498		
Register of Deeds-Equip Reserve							
Micro Enterprise Loans	30,000						
Revolving Loans	10,000						
Sheriff's Forfeiture	420,702						
County Attorney's Forfeiture	63,519						
Maternal Child Health	38,273				13,595		
Landfill Cell-Capital Project	11,204						
Landfill Closure							
Federal Forfeiture							
State Formula Grant	5				7,000		
Sanitary Landfill-Equip Reserve	21,301						
County Treasure Special Auto	50,189						
Prosecuting Attorney Training	3,984						
Community Van	17,646						
E 911	1,587						
Immunization Grant	450				3,042		
Bioterrorism P & R Grant	12,659				16,956		
Register of Deeds-Technology	10,029						
Totals	6,384,528	35.523	5,318,111	35.488	5,992,286	2,682,776	33.198
Less: Transfers	472,551		15,222		20,000		
Net Expenditure	5,911,977		5,302,889		5,972,286		
Total Tax Levied	2,729,762		2,782,995				
Assessed Valuation	76,846,263		78,959,399		80,810,297		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

January 1,

G.O. Bonds

Other

Revenue Bonds

Lease Pur. Princ.

Total

Fire Districts:

#3 - General

#3 - Capital Outlay

#4 - General

#5 - General

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Shelly R. Harms
Clerk

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