



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Sheriff to install cameras in vehicles

By Christina Beringer  
Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansas.com

Cooperation among Thomas County officials will lead to increased security for residents, better surveillance on criminals and higher efficiency for sheriff's department.

Undersheriff Marc Finley and deputy Thomas Graham met with county commissioners Monday morning to follow up on the need for new security cameras in five patrol vehicles.

Graham said he applied for grant funding to purchase the equipment

but his application was denied because there wasn't enough money available. He said that six-year-old equipment currently installed in their patrol vehicles has been failing the last two to three years and they have been unsuccessful in getting service from the company responsible for maintenance.

"I'd say it doesn't even work 50 percent of the time," said Graham. "Mostly, it doesn't even boot up and I've learned that when this happens, I have to unplug the power supply from the battery."

But that's no small feat. "To do this, I have to unscrew the entire console," he said,

"which takes a long time and is not even possible when an incident is taking place and I have to leave in a hurry."

Graham said that the current equipment stores information to a memory card, which only holds so much data. When the device is full, it has to be downloaded, sometimes taking 20 minutes but at times up to three hours. This, Graham said, is an additional burden to department staff who must ensure the chain of evidence is not compromised.

The new surveillance equipment

See "CAMERAS," Page 2

## 4-Her is reserve champion at regional competition

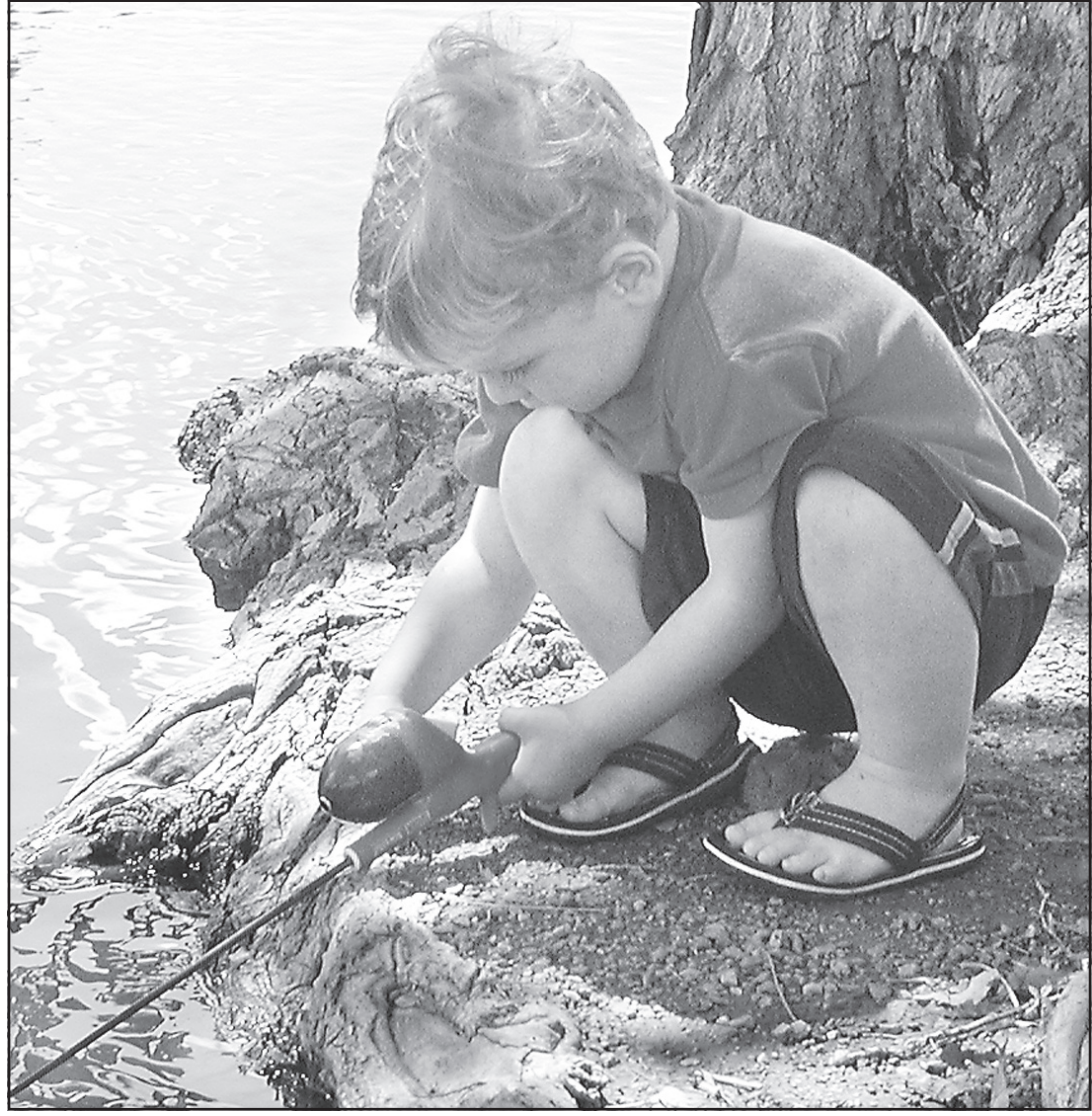
Fair champions from 29 counties in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado competed in the Tri-State Royal last weekend in Goodland.

Michael Schmidt won reserve champion in goat showmanship. Schmidt, a member of the Brewster Prairie Gem 4-H Club, had the grand champion market goat at the Thomas County Free Fair.

Kelly Sloan, Weston Schmidt and Taylor Todd also competed in the event.

To qualify for the royal, animal entries must be the grand or reserve champion from a county fair. Winners receive a belt buckle and their names are posted on the walls of the ag barn at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

### First fish



Jaden Mayfield, age 2, son of James and Kim Mayfield, caught a few small catfish at Villa High Lake in Colby on Wednesday afternoon.

CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

## Radio station raising money for schools with all-day telethon

By Christina Beringer  
Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansas.com

Rocking M Radio held a Radiothon from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. today in Colby. Donors were able to call in and give pledge donations to benefit activity funds for a

school, or schools, of their choice.

"This is the first year for the Radiothon," said Sacha Sanguinetti of KXXX/KRDQ Radio.

The radio station played interviews with coaches, students and administrators throughout the day while asking for donations.

Sanguinetti said that when people call in to make a donation, they get to choose a school to benefit from their pledge. All of the money received goes to a general activity fund at that school. Donations are made directly to the schools and can be used for athletics, music and the arts.

"None of the donations are announced

on the air," Sanguinetti said. "But names and amounts are given to the school so they can account for the tax-deductible contributions."

Thursday's campaign accepted pledges for Colby, Oakley, Rawlins County, Brewster Triplains, Hoxie, Golden Plains and Wheatland/Grinnell. However, San-

guinetti explained that they would not turn donations away for pledges made to other schools.

On Wednesday afternoon, Sanguinetti said they had received just over \$3,500 to benefit Saint Francis, Wallace County, Greeley County, Cheylin, Weskin, Goodland and Burlington, Colo.

### Getting ready for college



Shelby Klippert of Colby stopped by the Colby Community College Bookstore on Wednesday to get help from assistant manager Leisa Hansen. Hansen assisted Klippert with selecting textbooks for her sophomore year of classes. Klippert also

filled out an entry slip to win a T-shirt. Every purchase made at the bookstore gets one entry in a drawing that will take place on Mondays, beginning Monday, Aug. 22.

CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

## Colby making a comeback in energy contest

Colby has taken the lead in one category of the Take Charge Challenge.

While Goodland is still in the lead overall, Colby has jumped to the top of one of three categories used to judge the contest.

Category 2 is energy efficiency measures. Colby residents have recorded 11,330 switches to compact florescent light bulbs since the contest began along with one installation of a programmable thermostat. The city has also retrofitted several public buildings with the florescent light bulbs. The city gets points toward the challenge for each of these improvements.

Category 1 is whole-house energy retrofits, the city gets points for energy audits done by private companies or through state programs. Category 3 is community participation in Take Charge events.

Colby got a big boost in category 3 last weekend with the Big Splash event, but committee Member Carolyn Armstrong

warned that Goodland still has several events lined up that will bring in more points.

The challenge ends on Sept. 30, and the Colby committee plans to have a presence at 10 events between now and then.

On Monday, the committee will present the Energy Bandit program at new student orientation at Colby Community College, and it will have a booth at the campus block party Tuesday.

The committee will also have booths set up at the Business After 5 on Thursday, Aug. 18, at Pioneer Memorial Library; Wednesday, Aug. 24, at the Gem Hog Roast; at three college volleyball games on Sept. 6, 21 and 28; at the Navy Band performance Sept. 11 at Colby High School; and at the Colby homecoming football game Sept. 30. On Sept. 24, the committee is planning a pancake feed at the Colby fire station.

Armstrong said that with good attendance at these events, Colby can win the \$100,000 prize.

## Researchers examining Kansas mammoth bones

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Researchers say that by examining mammoth bones that were recently found in west-central Kansas, they hope to determine how the animal died and learn more about the earliest humans in the region.

The bones were discovered during construction on a Scott County farm. Researchers say they could date back to the earliest New World civilization, *The Hutchinson News* reported Wednesday (<http://bit.ly/pssADL>).

It's the latest of several discoveries that have included the fossils of giant mammoths, the

extinct, prehistoric cousin to the elephant that once roamed the region.

Researchers at the University of Kansas say there is evidence that the mammoth may have been killed by the region's earliest inhabitants. The conjecture is preliminary, but University of Kansas Professor Rolfe Mandel said the find will lead to further study of the bones to see how and when the mammoth died.

"If you remember back to your high school days, the Clovis people followed the mammoth (into North America)," Mandel said of the hunter-gatherers who lived here roughly 12,000 to 13,000 years ago. He said he and his colleagues are trying to find the earliest evidence of humans.

Archaeologists only have exposed Clovis-

era remains at one other Kansas site, near Kanorado in Sherman County.

Mandel is the director of the University of Kansas' Odyssey Archaeological Research Fund, an endowed program trying to find the earliest evidence of humans on the Great Plains. He and a small group of archaeologists and students visited the Scott County site last week.

After the bones were found on their farm during construction, Mike and Debbie Schuerman alerted the Natural Resources Conservation Service, said Jack Ray, a research archaeologist with Missouri State University who is also working with the Odyssey pro-

See "BONES," Page 2

## Firm reminds public to call before digging

Today is National 811 Day. 811 is the universal number to call before you do any digging, whether it's excavation work or planting a garden. Calling 811 before you dig any dirt anywhere helps keep you and others safe and prevents disruption of your local utilities.

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc., a Kentucky company with an office in Colby, is a member of Common Ground Alliance, an association that

works with utility companies to prevent damage to underground utilities, ensure public safety, and protect the environment. Common Ground Alliance created 811 as a way for one call to reach all utility companies that might be impacted when a person or business plans to dig.

"Everyone knows you can call 911 from anywhere for an emergency call," said Jerry

See "DIGGING," Page 2

