



COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages

Colby to have bangs and bucks July 4

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Fourth of July is just three weeks away, and preparations for the celebration are already in full swing.

The High Plains Lions Club is planning its second community hot dog feed, and the Kiwanis Club of Thomas County still needs donations to help pay for its annual fireworks display.

Lion John Mead, who is heading up plans for the community feed, said they events start at 4 p.m. at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

The menu is hot dogs, baked beans, chips and watermelon.

A dunk tank and other games will be supplied to keep children busy, and the events will run up to about dusk. Mead said the Red Barn Gang could perform, also.

Others helping with the event are Orscheln's Farm and Ranch, Dillons, Pepsi, State Farm Insurance, Colby First Baptist Church and the Colby Free Press.

"It looks like it's going to be bigger than last year," Mead said. "We get a big kick out of it. It's a lot of fun for us."

The Lions event came about last year when the club was trying to come up with a way to give back to the community.

He said the group does a lot behind the scenes, but wanted to do one different event.

Mead said it is also an opportunity to stay in town for the holiday, and watch the fireworks here.

And following the Lions feed, the



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Kiwanis fireworks display will start at 10:15 p.m., said Rick Dickman, Kiwanis secretary.

The fireworks will be held at the

fairgrounds, and shot off by members of the Colby Fire Department.

Dickman said they still need donations to help offset the cost of the

fireworks. Donations may be sent to the Kiwanis Club of Thomas County — Colby, P.O. Box. 501, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Heads or tails?

Rather than spend money on the Fourth of July, the Colby Free Press/Country Advocate and sponsors are offering a chance for those to win some money on America's birthday.

The contest is called Cointest and has some patriotic flavor — other than being held July 4.

Here's how Cointest works

People are asked to write their name and hometown on the entry form in the advertisement in the June 20 Country Advocate. The ad and entry form will also be in the Colby Free Press later this month.

Entry forms can be returned to any of the sponsors or the Colby Free Press. Entry forms must be returned by the close of business, Tuesday, July 3. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Please write legibly.

During Colby's July 4th festivities at the 4H building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds, 43 of the entries will be randomly selected. People who submitted an entry form must be present to play and win.

(George W. is the country's 43rd president, for those wondering "why 43?")

To avoid having trouble with multiple people with the same name from different towns people are asked to bring photo ID to the contest.

The 43 people will be divided into five groups of eight and one

group of three. Each group will have a coin flip tournament. Those who call heads and it lands tails, is out of the contest. The winner from each group will then be in the final round and flip tournament for the grand prize of \$231.

(America is 231 years old this year).

Colby Free Press Publisher John Van Nostrand said he was motivated to come up with Cointest because of what Colby's service clubs and others are doing for July 4th.

"I thought it was absolutely fantastic what the clubs did for July 4th last year," he said. "I've thought Colby was a big enough town to have something on the Fourth of July in addition to the fireworks show. It's even better the groups and businesses are wanting to do it again this year and make it even better. I want the Colby Free Press to be a part of that. I can't thank the sponsors enough who made it happen this year."

Other Cointests sponsors are Peoples State Bank, First National Bank, Farm Credit of Western Kansas; Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. — Jim Oliver; Edward Jones investment — Darryl Henry; Colby radio stations KXXX/KQLS; Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and Colby Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Fairboard approves fireworks

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Fair Board approved letting the Kiwanis Club of Thomas County hold its fireworks display at the fairgrounds July 4, and also approved two families to have a fireworks stand at the fairgrounds.

Rick Dickman, secretary of the Kiwanis Club, asked the board Thursday if the club could use the fairgrounds as it has in the past. Dickman said they have all the necessary insurance.

Kim Redick of Colby told the board she and her husband, Ron, and Cindy and Shawn Reinert want

to have a fireworks stand at the fairgrounds.

Fireworks cannot be sold within city limits, so they approached the county instead. Redick had a letter from the county commissioners, granting their permission. They also told her to ask the fair board for its approval. Redick said they want to have the stand open from June 27-July 4. They are also going to try to have a day where a portion of their sales will benefit Heartland Christian School, Sacred Heart School and Colby public schools.

In other board news ...

The board also talked about barn needs before the fair.

Board member Stan Strange said

some of the barn doors need to be taken down and the tin trimmed so the doors can be opened more easily, and to cut down on possible injuries. Electrical issues in the steer barn were also discussed.

Board president Mark Anderson said the electrical outlets have reached their limit. With all of them being used at the same time, the breaker sometimes blows.

He recommended running extension cords to the building during the fair this year to help cut down on any breaker problems.

The board also learned the new fence will be delivered next week, and the new seating for the grandstands will be installed soon.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CBS TELEVISION

The town of Jericho, seen by this illustration, is the fictitious town in the CBS television show "Jericho." The plot of the show depicts how characters respond in the aftermath of a nuclear attack. In reality, the town of Oakley is at the intersection of Interstate 70 and U.S. Highways 40 and 83 — just like in the television show.

Oakley to host Jericho Convention

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

What might be the one of the largest booms to northwestern Kansas will take place in September when television producers and actors gather for the Jericho Convention in Oakley.

"This will be an opportunity to discuss things you wouldn't normally discuss," said Logan

County Development Director Jamie Bell.

Bell conceived the idea for a gathering of minds when a fan of the CBS primetime drama "Jericho" called him from New York in late April.

The fan told Bell the fictitious city in the show replicated Oakley. "The initial conversation wasn't about a convention," Bell said.

"It was two guys talking about a

TV show. Jericho is laid out differently, but it's where Interstate 70, U.S. Highway 83 and U.S. Highway 40 intersect. Oakley is Jericho."

"Jericho" is not currently televised but CBS has approved seven more episodes. According to CBS.com, the show returns July 6.

See "JERICHO," Page 3

Colby father not home, but missed

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Sometimes a father's protection goes further than his home and family.

For one Colby man, balancing his responsibilities as a dad and also as a soldier in the Army National Guard has been hard at times.

Mike Quenzer is stationed in Kuwait and will miss Father's Day for the second year in a row, said his wife, Julia.

For more than 35 years, Quenzer has served in the Guard and has had the full support of his wife and two sons, Nick and Chris.



Mike Quenzer

In fact, Mike's commitment to the military influenced both of his sons to serve their country, she said. The oldest son, Nick, was in the

U.S. Marine Corp and Chris served in the Army.

Nick said he's been helping out while his dad's been away.

"Whenever my mother needs something repaired or help in some way, I have been there," Nick said.

Although Father's Day will be different again this year without Mike at home, Julia said, she knows her sons are proud of what he is doing and when he gets home later this summer they will plan a special celebration.

Editor's note: Due to communication problems, Mike was unable to contribute to the preceding article.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Belly flopper

Skyler Brogan took a flying leap into the water at the Colby Swimming Pool Thursday. The pool has been a popular destination for kids out of school.

Accident injures 16

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A van carrying 16 people from Mexico crashed near Grainfield in Gove County at 11:45 a.m., Thursday, sending all the occupants to the hospital.

According to a Kansas Highway Patrol report, Jose Rafael Alvarez, 22 of Mexico City, Mexico, was eastbound on Interstate 70 one mile west of Grainfield driving a 2001 Chevrolet van bearing Georgia license plates. A tire blew and the van rolled four and one-half times.

The van, which had 15 passengers, all of Mexico City, Mexico, came to rest on its side in the median.

Flying debris from the van damaged a semi driven westbound by Patricia T. Wood, 53 of Courtland, Miss. Wood was driving a 2004 Freightliner and was pulling a trailer. The windshield was broken and front of the semi was damaged by the debris.

Although none of the people involved in the accident were wearing seatbelts, Wood was the only person not injured.

All of the occupants of the van were taken to area hospitals or airlifted to a hospital in Wichita. Those taken to Logan County Hospital in Oakley and treated and released were Alvarez, and passengers

See "ACCIDENT," Page 3