



Shiny new paint job



Vans Body and Frame was hard at work the past week and a half getting the new paint job ready on the Colby School District's new activity bus. The bus should be ready to go next week, in time to transport kids to a few activities even as the school year winds down.

Riders plan bike show for mid-June

By Kevin Bottrell  
Colby Free Press  
kbottrell@nwkansan.com

The American Legion Riders are planning a big bash for Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11, at Westside Park in Colby.

Rider Fred Britt said the "Ride Against the Wind" fund raiser will include a bike show and dice run to raise money, which the riders donate to various local and state charities. Britt said the riders will be giving some of this year's proceeds to the Wounded Warriors program, which provides assistance to wounded service members.

This is the Colby chapter's third year, Britt said, and they have held the event every year and always try to add new things, since it is their biggest fund raiser of the year. The dice run will be a hundred-mile loop around northwest Kansas for cars and bikes. The person with the highest dice hand at the end will win \$1,000.

Britt said the bikers will have a "cruise-in" to the park on Friday evening, with food provided by the Legion Auxiliary. There will be a pancake feed Saturday morning.

The National Guard will bring some of their recruiting tools, he said, such as a mechanical bull and climbing wall. There will also be a parade down Franklin Avenue on Saturday.

Britt said the riders want to make the event a regional one and are advertising all around western Kansas, southwest Nebraska and eastern Colorado.

"We want it to be bigger and better every year," he said.

Britt and rider C.W. Hamilton came to the Colby City Council meeting Monday to get approval to have an extra trash hopper at the park, a Saturday trash pickup, permission to park on the grass at Westside Park and to have a helicopter fly in, land at the park and give aerial tours of Colby all day long that Saturday.

DWTA, an air carrier out of Wichita, will fly one of its helicopters out and give rides. The helicopter will seat three in addition to the pilot, Hamilton said, and rides will be \$50 with \$10 of that do-

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Pool admission prices set; recreation events planned

With the opening date for the new Colby Aquatic Center coming up fast, the city of Colby has released admissions rates.

Season passes for the pool will be available for \$65 for children age 4 and older, \$160 for a family season pass for five immediate family members. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city is expected long lines on opening day, Friday, May 27, so she is encouraging people to buy them early. Passes will be available from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, May 16 to 20, at the Law Enforcement Training Center, 360 N. Franklin.

Daily passes will be \$5 for children 4 and older. A 14-day pass will be \$35, and a 10-day punch pass will be \$25.

The Colby Recreation Department is holding a number of events and programs throughout the summer: To register for these events, call the department at 460-4440.

**Baseball:** There's still time to sign up for summer rec baseball. The deadline to register is Tuesday. Cost is \$25 for T-ball and \$35 for softball and baseball. After the coaches hold their meetings, they will contact players for practices and games.

**Adult Softball:** Signups are also open for men's and coed softball until Friday, May 13. The men's league will play from May to July and costs \$225. The coed league will run from June to August and the cost is \$250. The deadline to register is Friday, May 13.

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Governor tours southwest, examines drought-stricken area

By JOHN MILBURN  
The Associated Press

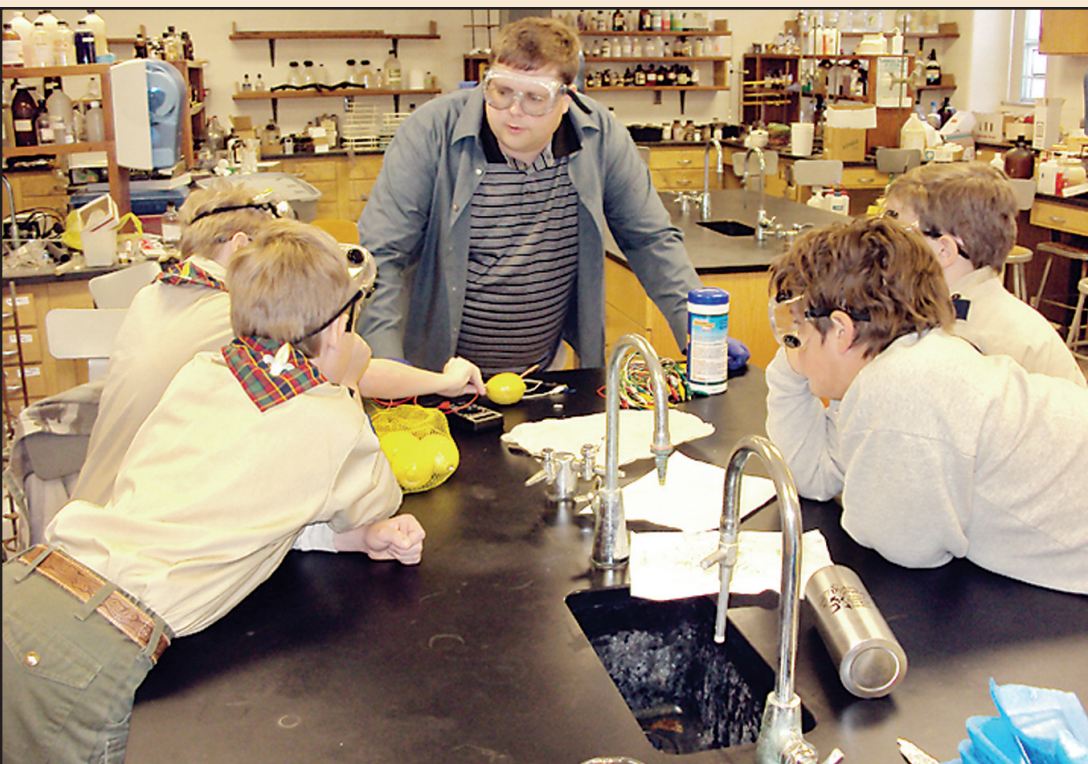
GARDEN CITY — Gov. Sam Brownback toured drought-stricken southwest Kansas on Wednesday, saying the dry conditions were more dire than he previously thought and hoped the federal government would declare the region a disaster area.

"Some of that looks like a moonscape. It gives more sense of urgency to it," Brownback said after flying over the area in a Kansas National Guard helicopter and driving along the rural area's roadways. "It's the miracle of water. Irrigated land is lush and green. Dryland portions waiting for water are brown and barren."

Local farmers and other residents said conditions were the worst they'd seen in five decades, and state climatologists said significant rain hasn't fallen since last summer. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor report shows drought covering more than 45 percent of the state, with extreme drought — the second most severe — in the state's southwestern corner.

The governor's visit to Finney, Gray, Haskell and Meade counties followed his request last week that 21 counties be declared disaster areas, which would trigger federal assistance. Brownback, Kansas' former agriculture secretary, said the state hopes to hear within 10 days from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which could allow ranchers to access conservation

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LYNN CAMERON/Colby Community College  
Colby Community College chemistry instructor Dr. Chad Magee worked with several Boy Scouts at the annual Powwow last weekend.

Scouts have fun weekend on Colby College campus

Fifty-three Boy Scouts and 23 scout leaders met at Colby Community College for the annual Boy Scout Powwow Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

This is the fourth year of the powwow. Scouts Stockton, Bird City, Osborne, Hoxie, Ness City, Scott City, Hoxie, Atwood and Colby camped on the college campus.

During the day they learned about horsemanship at the College farm, traveled to the airport for a lesson on aviation and went to the John Deere dealership for instruction on farm mechanics. They also visited the veterinary technician program and the criminal justice departments at the college.

College instructors came in on the weekend with the Scouts on their merit badges.

Briefly

Group plans fellowship day

Church Women United will hold May Fellowship Day at noon Friday in the First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. Lunch will be provided and donations accepted. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

Meal, auction to benefit family

There will be a pancake feed, bake sale, silent auction and "slave" auction to benefit the family of Dalen Schlageck from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. Money raised will help the family with medical and funeral expenses. Thrivent Chapter Activity will provide a matching donation. For information, Call Julie Ross at 443-1811.

Dance the night away Saturday

There will be a singles and couples dance from 6 to

10 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Course clubhouse. Craig Stevens will provide music. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

Get your child screened Monday

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center will hold free early childhood screenings on Monday at the Colby United Methodist Church. The screenings test infants, toddlers and preschoolers on speech, sight, hearing, movement, learning and social skills and more. To make an appointment, call Amy Huffles at 460-5111.

Department to distribute food

The United States Department of Agriculture will distribute extra commodities from 1 to 2 p.m. next Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Commodities are given according to income guidelines and dis-

tribution is first-come, first-served. Participants are asked to not arrive before 12:30 p.m. Commodities include cereal, corn, peaches, canned beef, juice and cranberry sauce. For information, call the program office at 462-6744.

Diabetes class is Tuesday

Citizens Medical Center Inc. will hold an diabetes class, "Continuing Your Journey with Diabetes," at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Citizens Medical Center conference room. This class is free for a limited time, but registration is required. For information or to register, call Courtney McCarty at 460-1237.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The Group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring

a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

Hospital plans open house

Citizens Medical Center will hold an open house for the new renovations and expansions from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the hospital. The hospital will also be showing off its new digital mammography system. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the hospital at 462-7511.

