

Getting ready



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Amy Carpenter, an assistant at the Thomas County Extension Office, helped set up today for fair check-in. The Thomas County Free Fair begins Tuesday and runs through Saturday.

Hispanic vote may have impact

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Activists are hoping to direct the energy of this spring's pro-immigration rallies to key swing states, where they believe thousands of new Hispanic voters could shift the political tide from red to blue.

In "purple" districts in states like Kansas, where the Latino population is still relatively small, their voting force could make a big political impact, too. Except no one knows which party they'll favor.

Kansas Rep. Dennis Moore, considered a vulnerable Democratic incumbent in a traditionally Republican state. Moore won his seat in 2004 running against a Republican who attacked him for being soft on illegal immigration. This year, he voted for legislation that would make it a felony to be an illegal immigrant — and many Hispanic potential voters took note.

"We need relatively fewer naturalized citizen voters to make an impact," said Melinda Lewis, director of policy at El Centro Inc., a Kansas City, Kan.-based nonprofit.

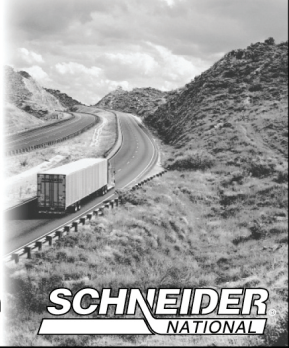
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1994 Continental, 4 Door, White w/ Gray Leather, 6 Cyl. \$2,495

Woman fears of remaining single; wife is treated like a mom

Editor's Note: The Colby Free Press is sampling other advice columns. Please tell us what you think of them.

BY DR. JOYCE BROTHERS

Dear Dr. Brothers: My sweet, wonderful dad keeps pressuring me to marry, and I keep telling him that I love my career, and that I'm loved and successful in my job and in my life in general. I have many good male friends, both married and single, but even though I'm in my 30s, I don't want to plunge into marriage — and let's face it, I'm not the greatest beauty in the world, and I may never marry. I still could give him a grandchild, but I'm not sure of marriage, and unlike him, I honestly don't dread a life without it. It's far from being the end of the world for me. I actually have friends who are in their 60s and are still having fun being single, but I can't make him believe that. I want him to stop worrying and enjoy his own life. — T.L.

Dear T.L.: You might try to help your dad accept the fact that in today's world, many single women in this country are very happy. This is especially true of professional women who've been able to retire, or partially retire, having saved a fair amount of the money they've made.

Those who remain single not only maintain strong family ties with relatives, nephews and nieces, but also have a strong community of friends, many of

whom are also single. Many single women actually have a stronger support group than do married women. People should marry if and when they feel like it, but should never let themselves be pushed, even by the most loving parent.

Dear Dr. Brothers: This is the fourth year of my second marriage ... this time to a much younger man. Basically we're very happy, but sometimes I wonder why he so often comes to me with his small problems or even his concerns about his parents' health and his future instead of asking some of his many male buddies.

I thought that's what all this male bonding was about. It's not that I mind his turning to me, but I certainly don't want him to think of his wife, and very active sex partner, as his mother. — A.D.

Dear A.D.: You're correct to avoid treating him like a son, as that can, not infrequently,

become a difficulty in marriages in which women are older. This, however, might not be what's happening in your case. Unlike women who, when they're concerned or troubled by some matter, are likely to turn to girlfriends to talk it over and relieve stress, males rarely do this, but instead turn to their spouses to confide. Studies show that 45 percent of men go to their spouses, compared with only 21 percent of women.

It's also somewhat surprising that women not only have many more close friends than do men, but when asked whom they consider to be their best, closest friend, they give the name of another woman, whereas men almost invariably list their wives. Part of the reason for this is because most males are still taught to keep their feelings to themselves.

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