



12 pages

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Serving Thomas County since 1888

## New director takes helm for Red Cross

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross has a new face. Sherry White took over as the branch manager last month.

She replaced interim director Mary Smith.

White had been a paraprofessional at Colby Grade School but decided on a change.

"I guess I like to be out in the public and I like community service and the fact it was a new challenge," she said.

The position has changed from director to branch manager and White said that is because the Wichita chapter is taking over much of the paperwork.

She said it will give her time to be in the community and help raise awareness about all the Red Cross does.

That, so far has been a learning experience, and she hasn't done any training yet.

"I had no idea all the Red Cross does," she said.



S. White

Blood services and disaster relief come to mind first, White said.

"There's just so much more to it than that," she said.

Three days into the job, Colby experienced a tornado.

"It made me realize how important it is to have an emergency plan in place," White said.

She will over see emergency plans as well as any CPR/first aid classes needed.

Her Red Cross position includes Thomas, Wallace, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Logan and Gove counties.

"There is always a need for volunteers, and not just to go to assist with national disasters.

"Volunteers are needed locally to help out at the office, and many other areas," she said.

There are a couple of open seats on the Red Cross board and volunteering can be anything from helping with fund raising, setting up an emergency storm shelter, or as simple as donating blood.

White said she is excited about working for the Red Cross, and is available to speak for church groups, civic organizations or more.

She and her husband Neil live in Colby and have been married 21 years.

They have three sons, Ryan, 18; Travis, 14, and Kevin, 7.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Dian Organ, far right, with the Regional Prevention Center in Colby and sixth graders from Thomas County schools played "red rover" Wednesday at the school. It was one of many activities

during the Leadership Thomas County class project, which involved presentations for the students on bullying and self-esteem.

### Leadership Thomas County

## Project offers team building

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Thomas County sixth grade students received a positive message Wednesday. The students participated in activities on self-esteem, bullying, team work and positive thinking because of Leadership Thomas County.

Sherry McDonald, one of the leadership class of 2005-2006, said the event was the group's class project, which is the culmination of their efforts.

The purpose of Leadership Thomas County, according to its

mission statement, is to seek "leadership potential, provides the opportunities to develop leadership skills, to gain greater knowledge of Thomas County and to stimulate interest in taking leadership positions."

"We can choose any project that will benefit youth in Thomas County," she said. "It could be preschool all the way up to high school."

There were 11 members in the class that graduated in April. They are McDonald, Jo Cheney, Roger Herren, Sean Hankin, Tim Knox, Margaret Kummer, Karen O'Neal, Page Pfeifer, Tanya Staats, Katie

Strange and Jennifer Van Eaton.

Developing the class project took some brainstorming and input. The class began meeting in October, 2005 and graduated in April of this year. They had until October to complete their class project, and met all summer to get everything organized.

McDonald said they asked the high school students in the class what they thought would be beneficial.

They said sixth grade would be a good age to concentrate on because the kids haven't yet started junior high, and might be receptive to a

message.

They also suggested doing something interactive. She said the class worked around that idea, which the students enjoyed Wednesday.

McDonald said there were various activities for the students, including Jeopardy and outdoor activities, such as tug-o-war and red rover.

At the end of the day, she said the class got together and asked what activities the students enjoyed most.

"They loved them all," McDonald said.

## Celebration Saturday

There are plenty of activities to keep everyone happy Saturday in Colby.

The first event of the day is the seventh annual Colby fly-in, sponsored by the Friends of the Colby Airport. It kicks off at 6:30 a.m. with a pancake, sausage and egg breakfast.

Airplane owners from around the area and Oklahoma and Colorado are expected for the fly-in.

Airport activities will also include tandem sky diving, which starts at 9 a.m.

The Celebration on the High Plains is also Saturday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

The gates open at 5 p.m., followed by a barbecue for the first 800 people. The music starts at 7 p.m. with No Parking.

The celebration will be headlined by Oklahoma country rock band Cross Canadian Ragweed, which will take the stage at 8:30 p.m.

Over the past decade, the band has developed a following in Oklahoma and Texas. More than 250 shows a year has helped cement their reputation as a southern fan favorite.

The band's influences are Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson, and may not be what many people are expecting.

## Colby High gets ready for big week

Colby High School will celebrate homecoming next week under the theme of Victory Fever.

Students are encouraged to participate in each day's costume theme.

Monday is look alike day. Students are asked to dress like a celebrity or somebody else. Dressing as the opposite gender will not be permitted.

Tuesday is toga day. Dress code will be enforced. Spaghetti strap shirts will not be permitted under a toga.

Wednesday is retro day; styles from bygone era.

Thursday is freaks-and-geeks day. Break out those pocket protectors and black, horn-rimmed glasses.

Friday is eagle spirit day emphasizing orange and black.

Hats will be the only exception to the dress code that will be accepted during homecoming week. The remainder of the student handbook will be enforced.

In other activities, a football jersey auction and bonfire pep rally will begin at 8:30 p.m. at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Friday's homecoming parade begins at 2:30 p.m.



FILE PHOTO

Students showed their Eagle pride during last year's Colby High School homecoming parade. This year's homecoming is next week, and the parade will be at 2:30 p.m. down Franklin Avenue, starting at Fike Park.

The parade route runs from Fike Park, south on Franklin Avenue to Third Street, west on Third Street,

cross Range Avenue and to Dennen Field where a community-wide pep rally will be held.

Heather Shelley and the band Nitehawk will give autographs during the pep rally.

## Dodge City College could lose tax dollars

DODGE CITY (AP) — Ford County taxpayers and their local community colleges are taking action to reinstate tax money lost by the passage of a Senate bill that requires only counties that have community colleges to fund them.

Kansas counties supported community colleges with tax dollars before 1999, when the bill made it through the Legislature. It took about six years to phase out support from other counties, leaving 18 counties to pay for all Kansas community colleges.

The bill in Ford County alone: \$860,000 in tax money that other counties would have paid for students attending Dodge City Community College and Dodge City Vocational Technical School.

Terry Malone, a Dodge City Community College trustee, said many people aren't aware of how community colleges are funded.

"The plan is first to do an educational campaign — go to Board of Regents, go to the Legislature, and go to the people and let them know," Malone said. "There is no political solution to this problem. If you have 18 counties out of 105 that bear the financial burden, you have 87 counties that don't have to pay a dime."

Malone added that trustees are also considering filing a lawsuit against the state.

"Just as Salina and Dodge City

**“There is no political solution to this problem.”**

Terry Malone,  
college trustee

school districts did to correct the K-12 situation," Malone said. "And they were successful."

Previously, Hodgeman, Gray, Clark and Edwards counties — which all currently send students to Ford County community colleges — would have paid \$24 per credit hour for out-of-district tuition, Dodge City Community College trustee Morris Reeves said.

About 500 students came from outside of Ford County during the 2004-05 school year. If each student took a full schedule of 30 credit hours at Dodge City Community College, Ford County would have lost about \$720 in tax money per student or about \$360,000 total.

While other counties could conceivably offer to support the community colleges, the trustees said in 40 years there has never been a county that has volunteered to help.

"Obviously, the odds are stacked against us getting any solution," Malone said.