



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Child center asks for funds

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

A representative from the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center asked Thomas County commissioners Monday to double the county's annual contribution.

Vicki Hubin of Scott City presented information about the group and asked for \$5,000, double what the organization received last year. No motion was made, but commissioners indicated the full amount might not be granted.

Hubin said the center's main office is in Scott City, but the agency has locations in Sublette and Colby and recreational vehicles that provide a site for therapy, medical exams and other services on the road.

The service area covers 29 western Kansas counties, everything west from Seward, Haskell, Ness, Ellis, Rooks and Phillips, she said, and it has provided service in 16 other Kansas counties.

Hubin said the staff is trained to handle cases of sexual abuse against children and even includes a former Kansas Bureau of Investigation agent. She is a nationally certified child forensic interviewer with more than 200 hours of training on how to talk to kids.

The staff also includes nurse examiners trained in dealing with sexual assault who are able to take evidence and examine rape victims so the child doesn't have to go to the hospital. In-house therapy and examination services provide security and comfort to victims.

Hubin said the center staff interviews children in ways that lessen "re-traumatization." It offers advocacy and support services during the investigation and judicial phases of a case and recovery, prevention and extended forensic evaluation provided by a licensed therapist.

"We generally have three staff members present at all times," she

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Juried art show features 26 artists at amateur event

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

Almost 100 people came to see the first juried amateur art show held by the High Plains Art Club at Heartland Christian School in Colby over the weekend, featuring 96 entries submitted by 26 artists from as far away as Dallas.

Judging the show was John Scott, a professional artist from Hoxie, who gave opinions and recommendations to artists, along with his decisions on awards. His comments were available for guests to see, as well as the artists, as his notes were displayed alongside the artwork after judging Sat-

urday morning.

Prize money was awarded based on Scott's judging and ribbons were also given for People's Choice and Judge's Merit awards.

A \$100 Best of Show prize was awarded to David Ketchum of Rexford for his 2012 acrylic self portrait. Ketchum also received \$50 for a first-place ribbon on the same piece and \$25 for another acrylic piece, "Supatym," that took second place.

Seven other \$50 first-place awards were given for various media, going to Bev Kern of Colby for her oil painting, "Mansion on a Hill"; Charlotte Keith of Morland

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KU wants \$30M for medical project

TOPEKA (AP) — The University of Kansas will ask the state for \$30 million to help fund a new medical education building on the university's medical campus in Kansas City, Kan.

The new building will cost an estimated \$75 million and replace a building erected in 1976 that has become outdated, university officials said.

The Kansas Board of Regents will consider the request, along with other funding requests from all public institutions of higher learning, at its June 21 meeting, *The Lawrence Journal-World*

reported (bit.ly/KXiMDL). The board will send its final budget request to Gov. Sam Brownback by October.

The current medical education building is too small and no longer meets accrediting standards, university officials said. Its classrooms are designed for lectures rather than small-group learning.

The School of Medicine has proposed increasing the class size of the Kansas City campus from 175 to 225 students. The school said it had to reject 100 qualified applicants this year because it didn't have enough space.

Democrats want to get candidate on the ballot

TOPEKA (AP) — Democrats say one of their Kansas House candidates is being denied a spot on the ballot because the secretary of state's office lost his paperwork.

Democratic Party officials said today that they will challenge a decision by Secretary of State Kris Kobach not to list Larry Meeker of Lake Quivira as a candidate for the 17th House District in the

Kansas City area. They had until tonight to file an objection with Kobach's office.

Kobach is a Republican, but House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat, said he doesn't believe the decision against Meeker was motivated by politics or malice. Davis said he believes Kobach's office simply made a mistake.

Kobach spokeswoman Kay Curtis said only that his office does not have a form for Meeker.

Got Milk?



Toasting the opening of McCarty Family Farms' new milk condensing plant near Rexford on Wednesday — with glasses of milk — were (from left) Gov. Sam Brownback, owner Tom Mc-

Carty and Dannon official Gustavo Valle from White Plains, N.Y.

SHARON FRIEDLANDER/Colby Free Press

McCarty Family Farms holds open house for new milk plant

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
sl604@st-tel.net

Hot weather and a stiff south wind didn't hamper festivities Wednesday when McCarty Family Farms, Gov. Sam Brownback, state officials, contractors, friends and neighbors from northwest Kansas extended a warm hand of friendship to Dannon Foods of Fort Worth.

The family-owned dairy, with its new 500,000-pounds-per-day processing facility, partnered with Dannon as the sole supplier of condensed milk for its Fort Worth yogurt plant. The Rexford milk-condensing plant is

the only one of its kind in North America.

Ken McCarty, one of the co-owners of the family operation, welcomed dignitaries, including Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman and Commerce Secretary Pat George, friends, contractors and reporters. He told of the family's efforts to make the day a reality, reading a few lines from Robert Frost's poem "A Road Not Taken."

He said the family was grateful for what fate, good fortune and hard work has brought them over the past 12 years.

"We can't begin to thank everyone enough," he said, ending with an emotional thank you to his parents, Tom and Judy McCarty. Well over a hundred people who filled

a huge tent set up for the festivities responded with loud applause.

Officials from Dannon, including Gustavo Valle of the company's U.S. office in White Plains, N.Y., spoke next.

"I am impressed with how you all do business," said Valle, "and I express my thanks to the McCarty family for their huge step and for their commitment and passion for the industry. I am inspired by what we all see here today. This will enable us to all grow to make inroads in the market for freshness and quality. Yogurt is good for you, and this is the beginning of a historic way to do busi-

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Gov. Sam Brownback talked to the the crowd assembled for the ribbon cutting for the McCarty dairy's milk condensing plant in Thomas County on Wednesday. Before his talk, he

took time to greet people and have his picture taken with all the McCarty grandchildren.

