



City may evict golf course

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby City Council told City Attorney John Gatz to begin action to evict the Meadow Lake Golf Club from 88 acres of city-owned land, saying board members of the club had altered a lease presented by the city before they signed it. The city had sent a lease to the golf course

owner's attorney Cal Williams on July 14, said course board member and owner of Northwest Kansas Decorating Center Kerry Turner. This was the second lease the city had offered the club. The first lease proposal was offered in the fall of 2008, Turner said. He said the club rejected it because it was only for a year.

Turner said Williams made some "small" changes to the lease before signing it and sending it back. They also sent a check for a little over for half of a tax payment - about \$1,800

- that the club owed the city and for the lease payment. Turner said the club owed the city \$3,747 in taxes and the lease required them to pay \$150 a year to use the city-owned land. Tom Barlow, a Colby dentist, said the lease proposal stipulated that the other half of the taxes be paid by February.

Turner said the owners of the course were okay with paying the taxes and \$150 a year.

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Quinter boy killed in farming accident

QUINTER (AP) - A north-west Kansas sheriff calls the death of a little boy on his family's farm a tragic accident.

Three-year-old Ethan Flora was struck and killed Tuesday by a tire on a center pivot irrigation system his father was moving near a well outside Quinter.

Gove County Sheriff Allan Weber told *The Salina Journal* the father took Ethan to work with him and told him to stay in the back of the pickup truck.

But the little boy was curious about the pivot and got out several times for a closer look.

The father was advancing the center pivot mechanically, then stopped to pick up tools. When he looked up, the sheriff says, Ethan was caught under the tire.

The father rushed his son to Gove County Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

College holds party, birthday celebration

Students and faculty from the massage therapy program (above) at Colby Community College gave free massages at the block party Tuesday. Churches, college programs, military recruiters and businesses had tables set up on the lawn north of the Student Union for new and returning students. The college also held a small 85th birthday celebration for professor emeritus Max Pickerill (left), and presented a check for \$24,000 that will go toward the Max Pickerill Scholarship Fund. The events were part of the college's "Welcome Week," which included volleyball, movies and bowling in addition to traditional student orientation.



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Colby rodeo queen is Miss Teen Kansas

By Vera Sloan

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To be named Miss Rodeo Thomas County one month, and Miss Kansas Rodeo Teen the next is something most rodeo pageant contestants don't get to claim.

Sixteen-year-old Katera Harter of Colby is an exception. The new 2011 Miss Rodeo Thomas County won all categories in the competition last week to be named Miss Rodeo Kansas Teen at Dodge City Days, a 10-day celebration with five nights of rodeo in Dodge City.

"I was so nervous, I could hardly breathe," Harter said. "I didn't

expect to do that well."

For the title, she won a crown, sash and belt buckle. For winning the top spots in the judge's interview, Miss Congeniality, speech, modeling, horsemanship, written test and people's choice, she was awarded a double hat carrier, a head stall with reins, a purse, blanket jewelry, a set of luggage, and boots, jeans, a belt and a shirt from the Roper company.

Harter said she was named Thomas County Rodeo Princess in 2007, and was really glad she had participated in the queen contest this year.

"It really helped me a lot," she

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Katera Harter of Colby takes a victory lap after being named Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas in Dodge City.

South Thomas County wind farm still in the works, commissioner says

By Vera Sloan

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The proposed wind farm in southern Thomas County may be inching forward toward reality.

Chairman Ken Christiansen told fellow commissioners at Monday's Thomas County Commissioners meeting that he had phone calls last week from Peter Kennon, of Solomon Forks Wind Farms, the division of Acciona, the Spanish company

interested in building the wind farm.

"The company has changed personnel, and it looks like they're ready to bring this thing back to life," Christiansen said, "and it looks like we'll see some construction in 2011."

The commissioners have been working with Acciona for months trying to get the proposed farm going. The company leases land between Mingo and Colby, but construction hasn't started. They hadn't heard from the company since February.

Tiffany Thompson, Solomon Forks

representative, said in a speaker-phone conversation with the commissioners on Monday that the company is asking for a private "information only" meeting with the commissioners for next week. The commissioners approved the meeting, and asked County Clerk Shelly Harms and Vera Sloan, *Colby Free Press* society editor, to accompany them to the meeting so that they would be in compliance with the state law regarding the commissioners all being together outside a public meeting.

Thompson assured the commissioners there will be no need for any decisions from them, and again said it is an information only meeting, and that they will meet with landowners soon.

Christiansen said the towers, propellers and motors for the wind chargers are ready and have been sitting in Iowa just waiting to be erected.

Jason Moses, inter-operable communications coordinator with the Kansas Adjutant General Department's Office of Emergency Management, came to the

Monday meeting to explain about the 800-megahertz radios the county is looking to purchase.

He said if they decide to go the 800-megahertz route, Motorola is having a big discount from now until the first of October that would save the county around \$9,000 and would include a three-year maintenance agreement.

Commissioner Steele asked if the county could get the discount on a lease

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Briefly

Red Cross coming to get blood

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 2, at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St. Donors must be at least 17, or 16 with a parental consent form. To reserve a time to donate, call (800) 733-2767. Walk-ins are welcome.

Claim prizes from county fair

Prize checks for 4-H and Open Class exhibit winners from the 2010 Thomas County Fair are ready to be picked up at the county Extension office, in the county office complex, 350 S. Range Ave., from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information, call the office at 460-4582.

Church plans carnival, picnic

The Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a free Kids'

Carnival and Family Picnic with games, prizes and free supper from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the church, 320 W. Pine. Everyone is invited. Free school supplies will be available for elementary and middle-school students of families in financial need. Registration will begin at 5:45 p.m. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.

Volunteers needed for Relay

Relay for Life, an annual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, needs teams and team captains for the event, which starts 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Fike Park. For information or to sign up, call Denise Stupka at 462-2122.

Catholic youth ordering fruit

The Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Organization is taking orders for peaches, pears and apples until

Monday. Pickup will be Wednesday, Sept. 1, at the 4-H Building. To order, call Megan Augustine at the rectory, 462-2179. Some fruit may be available for those who do not order ahead of time.

Outdoor skills day next month

The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department and Colby Community College will hold the Northwest Kansas Youth Outdoor Skills Day and Outdoor Expo from 9 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 10 and 11 at the college and the Colby Trap Club. Activities include shotgunning, archery, compass and map reading, fishing and more. Register at Colby Lumber by Friday, Sept. 8. For information, call Wildlife Specialist Matt Bain at 462-3367.

Wildlife Dept. offering hunter ed

The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department will

hold a field day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Colby Trap Club to accompany a new online hunter education course. Registration is required. Online instruction and quizzes are available now, with classroom instruction and the test from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, at Colby Community College. For information or to register, call Wildlife Specialist Matt Bain at 462-7993 or 462-3367.

Food delivery coming Aug. 28

Prairie Land Food delivery will be 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Scared Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth. For information, call Gene Griffin at (785) 460-3579.

