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Rexford siren fails, county weighs fixes

By Vera Sloan
Colby Free Press
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After hearing the good news that the grant application for a new tornado siren for Menlo was ready to be mailed, the Thomas County Commissioners learned Monday that the siren in Rexford is totally shot.

"As soon as it was turned on to be tested," said Susan McMahan, county emergency coordinator, "it started rolling black smoke, and they had to turn it off. It's about 40 years old, and they really need a new one."

Rexford citizens are currently relying on phones, she said, and they have a whistle they can blow, located at the post office. The new pole to mount a siren on has to be a class three or class four pole, because the sirens themselves weigh close to 400 pounds. That class of pole costs in the \$1,500 range, plus installation of \$1,000.

The county had been planning to replace the Menlo siren when the Rexford one went down. McMahan said the Menlo siren will cost

in the neighborhood of \$16,000. She said she wrote the grant for \$12,000 and the county will have to come up with the rest, because they would get up to 75 percent as long as they contribute 25 percent, or between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

Some of the other sirens in the county may also need replacing soon.

"The siren behind the law enforcement center is operating on a refurbished relay switch, and we've searched numerous places to track down parts and there are none. So when this one's gone, we're done with that one," McMahan said.

She suggested the commissioners plan on replacing all the sirens a few at a time to avoid coming to a single year when none of them work.

"Better put it in the budget," said Commissioner Paul Steel, "because we don't have a budget for a savings account. With the projected sales tax for the year being down by over \$100,000, it's going to be a tough one."

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American Legion plans second ride

The Colby American Legion Riders are planning their second annual bike show and poker run this weekend, the biggest fund raiser of the year for the various missions the groups has.

Legion rider C.W. Hamilton said the festivities will start Friday with a Fun and Games ride starting at 5:30 p.m. and ending by 7. Riders of bikes, hot rods, anything with wheels, are invited to have fun, and the top score will win a prize.

Also beginning at 5:30 p.m., a hog roast will be held at the Legion Hall. A donation of \$7 is suggested and the public is invited. Beginning at 9 p.m., the band Wild Ride will take the stage for a dance. The suggested donation for this is \$5, while a combination "feed and dance" is \$10.

Saturday, the day will begin with a pancake, sausage and egg feed from 7 to 10 a.m. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., J&B Meat Market and other food vendors will be set up at the Legion post. Public voting on the bike show will be from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m..

At 2 p.m., a parade through Colby will end at Fike Park. The Ride Against the Wind Poker Run will begin at 2:30 p.m. and end at the post home at 6:30. There will be a 50 percent payout to the high and low hands.

A pork tenderloin dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. for a suggested donation of \$6.

The Legion will have a raffle for a 2010 Yamaha Raider, results of the bike show will be announced.

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CYNTHIA HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Eric Thummel showed off his antique tractor engine for a couple of curious onlookers at the Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show on Sunday. The show included music, com-

Tractors draw hundreds to Selden

By Judy Rogers
Selden Public Library

The Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car show drew a nice crowd Sunday despite morning rains. This year's show, the 17th in Selden, started off with cloudy skies and showers of rain, which kept some exhibitors away. But those who displayed their cars, tractors, motorcycles and small engines had a full day of fun.

After registering upon arrival, the vehicles and engines were parked along Main Street for spectators to enjoy. There were a variety of activities held in and around the Selden City Park.

The first event of the day was the horseshoe pitching contest. After several rounds of competition, Gerald Jackson and Gary New won first place. This was Jackson's second year to claim the top spot. Second place went to the partnership of Ron Cooper and Kevin Cooper, while LeRoy and Renee Spreser placed third.

Over 500 attendees enjoyed the music of Rose Bainter and her family while they lunched in the park on pulled pork, hamburgers, and hot dogs served by Selden Community Foundation volunteers. Following lunch, the Old Time Band played in the parish hall.

Afternoon activities included a basketball free-throw contest. In the third-through-fifth



JUDY ROGERS/Selden Public Library

Dominic Vahling played in the livestock tank while his sister looked for coins hidden down in the corn.

grade group, Braden Beagley placed first; Tristan Davis, second; and Troyal Burris, third. In the hotly contested sixth-through-eighth grade division, Allie Ryburn claimed

See "SHOW," Page 3

Candidates file for Kansas governor, announce running mates

By John Milburn
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA - Democratic state Sen. Tom Holland named fellow senator Kelly Kultala as his running mate today in the race for governor.

Holland, of Baldwin City, made the announcement on his Facebook page shortly before a campaign event in Overland Park. Other events are planned in Topeka

and Wichita. Kultala is from Kansas City and is serving her first term in the Senate. She is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Transportation and Local Government committees. Kultala also serves on the Ways and Means Committee, which is responsible for drafting the chamber's version of the state budget.

Thursday is the last day to file for the Aug. 3 party primaries. No other Demo-

crats are expected to file for governor. U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback is the leading Republican candidate for governor. Brownback and his running mate, state Sen. Jeff Colyer, filed for the GOP primary last week.

Also in the GOP race is Joan Heffington of Derby, a former home builder and founder of a nonprofit legal group.

Reaction to the Kultala pick on Holland's Facebook page was supportive,

with some comments wondering if the team from northeast Kansas could appeal to voters in Wichita and western Kansas.

Holland is also serving in his first term in the Senate after spending three terms in the Kansas House. He defeated Republican Sen. Roger Pine in 2008.

Kultala is a former county commissioner who defeated Sen. Mark Gilstrap in the 2008 in the Democratic primary with the help of then-Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Gil-

strap later switched his party affiliation to Republican.

With Holland's pick, four of the nine Kansas Senate Democrats are seeking higher office, including Sen. Chris Steiner of Kansas City, who is running for secretary of state, and Sen. David Haley, also of Kansas City, who is running to fill Brownback's seat in the U.S. Senate.

Briefly

Crews fogging for mosquitoes

Colby city crews will be fogging for mosquitoes beginning this week. They start south of Webster on Mondays or Tuesdays and north of Webster on Thursdays. Check your yards and empty anything holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools or tires, officials said. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

Remove decorations by Monday

All non-permanent grave decorations placed at Beulah Cemetery for Memorial Day should be removed by 5 p.m. Monday so the regular mowing schedule can resume. For information, call 462-3188.

Eagles' book a bargain right now

The price of "Flight of the Eagles," a book by Gary Adrian about the history of Colby High sports, will increase from \$25 to \$30 on Wednesday, June

21, to cover printing costs. Books can be ordered at the old price at www.colbyeagles.org or send a check to the Colby Booster Club at Box 136, Colby, Kan., 67701. Books will also be available at the All School Reunion next week. For information, call Adrian at 460-2931.

Alumni Chorus begins practice

Colby High grads are invited to join the CHS Alumni Chorus, which will rehearse at 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday and Thursday, June 17, at the United Methodist Church. Out-of-town alumni coming in for the five-year reunion can join in at 5 p.m. Friday, June 18, and 9 a.m. Saturday, June 19, to be ready for a performance at the assembly later that morning. For information, call director Jan Wolf at (785) 460-3535.

Signup open for food program

Sign up for the Prairie Land Food is open through

Friday at State Farm Insurance, 905 E. Fourth Street in Colby. Delivery will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call Gene Griffin at (785) 460-3579.

Flyers plan fun fly, lunch at field

The Colby RC Flyers will hold their annual fun fly from dawn to dusk Saturday and Sunday at the club's field seven miles north of Colby on K-25. Flying events and prize drawings will be held each day. Lunch will be served. For information, call Dave Backus at 460-6941 or Nick Nichols at 460-6357.

Commodities here on Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodity distribution will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park. Any eligible person can get these foods, which include instant milk, canned beef, canned chicken, corn, peaches

and tomato soup, distributed first-come, first-served according to income guidelines. Bring a sack or box. For information, call the Retired Senior Volunteer Program office at 462-6744.

Church plans racing Father's Day

All NASCAR and racing fans are invited to the Colby Church of Christ at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 20, for a special Father's Day event. The church plans a "manly" day with a racing theme and a message titled "It's About Winning." Dress is comfortable and casual. For question, call Jarrod Spencer at (785) 443-2403.



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