



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Lazy days of summer



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Lines formed at Wednesday's Picnic in the Park for the hot dogs, chips and drinks provided by Hi-Plains Co-Op. Free-will donations were accepted and will help pay for the fireworks display this fourth of July at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. BELOW: Wednesday's featured performers were the Bugbee Sisters, Karla, left, and Monica, right. Karla's daughter also lent a helping hand. Next week, Scott Cameron will be performing beginning at noon.



## What are Eight Wonders of Thomas County?

By Free Press Staff

When a tourist asks you for your advice on where to go around here, what is your answer?

What, or where, is your favorite spot in Thomas County?

Now is your chance to let the rest of Thomas County know what you think makes our place on the map special.

In collaboration with the Hays Daily News and Thomas County Convention and Visitors Bureau,

the Colby Free Press wants to know the Eight Wonders of Thomas County. The contest is a spin off the Eight Wonders of Kansas, held a few months ago.

The idea of the Eight Wonders of Thomas County will help send tourists to the eight attractions that identify Thomas County.

Inside Friday's Colby Free Press is a ballot to list what you think are the best eight places in the county. You can list a building because of its architecture, the

museum because of what it has to offer, a business for what it has on the shelves, or its service, or a rural location that may be a great backdrop for a family picture.

Voting will be held in two phases during the summer months. The paper ballot will be available in the Colby Free Press in June, so keep watching this paper. Ballots can be submitted to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth St., during regular business hours. Ballots can also be filled out and submitted online.

Address is listed on the ballot. Voting will end June 30. Photo copies of ballots will not be accepted.

The second phase of the voting will list the top 16 sites from all of the entries. From that list, people will vote on the top eight. Ballots will also be available in the Colby Free Press and online.

The 8 Wonders of Thomas County will be announced Aug. 29.

## Legislators 'shocked' by government audit

TOPEKA (AP)- Lawmakers say they are shocked by an audit that discovered sensitive information from government files — including thousands of Social Security numbers — on computers the state had put up for public sale.

The computers, which had been for sale at the state's surplus property office in Topeka, also included personal tax information, state

security data, Medicaid files and confidential investigation reports.

"Even just one computer that slips through could cost the state dearly," said Rep. Virgil Peck, a Tyro Republican who is on the committee that reviewed the audit.

State auditors found the security lapses when they studied 15 computers the state had put up for

sale. Using standard file recovery software that costs about \$60, they found that 10 computers still contained government documents, and seven contained sensitive data never meant to be public.

One computer contained 2,800 Social Security numbers.

"The results were pretty disturbing," said Allan Foster, an auditor who presented the findings to leg-

islators on Wednesday.

Agencies are supposed to erase all files and information on old and surplus computers that are offered for sale to the public.

But some agencies thought another agency would remove the files, auditors said, while others thought that deleting the files and the computers' trash bin was good enough.

## Hoxie doctor loses medical license June 6

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Free Press Reporter  
jkackerman@gmail.com

A Hoxie medical doctor's license has been suspended by the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts in Topeka.

An order alleging Dr. John Rand Neuenschwander is unable to practice medicine with "reasonable skill and safety to patients" was filed by the state medical board June 6.

The order states if Neuenschwander continues to practice medicine the public's health, safety and welfare is in "immediate danger."

Neuenschwander has been licensed to practice medicine in Kansas since June 15, 1973.

Board of Healing Arts Executive Director Larry Buening offered little about the doctor's case.

"Unfortunately the complaints we receive are confidential and state law does not allow us to divulge the source of the complaints," Buening said.

Richard Krannawitter of Hoxie is the chairman of the board of Sheridan County Health Complex. He said he was aware Neuenschwander's license has been pulled.

"I read it on the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts web site," Krannawitter said Tuesday morning.

"We sent in paperwork that was asked of us. I'm basically on the outside looking in. You'll have to go to the administrator for anything more."

Joe Stratton is the administrator of the complex which is made up of a 18-bed hospital, 38-bed long term care unit, and eight assisted living apartments under one roof.

Calls to Stratton were not returned.

The order suspending Neuenschwander's license alleges he treated a patient on Sept. 21, 2007, for injuries related to a motor vehicle accident. A second doctor who saw the patient and "noted several issues" relating to the laceration care of the patient,

according to the order.

The same order alleges Neuenschwander treated a patient for "abdominal pain and weakness" at the Sheridan County Health Complex (in Hoxie) on May 28 and May 29.

Nursing staff contacted Neuenschwander about the patient's "deteriorating condition" and asked that he come to the hospital. The doctor did not arrive at the hospital until "nearly two hours" had passed, according to the order.

The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts is made up of 15 members appointed by the governor.

Twelve of the members hold medical licenses, the other three are members of the general public. The Board licenses or registers 13 health care professions and out-of-state contact lens distributors.

The mission of the Board of Healing Arts is to protect the public by requiring health care professionals to meet and maintain certain qualifications and standards of conduct.

Those professionals include medical, osteopathic, chiropractic and podiatric doctors; physicians' assistants; physical therapists and therapists' assistants; occupational therapists and therapists' assistants; respiratory therapists; naturopathic doctors; contact lens distributors; and radiologic technologists.

Dr. Myron Leinwetter, a family practice physician from Rossville, has been appointed to serve as presiding officer in all proceedings in the case. Attorney Michael O'Neal of Hutchinson represents Neuenschwander.

Buening said the case was set for a hearing on June 25, but has been continued because O'Neal was not available to attend on that day. No new date has been set.

Neuenschwander has until July 7 to file a petition with the Sheridan County District Court seeking a judicial review of the suspension order.

As of Tuesday, a petition for judicial review had not been filed with the court.

## Man charged with rape

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Free Press Reporter  
jkackerman@gmail.com

A Brewster man has been charged with sex crimes against two children for incidents which took place years ago.

Warran Reid, 80, has been charged in Thomas County District Court with two counts of aggravated indecent liberties with a child.

Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick on Wednesday said a family member reported the alleged incidents to local law enforcement. Reid was arrested Friday.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said while the incidents took place some time ago, it was not until recently that the victims came forward about the abuse.

Reid is charged with having sexual contact with a child during a six-year period starting in the summer of 1994 and running through 2000. The child, now 20 years old, was 6 to 12 years old at the time the sexual contact is alleged to have taken place.

Reid is charged with having sexual contact with a second child, currently 15 years old, was 8 when the alleged abuse took place in 2000.

If convicted, and depending on his criminal history background, Reid faces 4 and one-half years to 20 and one-half years in prison and a fine up to \$300,000 for each count.

He has been released from jail on a \$100,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in Thomas County District Court at 9 a.m. on Friday.

## Briefly

### Gaither video Sunday

The Colby Berean Church is hosting Gaither Homecoming Video Concert, "Turn Your Radio On," at 6 p.m., Sunday. Organizers encourage everyone to "come and enjoy" this old, classic concert free of charge. The event will be shown on a big screen television at the church, 1000 S. Franklin Ave.

### Remote car races Sunday

The Racing for Christ Car Club, also known as the RC Club, welcomes everyone to attend its next re-

motocross car races, from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, at the First Baptist Church, 615 Webster, Colby, said Kent Higerd, coordinator. "No experience is necessary for all ages (10 and up) who would like to learn," he said. There are no costs and the event is non-denominational. For questions or information, call 462-3440 or 462-2867.

### Free workshop June 23

The Colby School District is sponsoring a free "21st Century Learner" workshop for students enter-

ing sixth through ninth grade from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, June 23, at Colby High School.

The one-day class will target internet tools and safety while guiding students through digital-aged adventures, said Diana Wieland, curriculum director. Early registration is preferred by calling (785) 460-5000 or e-mail jandrews@colbyeagles.org or dwieland@colbyeagles.org for the registration form.

All students planning to attend will need to arrive at 8:30 a.m., Monday, for final registration. The deadline to register is Friday.

### Donations sought

Anyone who may have missed a recent benefit for Connie Menges, 40, of Colby, in paying medical expenses or who would like to help can send donations in care of: Connie Menges Benefit Account, Sunflower Bank, 500 N. Franklin Ave., Colby, Kan. 67701.

Menges suffered a stroke in February and spent many weeks in a Denver hospital before returning home. She and her husband, Brent, have two children.