



CHRISTINA BERENGER/Colby Free Press

2010 Grand Marshall Tim Adrian is still making appearances at the Thomas County Free Fair. He held the gate open for the senior 4-H showmanship division competitors this morning.

## Thomas County Fair is under way

The Thomas County Free Fair is officially underway at the county fairgrounds.

The 4-H horse show was this morning in the small arena. Open Class non-animal entries were set up in the 4-H building for judging in the afternoon.

Tonight is the first night of mutton busting. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. with the event shortly after in the big arena. There will also be mutton busting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

The rodeo, put on by the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association, will be at 8 p.m. tonight and Tuesday. This year's rodeo royalty will be crowned tonight.

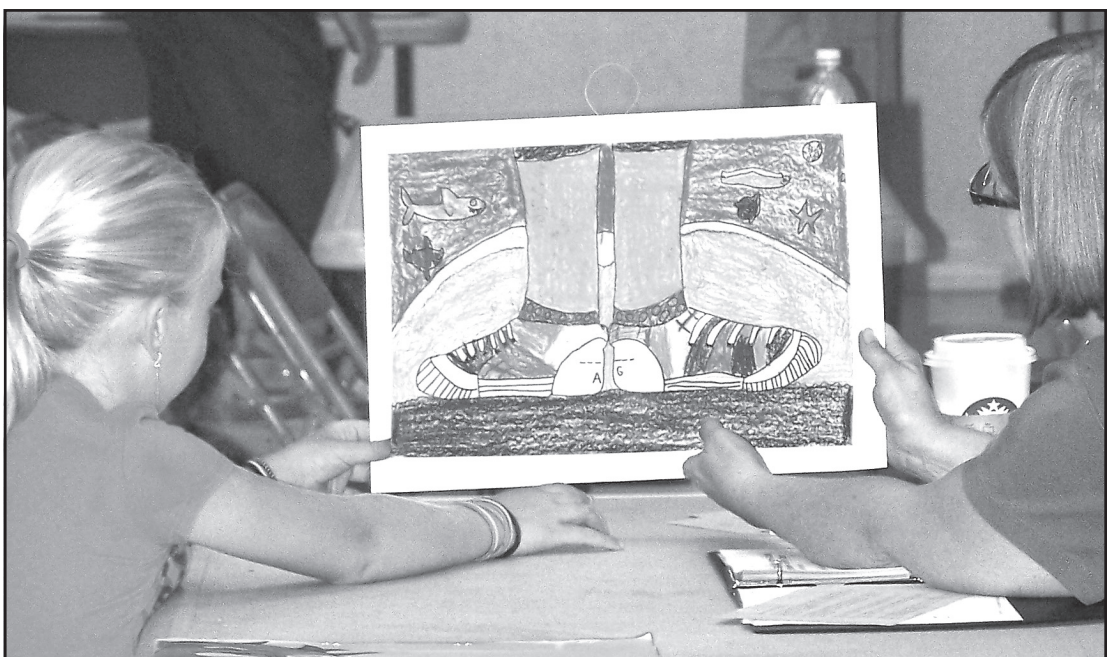
Tuesday morning will see 4-H non-animal exhibit judging in the morning and the cat, rabbit and hand pet show in the afternoon.

The fair parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. It will start from Fike Park and go south down Franklin Avenue to Cedar Street and turn west to the fairgrounds. Check in begins at 4 p.m. under the tent at the corner of Franklin and Eighth Street.

The carnival also begins Tuesday. It will run from 7 to 11 p.m. through Saturday. Farmers and Merchants Bank is once again holding its half-price wrist band promotion. The first 100 people to show up at the bank's main location when the lobby opens Tuesday morning will get a half-price wrist band, good for a night of rides. The first 300 people who buy 20 tickets at the booth (which opens at 6:30 p.m.) will get five free tickets.

The 4-H swine, sheep and goat shows will get things started Wednesday morning. The swine show will begin at 8 a.m. with the sheep and goat show to follow. The antique tractor show will be at 11 a.m. in the 4-H building parking lot.

Registration for the pedal tractor pull will begin at 4 p.m. with



TOMI MILLER/Colby Free Press

A few fair events took place last week, such as the arts and crafts judging Thursday (above). The petting zoo, run by Gary Baldridge, will be available all week at the fairgrounds. It includes many exotic animals, such as this fainting goat (right).

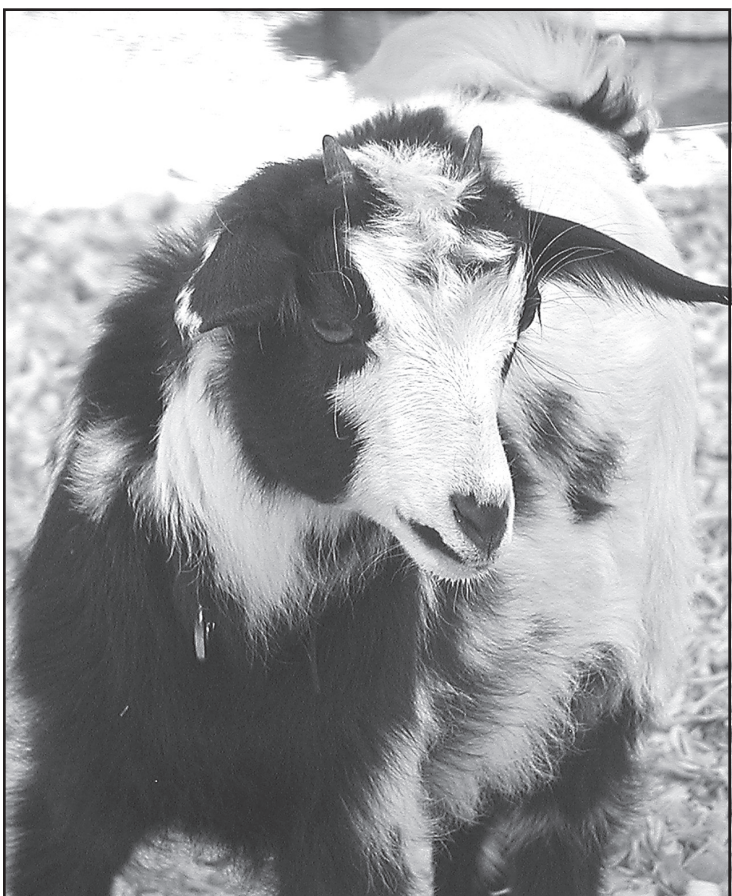
the pull itself at 5 p.m. The Thomas County Fair Board's barbecue will follow at 5:30 p.m.

The Thomas County Community Foundation will have its annual fair breakfast at 7 a.m. Thursday. The 4-H dairy, bucket calf, breeding and market steer show will follow at 8:30 a.m.

The 4-H livestock sale will be at 5:30 p.m. with the buyers' appreciation barbecue after.

The fair will close Friday with the 4-H round robin at 9 a.m. Livestock entries will be released at 2 p.m. Other entries will be released at 8 a.m. Saturday. There will be no early releases.

The F&M Insurance Summer Shootout will be at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday.



CHRISTINA BERENGER/Colby Free Press

## Kansas fossil hunters discover new dinosaur

By Heather Hollingsworth

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Two Kansas fossil hunters say they think they found something new while digging in Montana.

Jim Kirkland, a state paleontologist at the Utah Geological Survey, has examined photos of the fossil that Robert and Alan Detrich are uncovering and said it looks like a new type

of ankylosaur. The low-slung heavily armored dinosaurs lived around 65 million years ago and munched on plants.

"This thing is worthy of note. There is no doubt about it," said Kirkland, who specializes in ankylosaurs. "In my mind it's clearly a new one."

The brothers have been digging since May in a fossil-rich area near the town of Jordan. They've uncovered the ankylosaur fossil's

skull, part of its leg, ribs, armored plates and some vertebrae.

Kirkland said it appears the creature measured about 30 feet long, making it the biggest ankylosaur he had ever seen. He said typical ankylosaurs were 16 feet long, with one type, the ankylosaurus, measuring 20 feet.

"It's huge," said Robert Detrich, who dis-

See "DINOSAUR," Page 2

## Wind farm problematic for airport

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press  
kbottrell@hotmail.com

Wind towers at the proposed Solomon Forks Wind Farm may be so tall they would interfere with landing at the Colby Municipal Airport.

Airport manager Mark Ostmeyer received a notice from the Federal Aviation Administration about the potential obstruction. He brought the notices to the attention of the Thomas County Commissioners last Monday and the Colby City Council on Tuesday.

Acciona Energy has been working on the wind farm, to be built south of Colby, for several years. Agreements with Thomas County and area landowners are in place, but construction hasn't begun.

The Federal Aviation Administration conducted an aeronautical study on the latest plans and found that the proposed height for the 31 turbines, 584 feet at the highest point, would obstruct operations at the airport.

These would likely be the biggest turbines in Kansas, Ostmeyer said. A recently-built wind farm in Ellsworth has 250-foot turbines.

The FAA issued a "Notice of Presumed Hazard" on June 13 to Acciona for each of the 31 proposed towers. The notice says that turbines at that height would force

the airport to increase its minimum descent altitude from 3,640 feet to 3,740 and increase the missed approach holding altitude from 4,800 feet to 4,900.

This comes at a time when the city has been buying up land around the airport to extend the runway, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said, which would lower the minimum descent altitude.

"We need greater access to the community," Ostmeyer told the commissioners. "That's not possible with these high turbines."

The notice goes on to say that if the turbines were reduced to 499 feet high or lower, they would no longer exceed the obstruction standards. Currently, the tallest obstruction south of the airport is a 458-foot radio tower.

The notices are available for the public to read at [oaaaa.faa.gov](http://oaaaa.faa.gov). The address listed for the turbines is Altair, a former town along the railroad southeast of Colby.

Ostmeyer said the FAA is now asking for comments from the public on the towers. Armstrong said she would send a letter to the FAA on the city's behalf and encourage other entities, such as the hospital, to comment as well.

"We want to coexist with the wind farm," she said. "We just want them to be cognizant of the effect on the airport."

## Budget chief wants to end state income tax

By Dion Lefler

The Wichita Eagle  
via the Associated Press

WICHITA — Gov. Sam Brownback's budget chief is working on a renewed effort for next year to dramatically reduce or do away with state income taxes — a proposal Democrats are calling shameful.

Budget director Steve Anderson praised efforts in this year's session to pass Senate Bill 1 — which would have phased income taxes down over time — and said his office is working on similar plans for next year.

SB 1 passed the House 73-47, but stalled in the Senate, where moderate Republicans hold more sway.

"I would expect it to be revived this next year," Anderson said. "I would hope that we also have a plan in our (governor's) budget

that shows some significant (income tax) cuts and I think we will. We have a tax study committee working on it right now."

SB 1 would have essentially capped state revenue at the 2010 level and gradually eliminated personal income taxes as property and sales tax revenue rose over time.

The bill also would have reduced corporate taxes, from the current 4 to 7 percent range, to as low as 3.5 percent, according to a bill analysis by the Legislative Research Department.

"I think it was a pretty solid plan," Anderson said. "I suspect the governor probably would have signed it if it passed."

Anderson said he does not support repeal of the 1 percent, three-year emergency sales tax passed two years ago during the Demo-

See "TAX," Page 2

## Tech college expects enrollment increase

With fall enrollment numbers starting to come in, Northwest Kansas Technical College is anticipating more students on campus this year.

The total enrollment when classes begin is expected to be at or slightly above 400, said Bill Finley, vice president of student affairs.

Northwest Tech had made many changes over the past two years, Finley said, including the introduction of college athletics — with the wrestling team headed by former Colby coach Steve Lampe — new academic programs and faculty, the introduction of an iPad in the hands of every student and the

rebranding of the college Maverick mascot.

Along with these changes the freshman enrollment for Northwest Tech is expected to be up and the total college enrollment is expected to be up from last year, and should be around the 400 student mark. According to college records, Finley said, this could be the largest enrollment since 2002.

Northwest Tech continues to take enrollments. All programs begin classes on Monday, Aug. 15.

