

COLBY HREE PRESS

Monday

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Chad Applebury (in the hole above), supervisor at the city Avenue after a pickup knocked it over. Before that could hapwastewater treatment plant, helped the Colby city crew replace a fire-hydrant shutoff valve Friday at College Drive and Range

Police seek truck that broke valve

By Andy Heintz

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of Range Avenue and College home.

enue to get the shut-off replaced, Colby Free Press Bieker said.

This forced the college to close at noon, said Debbie Schwanke, Police are looking for a black- director of public information. colored pickup that struck a fire Classes were cancelled, offices hydrant on southeast corner shut down and students sent

pen, street supervisor Ron Kogler (bottom) pumped water out of the hole, across from Colby Bowl Fun Center.



Plan group subdivides committee

By Marj Brown

Colby Free Press mbrown@nwkanasas.com

The Thomas County Local Emergency Planning Committee organized four subcommittees to meet new state regulations when it met at the Law Enforcement Training Center at noon Thursday.

The sub-committees include hazardous materials, livestock, emergency operations planning and public information. Chairman Susan McMahan, Thomas County emergency management director

"We were unable at this time to come up with a chairman for the hazmat sub-committee," McMahan said. "This is the area where we keep track of places where dangerous chemicals are stored or used to make sure they are marked correctly, stored properly, and used safely. They also do awareness programs each year."

McMahan said she will chair the livestock subcommittee, which was necessary due to a new Environmental Protection Agency rule having to do with the regulation of emission of methane gases ing by the state. released by farm animals.

"Anyone who has over 1,000 head of cattle, 700 dairy cattle, 500 horses, 2,500 swine weighing over 55 pounds, 10,000 swine weighing under 55 pounds, 10,000 sheep, 55,000 turkeys, 30,000 broiler chickens, 125,000 chickens or 82,000 laying hens, must report to me," she said. "I will help them make out the necessary paperwork. I keep one report here at my office and send the other to the state."

Jeanene Brown, education director at Citizens Medical Center, will chair the emergency operations planning panel. It will coordinate plans made by the hospital, schools and other agencies.

Chairman of the public group is Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs and facilities management at Colby Community College. He will design forms to be used by the various committees and subcommittees to make it easier for them to fill out reports to send to the media.

McMahn said these subcommittees will make for a more organized group and also will simplify the increased demand for report-

Tuesday last time for voters to sign

By Andy Heintz

In order to register, you must

Drive, forcing Colby Communialong Range to close.

the truck hit the hydrant at 9:57 a.m. on Friday morning, causing water to gush out into the street and the ditch along range.

The truck knocked off the a pond west of Range. shut-off valve and the top of the hydrant, said Chris Bieker said, city public works director.

To stop the flow so the shutoff could be replace, he said, the crew had to shut off water to Colby Community College and several stores on Range Av-

They called us at 11 a.m. and ty College and several businesses told us they needed to shut off the water supply in order to re-Police Chief Randy Jones said pair the water line," she said.

> Bieker said all the water from the fire hydrant was draining down into the Villa High Park pond east of Range Avenue and

A new valve was put on the hydrant and the water stopped gushing out of the hydrant about 4 p.m.

Jones said the driver of the pickup did not stop or report the accident. Police are looking for the truck and the driver.

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Thomas County citizens who are not registered to vote have their last chance to get on the rolls on Tuesday in the county clerk's office in the Thomas County Courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave.

People will be able to register to vote from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., said County Clerk Shelly Harms, who also serves as the county election officer. After 5 p.m. Tuesday, the books will be closed until after the Golden Plains School District primary election on Tuesday, March

be a United States citizen over the age of 18, Harms said. If you registered in previous years, she said, your registration is still valid unless you have changed your name due to marriage, divorce or legal proceedings. You will also need to re-register if you have moved or if your name has been purged according to state law.

People may register in person, by telephone or by mail, Harms said. Assistant Deputy Clerk Kristi Mann said there are 4,939 voters on the rolls in Thomas County, adding that not many people have registered since the November election.

Irrigation sessions here for farmers next week

Conference and Exposition this year will feature presentations by industry professionals, as and government officials, next week in Colby.

The event begin at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, with registration and the expo displays at the City Limits Convention Center.

The Central Plains Irrigation Technical sessions begin at 10 a.m., and the event continues Wednesday, Feb.25.

Mark Lawson of Monsanto well as university researchers will give an "Outlook on Agriculture's Potential" and Robert Johnson of Sunflower Electric Power Corp. will discuss "The Role of Wind Energy in Agri-

See "IRRIGATION," Page 3

Leadership wants state to cut 10 percent

By John Hanna

TOPEKA — Some top legislators have set a goal of slashing spending by \$625 million in the next state budget to shore up Kansas'

AP Political Writer

recession-battered finances. The cuts would represent 10 percent of the spending financed with general tax revenues, and the push is coming from leaders of the Republican majority in the Senate. Legislators and Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius are required by the state constitution to avoid a deficit in the budget for the state's 2010 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

haven't been as specific about their plans but agree that deep cuts will be necessary. Democratic leaders are resisting the idea because Sebelius already has proposed some accounting changes and tax policies to lessen the pain for public schools, social services and other state programs.

Legislators start their work on the 2010 budget without knowing how well revenue projections will hold up in coming months. And state officials still aren't sure how much the federal economic stimulus – which promises about \$1.7 billion for Kansas — will help.

Chairman Jay Emler created a stir last week See "BUDGET," Page 3

Leaders of the House's GOP majority by circulating a memo to fellow Senate Ways and Means Committee members directing their subcommittees to look for cuts of 10 percent - and to press for information from state agencies about what even deeper cuts would mean.

> "You may not have to have the 10 percent," Emler said during an interview. "I think it's pretty realistic, and for some of them, it could be a little more than that. Ten is a number they need to keep in mind."

> Democratic leaders said Emler's memo spread fear unnecessarily and suggested GOP

Briefly

Court offices to close for class

Thomas County District Court offices at the courthouse will close from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday for training. For information, call the court clerk's office at 460-4540.

Chamber to gather After 5

S&T Communications will host the monthly Business After Five mixer for the Colby Chamber of Commerce at 5 p.m. Wednesday at their office at 755 Davis Ave., west of Colby High School. Chamber members should stop by for refreshments and conversation. For information, call 460-3401.

Historian to detail range wars

Evelyn Hoyt Ward of Goodland will talk about range wars between ranchers and homesteaders from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Prairie Museum of

Thought program, which features a soup lunch and history program on the third Thursday of this month and next. A different presentation will be offered March 19. Call (785) 460-4590 for details.

Orchestra to play in Oberlin

Western Plains Arts Association is sponsoring "Celebrate the Love of Sound," a the winter concert by Pride of the Prairie Orchestra, at 3 p.m. Sunday at The Gateway civic center in Oberlin. Admission is by season ticket, Friends of the Orchestra membership or at the door. The concert, conducted by Burlington High School Band Director Andrew Salvador, will feature pianist Sharon Kriss of Colby performing Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A minor," selections from "The Wizard of Oz," "Comedy Tonight," "Summon the Heroes" and other numbers. For infor-

Art and History. The talk is a part of the Food for mation, call For information, call Pat Ziegelmeier at (785) 462-7808 or 460-5518.

Annual Spelling Bee next week

Among upcoming events for Colby fourth and fifth graders will be the annual Spelling Bee at 1:15 p.m. next Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 23 and Feb. 24, in the grade-school auditorium. Seven contestants have been chosen from each classroom, with one alternate. Medals will be given to the top three spellers in each grade. The public is invited.

Benefit will help girl's family

Friends and family plan a benefit soup supper for Trinity Pfeifer, a second grader at Colby Grade School, who needs hip surgery. She is the daughter of Jason and Angie Stegeman of Colby. Come in for broccoli-cheese or chicken-noodle soup, chili and

drinks from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Community Building basement. Donations will be accepted. For information, call her mom at (785) 460-0227.

Cancer group selling daffodils

Once again, the American Cancer Society is selling flowers for its Daffodil Days fund raiser. Colby project leader Kim Barnett will be taking orders at home, 462-2997, at work, 460-2761, or by e-mail at umccolby@st-tel.net. Prices include a flower bunch for \$10, a "sunshine bouquet" for \$15 or a bear and a bunch for \$25. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 1.

