



10 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Friday

June 11, 2010
Volume 121, Number 91
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Township clears up road condition flap

By Vera Sloan
Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkansas.com

The Barrett Township board tried to clarify what may have been some misconceptions of the road conditions throughout the township at a public informational meeting Tuesday night.

A Barrett Township resident met about two weeks ago with the Thomas County Commissioners with numerous complaints about the conditions of the roads in the township to see if he could get some answers as to who enforced the board members to do their job.

He said his aging mother couldn't get mail delivery, nor could she get out after a rain because the roads were so bad. He

also said he had torn the transfer case out of his truck on the ill-kept roads, and that the roads he traveled were the last to get worked on.

Jason Gray, township treasurer, had a letter from the insurance company for the transfer case, and they said the case was "just flat worn out" from several years of wear and tear on a pickup with over 160,000 miles on it and the damage seemed to be more from abuse and high mileage as an off-road and pasture vehicle.

Gray produced dated records kept by the township, that revealed the road in question, County Rd. Z, to his mother's house, had been either graded or dragged 12 times since March 6 of this year.

Leonard Kinkade, township resident and guest at the meeting,

said as far as he could remember, there were probably two times this year that mail delivery couldn't go down the road in question, but agreed the roads still could be a little better overall.

"We have some big projects in mind, and everything is in better shape than it has been for a long time," Gray said, "and some farmers say they are seeing the grader more now than they have for a long time."

He said that one of the projects on this year's list of road improvements was the low water crossing to Mrs. Baird's house on County Rd. Z. The township had planned to raise the road and make it seven and a half feet higher than the lowest point at the crossing.

See "ROAD," Page 3

Candidates pledge to support primary victor

By Kevin Bottrell
Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

The six Republicans seeking the 1st District congressional seat pledged their support for the winner of the August primary election at a meeting Saturday at Colby Community College.

The 1st District Republican Committee summer meeting drew five of the six candidates. The Committee is made up of the chairman and vice chairman of each county, plus some additional delegates from each.

State Party Chairwoman Amanda Adkins, who was at the meeting, said all of the candidates have signed a "Back the Winner Pledge," saying they

would immediately support the primary winner in the general election.

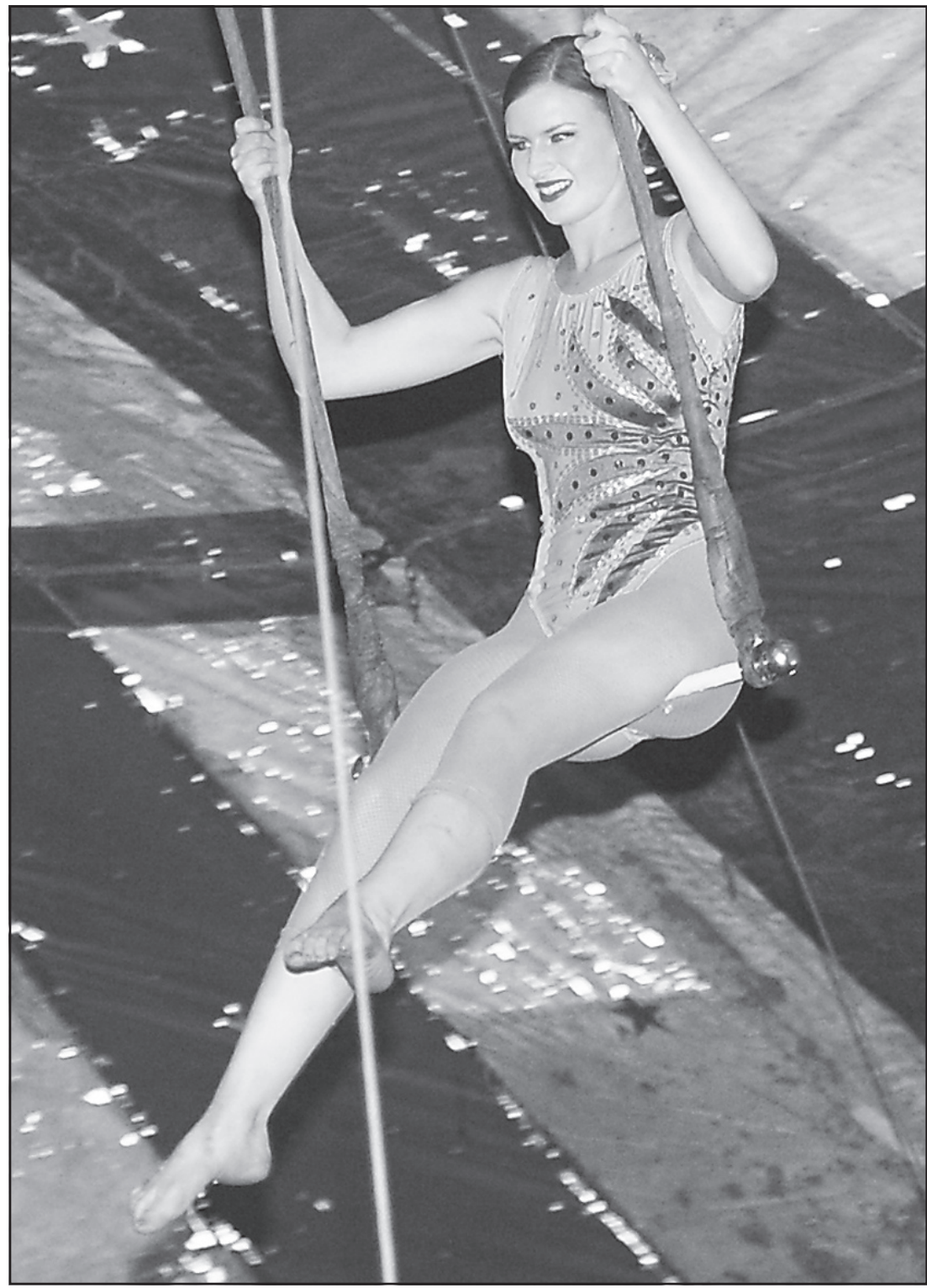
"It's important that we focus on the long term goals for our state by creating an environment for growth and prosperity in Kansas," Adkins said. "The pledge these candidates made today allows us to come together swiftly after the primary to work on behalf of our entire Republican slate through Election Day."

The field narrowed this week to six candidates. Monte Shadwick, a Salina businessman, dropped out and threw his support to Tracey Mann.

The meeting also drew some other candidates. State Sen. Derek Schmidt, who is running for attorney general, was there along with several com-

See "PLEDGE," Page 3

High flyer



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
A trapeze artist swung high off the ground under the tent at the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus on Tuesday. The circus, invited to town by the Colby Kiwanis Club, included clowns, acrobats and animals. It was held on the Multipurpose Activity Center grounds on Franklin Avenue.

Connecting uptown and downtown



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
City workers Kyle Brogan and Steve Samuelson worked on extending the sidewalk on Range Avenue that will eventually run from Colby Community College to the stoplight at Range and Davis Avenue on Thursday.

Foundation and food bank team up for child nutrition

By Aubrey Spencer
Colby Free Press
aspencer@nwkansas.com

Genesis-Thomas County food bank and the Thomas County Community Foundation have partnered to help kids who might otherwise not have enough to eat or the right kinds of foods make it through the summer.

The agencies estimate that 50 or more kids in Thomas County suffer from "food insecurity."

Melinda Olson, executive director of the Thomas County Community Foundation, said representatives from Genesis, the Colby Wesleyan Church, the Church of Christ, school representatives, Extension agents, the foundation, the Thomas County Coalition and Smart Start met earlier this spring to discuss how to meet the summer nutritional needs of these children. The group determined that families need some help with food during the summer months, and a plan emerged to use the food

bank to address the need.

Under this plan, Olson said, Genesis will increase the amount of food that families with children can receive each month from the food bank in June, July, and August. The agency will include a "kid-friendly" bag for each child in each family's grocery allotment. This will include items which can be eaten without preparation, cooking or refrigeration, said Wynn Duffey, Genesis board president.

The agencies are asking for donations of both food and money for the program. Food donations should be taken to Genesis in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Suite 13, labeled with "Summer Food Program for Kids." Checks may be sent to the foundation at 350 S. Range, Suite 14, Colby, Kan., 67701, with "Summer Food Program for Kids" in the memo section.

Food items on the list include saltine or graham crackers, single-serving packages of crackers with

peanut butter or cheese, Goldfish and Teddy Graham crackers, pop-top cans of meat such as beans and franks or vienna sausage, single-serving containers of cereal or large boxes of healthy cereal that will last for a week at a time, cereal bars, fruit cups, raisins, fresh fruit that will last a while like apples or oranges, juice boxes, aseptic pack boxes of milk that do not require refrigeration, granola bars, pudding cups and pretzels. All items need to arrive in unopened boxes or containers.

New clients to Genesis must be Thomas County residents. They will need to complete the required form at and bring a government-issued photo ID. Genesis is open from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays. Clients may use the food bank once every 30 days.

For information, call Genesis at (785) 460-7930 or Melinda Olson at the foundation, (785) 460-9152.

Briefly

Group wants grant applications

The Thomas County Community Foundation is accepting applications for the second quarter cycle. Non-profit, governmental or school agencies in Thomas County are eligible for small grants of about \$500. Applications are due to the foundation by Wednesday, June 30. For information, call 460-9152.

Lemonade stand to benefit shelter

The second annual lemonade stand to benefit the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter will be from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at Swartz Veterinary Hospital, 1775 West Fourth St. April Swartz, third grader, will get help from Leea Juenemann in taking donations for a glass of lemonade. All proceeds will go to benefit the dogs that are ready for adoption at the shelter in Goodland. For information, call 460-1078.

Responders plan exercise

Area emergency responders are holding a planning exercise 10:30 a.m. Monday in Thomas Hall at Colby Community College. The exercise will be a coordinated effort between the Colby Fire Department, Colby Police Department, Kansas Bomb Squad, and the Local Emergency Management Team. Thomas Hall will be secured for the day. The parking lot on the north side of Thomas will be closed to traffic. For more information, call Barry Kaaz at 460-5429.

Remove decorations by Monday

All non-permanent grave decorations placed at Beulah Cemetery for Memorial Day should be removed by 5 p.m. on 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.

Picnic, music Wednesday

Colby's Picnic in the Park lunch-and-concert series continues at noon Wednesday at Fike Park with entertainment by Shannon, Rachel and Amy Myers. Heartland Christian School will serve cold watermelon. For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

Flyers plan fun fly, lunch at field

The Colby RC Flyers will hold their annual 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.

