



10 pages

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## Red Cross asks donors to give at blood drive

By Marj Brown  
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The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Colby Community Building from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday.

“Colby can usually plan on about 100 people to give blood at drives,” said Bev Vaughn, blood drive coordinator, “however, we are always hoping for more.

“Because March is National American Red Cross Month, we will be giving an American Red Cross life-saving team baseball cap to everyone who gives blood during March and April.”

Vaughn said that only four out of 10 people are eligible to donate blood on any given day. People are allowed to donate a unit (pint) of blood only every 56 days.

“Type O+ blood is in the most demand because that is the type most people have,” Vaughn said. “Also type O- is in great demand.

It has also determined that if it has been over a year since you received a tattoo, you may now give blood.

“We are always low on our supply of blood because every two seconds, someone needs blood, and we just never catch up

“This year they plan to have a booth at the donation site to give donors information on the uses of the blood they donate.”

Those in need of blood include not only accident or trauma victims, she said, but a daily list of scheduled surgeries at area hospitals, from heart surgery to joint replacements and organ transplants, and premature babies, cancer treatments and much more. Those in need can be young and old, family or friends, even neighbors down the street.

For information or to schedule an appointment, call (800) 448-3543 or visit bloodisneeded.org. Bring a photo ID if you want to donate.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

## Trash fire jumps pit

Shift firefighter Scott Hilbrink (above) used a hose to spray a grass fire from a fire truck Thursday afternoon. Volunteer firefighter Jeff Unger (below) shoveled dirt on the fire. Fire Chief Bob McLemore said the fire started when workers for Miller Construction, the contractor building the new fire station, were burning wood and debris in a pit behind the station. He said an ember apparently had blown out of the pit and got into the dry grass. Anyone wanting to do a control burn needs to call the fire department first, said McLemore. The workers had not notified the fire department, said Assistant Chief Sean Hanks.



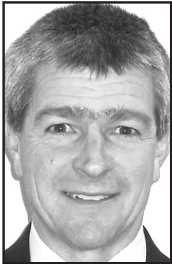
## Area's Case dealer to lead trade group

Case-IH dealer Ed Heim of Hoxie has been elected to a one-year term as board president of the South Western Association, an alliance of farm implement, hardware and lumber dealers in eight states.

He was installed Feb. 19 preceding the Western Farm Show in Kansas City, Mo.

“As board president,” he said, “I will reside over the board meetings and coordinate with our chief executive officer, Jeff Flora of Kansas City, who was actually raised near Ogallah.”

Heim said he has been involved in the business at Hoxie Implement since graduation from Kansas State University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural engineering. He is sales manager for the family-owned corporation, and shares ownership with his father, mother, two brothers and two sisters. They have three locations — in Hoxie, plus the Colby Ag Center and Oakley Ag Center — where they offer Case IH equipment, Reinke Irrigation Systems and other lines.



Ed Heim

Heim and his wife Lucille have four children, Emily, Andrew, Jennifer and Ellissa. He is active in the Knights of Columbus, Elks, Rotary and other civic organizations.

He will lead the association's 13-member board, which is responsible for managing the budget and programs. Founded in 1889, the South Western Association (formerly the Western Association) represents nearly 1,800 dealers and more than 2,400 hardware, lumber and home center retailers.

“Our CEO is a very knowledgeable and progressive leader who handles our problems and researches ideas for us,” Heim said. “He throws out new ideas and we discuss them at our board meetings and help him to come up with other new ideas....”

The association covers Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The largest regional trade association of its kind in North America, the group offers members legislative, educational and communications services.

## China warns U.S. on big spending

BEIJING (AP) — China's premier didn't say it in so many words, but the implied warning to Washington was blunt: Don't devalue the dollar through reckless spending.

Premier Wen Jiabao's message is unlikely to be misunderstood at the White House. It is counting on Beijing to help pay for its stimulus package by buying U.S. bonds. China already is Washington's biggest foreign creditor, with

an estimated \$1 trillion in U.S. government debt. A weaker dollar would erode the value of those assets.

“Of course we are concerned about the safety of our assets. To be honest, I'm a little bit worried,” Wen said at a news conference today after the closing of China's annual legislative session. “I would like to call on the United States to honor its words, stay a credible nation and ensure the safety of

Chinese assets.”

The appeal suggested the outlines of Chinese President Hu Jintao's stance when he meets with President Barack Obama at an April 2 summit in London of the Group of 20 major economies on the global crisis.

Wen gave no indication whether Beijing wants changes in U.S. policy. But economists said his comments reflect fears that higher U.S. budget deficits from the \$787 bil-

lion stimulus package could drive down the dollar and the value of China's Treasury notes.

“China is telling the U.S. to be careful, not to overspend and keep an eye on the dollar,” said Kelvin Lau, regional economist at Standard Chartered in Hong Kong. “There are risks that China cannot control, so they're depending on the U.S. to maintain fiscal prudence and keep the dollar reasonably stable.”

## Brothers say they get a buzz out their reborn beekeeping hobby

By Shalee Roundtree  
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Brothers Greg and Bruce Swob turned a class project into a business.

Back in 1977, Bruce Swob said, his brother was assigned to do a project in an ag construction class at Kansas State University. From that project, both brothers

developed their passion for bees.

“My brother was majoring in agronomy at the time, and got assigned a class project to construct a building of some sort,” said Greg, “After talking to the professor, Bruce decided to construct bee hives.”

“We both became very interested in it, and at that time you could order bees in the mail from Sears. As soon as the bees came in, the postmaster took no time at

all in calling us to come get our bees.”

That was in 1977. Although they quit for about 25 years, in the past four years the Swobs have started their bee business back up again at their mother's farm near Great Bend. They also do demonstrations for schools and clubs on beekeeping, including one this spring at Colby Grade School.

Greg said he was living in Colby when

the business started back up, but he helped his brother with the apiary in Great Bend. After a move to Hays two years later, Greg said, he decided to open his own apiary there and the brothers also decided to open one in Rush County.

“There is a lot involved in beekeeping,” Greg said, “This time of year, we are doing a lot of spring feeding, which involves supplying the bees with water

and sugar to help them with their food storage. We're also hoping for a good spring flowering crop this year, which means we need the rain.”

Swob Bee Honey Farm has three the apiaries where bees are kept in Kansas, he said. Each has about 10 hives, and the bees are in demand from farmers.

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## Briefly

### Students plan massage clinic

Colby Community College therapeutic massage students will have a pediatric clinic on Saturday. Children must be accompanied by a parent or adult. Cost is \$15. For information or an appointment, call Carol Johnson, program director, at (785) 460-5427.

### Kidergarten enrollment coming

Kindergarten pre-enrollment for the coming school year will be from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at the Colby Grade School conference room. Bring your child's birth certificate, immunization records, and Social Security card. Call the grade school office at (785) 460-5100 for questions.

### District offering trees for sale

The Thomas County Conservation District is offering trees for sale. Orders must be placed by Saturday, March 28, for delivery about Saturday, April 18.

They can be for any number or variety of trees, for yard planting or field use. All by one type are \$1.50 per tree, said Debbie Potter, district manager. Call her at (785) 462-7482, extension 303, for questions or to order.

### Scout crew plans craft fair

Boy Scout Venture Crew 157 will hold a craft fair in cooperation with Colby's Home and Garden Show Friday to Sunday, March 27-29. There is room for more crafters to attend this event. For information, call Jan Barnum at 462-5892.

### Lenten talk on 'Two Thieves'

The Lenten Brown Bag and Bible program at noon Wednesday will be led by the Rev. Carroll Morony on the topic of “The Two Thieves.” The program, sponsored by the Thomas County Ministerial Alliance, will be in the fellowship hall of the First Pres-

byterian Church. Bring your own lunch; drinks are provided.

### Kids will be eggactly trained

The Colby Recreation Department's Second Annual EGGstravaganza will be from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday for kids 3-12. Cost is \$5 for craft supplies and egg coloring. Contact the department at 460-4440 to register.

### City 5K race set for Thursday

The Colby Recreation Department' Second Annual Spring Fling 5K will kick off at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Community Building. This is a predicted time run, so you don't need to be in great shape, just finish closest to your predicted time. Contact the department for information at 460-4440.

### Brother, sister to give history

Ray Imhoff and his sister, Doris Johnson, who will

offer a pictorial history of early Thomas County sites and events, based on their mother's memories from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Call the museum at (785) 460-4590 for details or to make a reservation.

### Group offers family portrait

Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council is offering a 10-inch-by-13-inch portrait of your children for a \$10 sitting fee. Sepia tone portraits, said to be a \$90 value, will be taken with vintage attire and props. Portraits will be taken by appointment on Saturday, March 21, at the Colby Community Building. For information, call 462-6111.



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