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Crooner plays to the crowd



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Scott Cameron has no trouble attracting a large crowd when he's on the docket for Picnic in the Park, and Wednesday was no exception. He opened with the crowd pleaser, "That's Life," and from the applause, many agreed with the words, "I pick myself up and get back in this race." Cameron was the fourth

musician to be featured in the summer series, sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Area Chamber of Commerce, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and the *Colby Free Press*. Next week, the musical act will be Pieces of 8.

Company proposes asphalt plant

By Vera Sloan
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The owner of a Stratton, Colo., road construction firm told Thomas County commissioners Monday that his company wants to put a permanent asphalt plant two miles east of Colby on U.S. 24, on the east end of the former Colby Implement site.

James McCormick of McCormick Excavation and Paving added that he had been in contact with the landowner and they were working on a price.

He said he had been to the city staff and didn't get a yes or a no. He noted that the city has the area zoned as R2, which is retail, and that they would like to leave it that way, but that the city told him to go talk to the county commissioners.

"This would not affect residents living in Colby" he said. "It would not affect any commercial businesses, and would fit in the neighboring businesses, namely the (CHS) fertilizer plant, Wagoner Salvage, Budweiser distributing and the county landfill. The location would be where the four-lane ends and goes down to a two-lane

highway." McCormick added that the plant would employ two people to begin with, and that with direct access to U.S. 24, it should not congest traffic on city streets. The asphalt would be shipped to the company's other projects around the Midwest.

The commissioners said they would have to give notice of public hearing so that residents of the city and county could have a voice in the decision before they made a decision on the plant site.

Noxious weed-control Director Clair Shrock handed the commissioners of pictures he had taken of musk thistle in the county and said a person who had complained at last week's meeting farmed that particular piece of ground. He said they had concentrated their control efforts in Smith township and on acreage in the Rexford area.

"It just seems to me that if everyone would clean up their own and quit worrying about the other guy's musk thistle and prairie dogs, it would all get taken care of," he said. "I do know that farmers are doing a much better job of trying to get control of weeds and

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Colby college to get less from state

By Andy Heintz
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Colby Community College will be getting less money from the state this year despite increasing its enrollment last fall, board members learned Monday.

The board discussed adjustments it would have to make to next year's budget to offset the loss at a meeting Monday at Thomas Hall.

Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs, said the college estimates they will be

getting about \$530,000 less than it received in the 2009-2010 budget. The amount the state has given the college through its operating grant has decreased over the last three years, he said.

Public Information Director Debbie Schwanke said this coming year the state grant is down to just 16 percent of the college's budget. President Lynn Kreider said the state money was 21 percent of the budget in 2009-2010 and 25 percent in 2008-2009.

The declining support is based on a funding formula used to decide how much each com-

munity college receives, Waites said. The formula provides the most money to the schools that have the biggest gains in enrollment.

This year the 19 colleges in the state received \$97.2 million, said Waites. Overall, Kansas community colleges experienced an average 12.5 percent growth in enrollment, said president Dr. Lynn Kreider.

Waites said even if a school grew enrollment by 6, 7 or 8 percent, they would still have a budget cut because the increase was below av-

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Foundation gets \$20,000 for health

The Thomas County Community Foundation has received a \$20,000 grant from the Pete Henry Foundation to endow a fund for community health projects in the county.

Executive Director Melinda Olson said the health needs of county residents are an important part of the community foundation's mission.

The said money will be placed in the Pierre C. Henry Foundation General Public Health Fund. Interest from investments will provide grants to nonprofit and government organizations for health-related programs. Christina Schmid, public relations coordinator for the community foundation, said once everything is ready, agencies can apply for grants to help with

public-health projects. Olson said under a competitive-funding initiative with the Kansas Health Foundation, they have applied for a 50 percent match to the \$20,000 grant. Schmid said Thomas County has a good chance to qualify because the health foundation hopes to make a grant in western Kansas.

Eligibility requirements and applications are available online at www.ThomasCountyCommunityFoundation.com. The deadline for the current grant cycle deadline is Wednesday, Schmid said. Groups that are unable to meet this deadline may apply for the third-quarter cycle, which ends Sept. 30. Contact the the foundation office at (785) 460-9152 or tcfcf@st-tel.net with questions.

Radio 'Hams' plan demonstration

Colby area "Hams" will join with thousands of amateur radio operators who will be showing off their emergency communications capabilities this weekend.

Saturday and Sunday, people can meet and talk with Colby-area ham radio operators and see what the Amateur Radio Service is about. From the newest digital and voice communications to historical Morse code sets, Hams from across the U.S. will be holding public demonstrations over the weekend.

In the Colby area, the Trojan Amateur Radio Club will demonstrate its gear at the Colby Municipal Airport from 1 p.m. Saturday through 1 p.m. Sun-

day. Members invite everyone to come and see Ham radio's new capabilities, maybe even learn how to get their own radio license before the next disaster strikes.

This annual event, called "Field Day," is the climax of Amateur Radio Week sponsored by the American Radio Relay League the national association for amateur radio. Using only emergency power supplies, Ham operators put together emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and backyards around the country. More than 35,000 amateur radio operators participated last

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Put up quickly



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

This Viero Wireless cell tower near Beulah Cemetery that went up almost over-night is just one harbinger of changing phone coverage in the Colby area. AT&T announced yesterday it had bought parts of Verizon's network, including their Thomas County territory.

Briefly

Hospital plans childbirth classes

Citizens Medical Center will offer a four-week series of childbirth education classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays starting next week. Women who are due to deliver before October should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin Oct. 7. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital Education Department at (785) 460-4850.

Club plans races at church

The First Baptist Church RC Club will hold races starting at 2 p.m. Sunday at the church. Everyone is welcome, and the club has cars available. For information, call Kent Higerd at 462-2867.

Heartland selling fireworks

Heartland Christian School will be selling fireworks at the Colby Livestock parking lot on Coun-

try Club Drive from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. from Monday through Sunday, July 4. All proceeds will go to the school. For information, call Ronda Myers at 462-7727 or 443-1384.

Museum plans family show

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will put up a special exhibit from Sunday, July 4, to Saturday, July 10, featuring brief histories and photos of the Carpenter and Owens families of Thomas County. Paintings and porcelain dolls made by Pearl Carpenter will be on display, as well as a family signature friendship quilt. The public is invited to an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. July 4 at the museum. For information, call 460-4590.

Crews fogging for mosquitoes

Colby city crews are fogging for mosquitoes, south of Webster on Mondays or Tuesdays and north

of Webster on Thursdays. You can help, officials say: check your yard and empty anything holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools or tires. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

Foundation has money to give

The Thomas County Community Foundation is accepting applications for its second quarter cycle. Nonprofit, government or school agencies in Thomas County are eligible for small grants of about \$500. Applications are due by Wednesday. For information, call 460-9152.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday this summer. Open swimming is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday

through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost for general admission is \$3, but monthly and yearly passes are available. Call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.

Garden needs gardeners

Colby's community garden is looking for volunteers. The plot, at the K-State Experiment Station on the west side of town, needs volunteers to help grow fruit and vegetables. Food produced by the farm will go to the Genesis-Thomas County food bank and the Extension Kids A Cookin' program, as well as to the volunteers. For information, call Orvella Romine at 460-8177 or Extension agent Clint Milliman at 460-4582.

