



County fair parade sets 82-entry record

Thomas County veterans (above) were honored as grand marshals Tuesday for the Thomas County Fair Parade, which had 82 entries, the most the parade has ever had. Floats in the parade included this Sons of the American Legion truck (left), which took second place under the community and organizational category. For the event, Kansas Highway Patrolman Tod Hileman and his sons Feyden, 5, and Jude, 4, rode a 1937 Highway Patrol replica go-cart, which is part of the patrol's recognition of its 75th anniversary this year.

MARIAN BALLARD and KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press



Meeting held about new state housing program

By Stephanie DeCamp and Kayla Cornett
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A new state program for moderate-income, as opposed to low-income, housing could give Kansas counties with housing

shortages up to \$400,000 for infrastructure and housing development. The Kansas Housing Resources Corporation held the meeting on June 25 in Colby at the Community Building. Interim City Manager Randy Jones, Economic Development Alliance Director Christy Rocca, Mayor Gary Adrian and Chamber Director Holly Whitaker were a few of the Colby officials who attended. "The goal of the program is to assist cities and counties that are attracting new businesses, but lack affordable, quality housing for the growing workforce," said Catherine Couch of the Kansas Housing

Resources Corp. Many counties and towns in Kansas will meet the only qualification, which is a population under 60,000, according to the corporation's press release. The program is state-funded and brand new. Steve Zodrow, the City of Oberlin's certified public accountant, went to hear about it and said that the program is not for Oberlin. "What it's geared toward is a community more like Colby, which has a huge housing shortage right now," he said. "They're desperate for medium to high-

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Fighting breast cancer



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Firefighter Don Hayworth stood in front of a pink fire truck parked in front of the Colby Fire Station Friday for the Zumbathon. About 100 people showed up on that evening to dance for hours at the breast cancer fund-raising event. The truck

carried the name of Nicki Janne, wife of retired firefighter and Zumbathon coordinator Richard Janne, who herself has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Rain, lightning hits Colby Monday night

By Sam Dieter
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An intense storm came through Colby Monday night, dropping little rain despite the lightning show that came with it. The thunderstorm came through Thomas County between 10 and 11 p.m. Monday night, according to Jeremy Martin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Goodland.

It was preceded by lightning strikes across much of northwest Kansas, and wind gusts of 55 mph near the Colby airport. Much of it fell in an intense initial surge, but rain and lightning lasted until about 1 a.m. Tuesday morning, Martin said. For all the wind and lightning, though, just over three-tenths of an inch of rain fell around Colby. Southern Thomas County only got trace amounts of rain.

Postmaster starts in town

By Sam Dieter
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Colby has a new postmaster in town, Jean Johnson, who started working at the Colby Post Office Thursday, although her official appointment was on June 30.

For Johnson, moving to Colby is the latest change in a career that goes back almost 27 years. In

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