



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Carnival volunteers needed

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Ever dreamed of running away and joining a carnival?

The Thomas County Amusement could use some help during the county free fair this week to run its rides, said board secretary Wanda Brown.

"We have about 60 openings," Brown said.

The carnival will be open from 7 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with the ticket booth opening at 6:30 p.m. each night.

The amusement association has 24 games and rides that require two shifts to run each night of the fair. Brown said it takes up to 700 volunteers to man the amusements over the course of the week.

"If we didn't have all these people, we couldn't do it," she said.

The shifts last two hours each, and if anyone wants to volunteer, Brown said they can call Holly Stephens at the Colby/Thomas Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401.

Volunteers and carnival goers may notice a few changes at this year's fair when they walk the midway.

Brown said the association replaced the elephant that was one of its two inflated amusements.

It was replaced by a pony and cart ride for small children, similar to a merry-go-round, she said.

"It's more user-friendly," Brown said.

Another new attraction is the "break mom's china" game. She explained people can throw a ball to break plates to earn prizes.

Brown said another change is how and where gamers can get their prizes. All of the prizes have been moved to one location under the tent. When someone wins a game, they will be given a token and sent to the prize booth.

No changes have been made to any of the adult rides, which still include the Zipper, Scrambler and Tilt-A-Whirl.

Also, she said there will be a special sponsored by F&M Bank Tuesday to kick off the carnival. The first 100 people will get wristbands for half-price and after that, \$25 in tickets for \$20.

Saturday night people can ride all night for \$10.

2003 was the first year for the association, which was formed in 2002 to develop a home-owned carnival for the annual fair after other carnivals said they would not come.

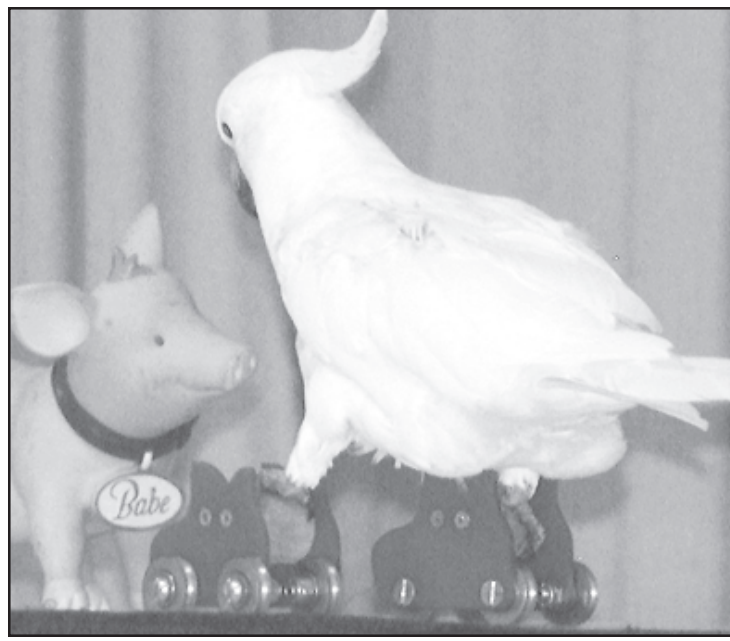
"We had a lot of support from the community," Brown said, which the board still appreciates each year.

Hamming it up



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Porkchop the potbellied pig, above, sat up for trainer John Vincent during the Top Hogs performance Saturday at Sacred Heart School gym. Vincent and pigs Porkchop, Mudslinger and cockatoo Pangee of Franktown, Colo., performed as a wrap up to the summer reading program "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" at Pioneer Memorial Library. **RIGHT:** Pangee the cockatoo showed off his rollerskating skills.



County Fair Schedule

Tuesday, Aug. 1

Thomas County Free Fair begins, Thomas County Fairgrounds

7:30 a.m. Livestock weigh-in,

2 p.m. Cat, rabbit, hand pet and poultry show

6:30 p.m. Mutton busting

8 p.m. PRCA Rodeo

7-11 p.m. Home-owned carnival open. It will be open from 7-11 each night of the fair, with ticket booth opening at 6:30 p.m. Wristband night for \$5.

Wednesday, Aug. 2

8 a.m. 4-H Swine show; sheep show following

3 p.m. Antique tractor show.

4 p.m. Registration begins for pedal tractor pull

5 p.m. Pedal tractor pull

5:30 p.m. Free fair barbecue

6:30 p.m. Mutton busting, grandstand

8 p.m. PRCA rodeo, 8 p.m., grandstand

Thursday, Aug. 3

7:30 a.m. Community Foundation breakfast

8:30 a.m. 4-H dairy, bucket calf, breeding and market beef show

8 p.m. Demolition Derby

Group encourages 'all for Colby and Colby for all'

By John Van Nostrand

Colby Free Press

A minimal investment for some Colby businesses has had maximum return.

About two years ago, a group of Colby business owners and employees created a way to tell the region about Colby. The name of the group is simple — Colby Promotion and the purpose of the group is simple too.

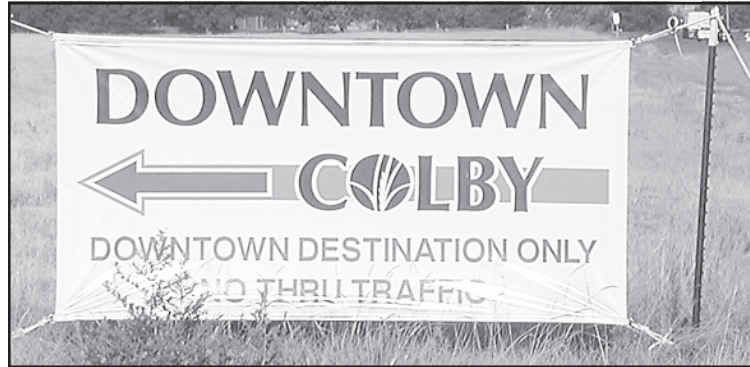
Promotion members said two years of efforts are paying off.

"This is a pretty cool place to live," said Nancy LePell, an accountant who attends the group's monthly meetings. "It is just a group of businesses that feel like we need to tell others this is the place to work, live and shop."

LePell said she has sentimental feelings for Colby and the promotion group. She has been in Colby since 1993. She moved to Kansas from California because her parents lived in the Sunflower State.

Since living here she has appreciated the "neighborly help and people recognizing me. This is a friendly town," she said.

LePell said Colby's personality complements its wares. Colby has



This sign on north Range Avenue during the summer of 2003 directed people to downtown Colby because of the extensive street construction.

tried to make a name for itself as being the largest town between Denver, Colo., and Hays, about a 300-mile stretch along Interstate 70. Hays' population is about 20,000 and metro-Denver's population is more than a million.

"Just look at what we have, parks, a variety of schools, a nearly daily paper and DSL," she said.

LePell is treasurer of Colby Promotion. The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month and is open to anybody.

The only requirement is members pay \$1 a day. To make it easy, membership costs \$30 a month or

\$90 every three months.

LePell said the monthly meetings have a casual feel, but the issues discussed are taken seriously.

"We had no clue how to promote some things," she said. After consulting with others, LePell said the group has spread the word about Colby through newspaper, radio and television.

She said the group has made progress and has the numbers to prove it.

LePell gives some of the credit to Colby Promotion group for the increase in Colby's sales tax base and a one-fourth cent increase in sales

New voting machines debut Tuesday

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

For the first time, Thomas County voters will be using electronic voting equipment for Tuesday's primary election.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., but instead of six locations there's now only three. Those are the Colby Community Building, Brewster City Hall and Rexford City Hall. Colby Armory, East Hale Township Hall and Mingo Co-op are no longer in use.

Voters in Colby Wards I, II, III, and IV will vote at the Colby Community Building's gymnasium. Rovohl, Summers, East and West Morgan and North and South Randall townships will also vote in Colby at the community building.

Brewster City Hall will have voters from the city of Brewster, along with Barrett, East and West Hall and Kingery townships.

In the Rexford City Hall, voters from city of Rexford, Menlo and Gem will vote there. Also, Lacy, Menlo, Smith and Wendall Townships will be included at Rexford.

On the ballot

There are only two contested races in Thomas County. Those include the commissioner's seat currently occupied by Ron Evans. Byron Sowers is challenging Evans on the Republican ticket.

Barrett Township also has one contested race with incumbent Wilburn Holloway of Colby challenged by Patrick Tinkham, also of Colby, on the Republican ticket.

Also filing in Thomas County for township clerk positions were Loren E. Guill, Menlo Township; Wilburn Holloway and Patrick Tinkham, Barrett Township; Arnold Wehkamp, Rovohl Township; Pete Ziegelmeier, Lacey Township; Linda M. Sowers, North Randall Township; Shawn Sammons, Kingery Township; Kenneth A. Johnston, Wendell Township; Gene Huelsman, South Randall Township and Dee Olson, Summers Township.

Filing for committee positions were Jay Kelley, Stephen W. Myers, Kathy Myers for Precinct One; Judy R. Kistler, Kenneth Frahm and Joshua Faaber for Precinct Two; Fred Miller, Marvia Miller, Michael W. Brown and Jeanene B. Brown for Precinct Three; and Paul M. Steele, Bill Adams and Jerrilee Shuman for Precinct Four.

Those filing for township precinct positions were Brenda Clasen, Michael Baughn and David Bowman, West Hale; Rosalie Seemann, East Hale; Ruth Clark and Robert M. Renner, South Randall; Robert M. Riccitelli and Kelly R. Riccitelli, Wendell; Steve Ziegelmeier and Tamara Ziegelmeier, East Morgan; D. Kriss Schroeder and Lisa Schroeder, West Morgan; Lyman Goetsch and JoAnne Goetsch, Barrett; Shirley L. Bourquin and Dan Bourquin, Rovohl; Stephen R. Allen and Terri H. Allen, Smith; Lonnie D. Wilson and Lori A. Wilson, North Randall; and Margaret Flanagan and John Flanagan, Lacey; and Randall Regier of Summers Township.

National ticket, Democratic — U.S. Representative, First District, John Doll of, Garden City.

State-Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Kathleen Sebelius of Topeka and Mark Parkinson of Olathe; Secretary of State, Robert Beattie of Wichita; Attorney General, Paul Morrison of Lenexa; State Treasurer, Larry Wilson of Topeka; Commissioner of Insurance, Bonnie Sharp of Kansas City and State Board of Education, Tim Cruz of Garden City.

National Ticket, Republican — U.S. Representative 1st District, Jerry Moran of Hays.

In the Kansas governor and lieutenant governor, Jim Barnett of Emporia and Susan Wagle of Wichita; Ken R. Canfield of Overland Park and Kathe Decker of Clay Center; Rex Crowell of Longton and Brian D. Shepherd of El Dorado; Dennis Hawver of Ozawie and Bret D. Landrith of Topeka; Robin Jennison of Healy and Dennis Wilson of Overland Park; Timothy V. Pickell of Prairie Village and Jeffrey A. McCalmon of Leawood; Richard "Rode" Rodewald of Eudora and Helen D. Kanzig of Eudora.

Secretary of State, David Haley of Kansas City; Kay O'Connor of Olathe; Ron Thornburgh of Topeka; Attorney General, Phill Kline of Topeka; State Treasurer, Lynn Jenkins of Topeka; Commissioner of Insurance, Eric Carter of Overland Park; and Sandy Praeger of Lawrence.

Kansas House of Representatives is Jim Morrison of Colby.

State Board of Education #5, Sally Cauble of Liberal and Connie Morris of St. Francis.

tax has generated more dollars than projected.

"It reminds people we are here and they do get the message," she said. Rodenbeck said he got the message something needed to be done during the summer of 2003 when U.S. Highway 24, known as Fourth Street in town, was under construction.

"Downtown was blocked off because of road construction," Rodenbeck said. He said that work influenced the creation of Colby Promotion.

"It was a way to help bring people downtown. It was such a hassle."

During the early planning meetings, Rodenbeck said the idea for the committee developed into benefiting the entire town, not just a portion of it.

"It was not about one specific business, but Colby as a whole."

Rodenbeck said he did not expect his glass company to specifically benefit from Colby Promotion. He has also learned more about what Colby has to offer and is not afraid to spread the word.

During his work, he said he had customers ask where they can find certain items in Colby. Thanks to the promotion group, he can answer

those questions.

Relatively new to the group, Brenda Swafford appreciates how all members of Colby Promotion are treated equal.

"It has been good, the cooperation with businesses," she said. Swafford manages the Sport Shoppe.

Having been involved for just the past five months, Swafford likes how all Colby Promotion projects don't single out anyone.

"When we get together we discuss what is best for the community," she said.

Swafford said she likes how the group also considers Colby's future, not just the present.

"We need to continue to look to the future," she said. "We don't always talk about what is happening now."

Rodenbeck said the membership has fluctuated since the group's inception but there is always room for more, just like Colby's business status.

"We would like to have more people involved," he said.

Those interested in joining Colby Promotion, contact the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401.