

A gal named ‘Sue’

Thousands see exhibit at Sternberg

By TOM (TD) DREILING
Free Press Publisher

She is no secret. Not to some 50,000 visitors to the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hays, anyway. The traveling replica of *A T. rex Named Sue*, called “the largest, most complete and best-preserved Tyrannosaurus rex” and an “unprecedented scientific discovery” can be seen until April 29, thanks to The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, home of the original Sue fossil, and McDonald’s Corporation.

The traveling exhibits, consisting of only a handful being sent to various locations in the country — Hays being the only community in Kansas and a large part of the nation’s mid-section selected to host one — are drawing large crowds. The figure at Sternberg is in excess of 50,000 and drawing curious viewers from all over Kansas and many other states.

Weekends find the largest crowds, and the numbers continue to amaze Sternberg people, who quietly feel



TOM (TD) DREILING/Colby Free Press

There she is, the much publicized traveling exhibit of “A T. rex Named Sue” currently drawing thousands of onlookers to the Sternberg Museum

of Natural History in Hays. The exhibit remains in place through April 29. Upwards of 50,000 people have viewed Sue since her arrival.

spite having no meat on her bones, she is an awesome figure. She has a tremendously big head, a mouth large enough to crawl into and then there are those teeth! Elsewhere in Sternberg is a robotic Sue, fully skinned, which draws lots of attention, especially when she begins to move and emit sounds from down deep. A few facts about the Tyrannosaurus: Existed about 70-65 million years ago, generally in Western North America, Argentina, Mongolia, India and China; meat eater; about 46 feet long, 18 feet high

and weighed about 7.5 tons. The great weight of the creature’s body and head was counter-balanced by its powerful tail, according to scientists. This indicates that it probably extended its tail and head horizontally as it walked with a rolling gait. A strange feature of this huge animal is its tiny, two-clawed forearms. These were too short to be useful for feeding or fighting. You can see the traveling Sue up close and personal through April 29.

Tech lab discussion continues

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

The idea of a new technology lab in the high school got a boost at the Colby School Board meeting earlier this week. Superintendent Kirk Nielsen updated the board on possible costs to prepare the middle school for a lab similar to the one in the high school. According to Nielsen, moving Title I students into the primary school would free up enough space for a new lab. He told the board preparations would cost about \$24,000. Air conditioning, carpeting, some electrical work and some new partition walls would be necessary to make the room usable. Asked about the space, curriculum director Diana Wieland said there would be enough room for two classes to work together. “That interaction is something we want,” she said. Middle school principal Robb Ross also told the board if the lab became a reality, he planned to try it without increasing staff. “Just don’t hold me to that,” he said. The big question from board members didn’t seem to be whether or not the new technology was needed. All seemed to agree moving forward with technology education was important, but board member Bill Miller echoed the sentiments of the entire room. “How do we pay for this?” he asked. Nielsen suggested capital outlay money, but board members didn’t seem willing to go that route. Wieland also told the board grant money was available, and saved money at the end of the year was also discussed. In the end, the board directed Nielsen to put the suggestion on the next meeting’s agenda for action.

Brewster area chase reaches speeds in excess of 105 mph

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

A high speed chase that began near the Brewster interchange on I-70 ended with three people being arrested in Rawlins County near McDonald on Tuesday afternoon. An 18-month-old child was placed in foster care as a result. According to Kansas Highway Patrol spokesman Lt. Kelly McGuire, a trooper clocked a 1993 Ford Mustang with Georgia plates at 105 miles per hour westbound at milepost 40. When the trooper attempted to stop the car, the driver, 21-year-old Noah Clyde Tanner, Blairsville, Ga., continued his escape effort. Also in the car were Justin Lee Shull, 18, Blairidge, Ga. and Karla V. Hern-

don, 17 and her 18-month-old child. According to McGuire, troopers did not see the child until after the chase had ended. The Mustang left I-70 at the Brewster interchange and headed north on highway 184 at Brewster. Thomas County deputies and Colby Police officers also assisted until the highway patrol had enough troopers in position. Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones said he was just glad no one got hurt. “It’s a law enforcement officer’s worst nightmare to have a helpless child in a vehicle (during a chase).” he said. The chase continued north after 184 becomes Thomas County Road 2, a gravel road, a few miles north of Brewster, and was ended by troopers with

stop sticks just south of U.S. 36 at McDonald. “They only went about 20 feet after they hit the sticks,” said McGuire. McGuire said the chase lasted 21 minutes and went 35 miles. A stolen Kansas tag was also found in the vehicle, along with marijuana and beer. McGuire said Tanner was wanted for breaking into a convenience store in Wilson, and for other offenses in Georgia. Other charges might include fleeing and eluding, possession of stolen property, child endangerment, possession of marijuana, providing cereal malt beverages to minors, reckless driving, transporting open containers, no driver’s license, speeding, failure to stop at a stop sign and im-

proper passing. Shull was charged with possession of stolen property, child endangerment and possession of marijuana. Thomas County Attorney Allan Taylor said all three were extradited to Ellsworth County.

“The Ellsworth County attorney wants to charge all three,” he said, adding that all charges had not been determined yet. The infant was put in foster care until other arrangements with family could be made.

McGuire said the trio told officers they didn’t stop because they were afraid of being sent back to Georgia and they had stolen the Kansas tags in order to be less suspicious. “At 105, even Kansas tags are suspicious,” he said.

Easy election pick for first-time voter

One first-time Colby voter probably didn’t have to make up her mind on at least one candidate in the Colby School Board election on Tuesday. Jodi Cranston turned 18 in December and was helping decide whether or not her father, John Cranston — who won election to the school board —

would get the seat or not. The Colby High School senior said she didn’t vote in the primary. “I didn’t get registered in time, so this is my first election,” she said earlier this week. Cranston said being eligible to vote made her more aware of the candidates

and the election in general, although her father also helped. “He was always talking about it (the election).” she said. Her father said he was glad she was voting. “I’m not real sure she voted for me, though,” he said with a grin.

Briefly

Weather: Very windy

Thursday’s forecast for the Colby area in Wednesday’s paper, called for highs to be between 75-80; the actual high was 63. Winds will be the concern tonight and into Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. Tonight, very windy, 35-45 mph out of the south, with much higher gusts, a 50 percent chance for thunderstorms, some severe with the potential for hail and damaging winds, lows around 40, decreasing winds late to around 10-20 mph and clearing skies. Saturday, partly sunny, highs 70-75, brisk winds out of the south 20-30 mph, turning to the southwest and decreasing to 10-20 mph late. Saturday night, clear, lows in the 30s. Sunday and Monday, dry, highs in the mid to upper 60s and lows in the 30s. The overnight low today was 40. The records for April 6: 88 in 1893 and 8 in 1936. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

Egg hunt here Saturday

The annual Kiwanis Club Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday at Fike Park. Children up to 3 will hunt at 1 p.m.; ages 4-6 at 1:10 p.m.; ages 7-9 at 1:20 p.m. In case of bad weather listen to the local radio station for information.

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the commissioners room of the courthouse. Thomas County Extension Agent Dennis Chandler will give the Extension Office report at 9 a.m., and Chris Bieker, roads supervisor, will report on the water tanker for the road department at 9:30.

Singles dance tonight

The Colby Singles Club will hold its regular monthly dance today from 8 p.m. to midnight with Jim Christensen

of Kearney, Neb., providing entertainment. The event is open to all single people and alumni. For information and more details, call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

College board to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Thomas Hall Administration Building. The agenda: discuss capital outlay considerations and approve the purchase of an oscilloscope for the maintenance department; tuition and fees will be set for 2001-2002; Thomas County Scholarships will be considered for all Thomas County graduates; the amended and restated college cafeteria plan is expected to be approved; a lease agreement with the Endowment Association for the \$106,000 grant from Rural Utility Services will be discussed; negotiations will be considered; and the board will also discuss any other items any member may wish to discuss.

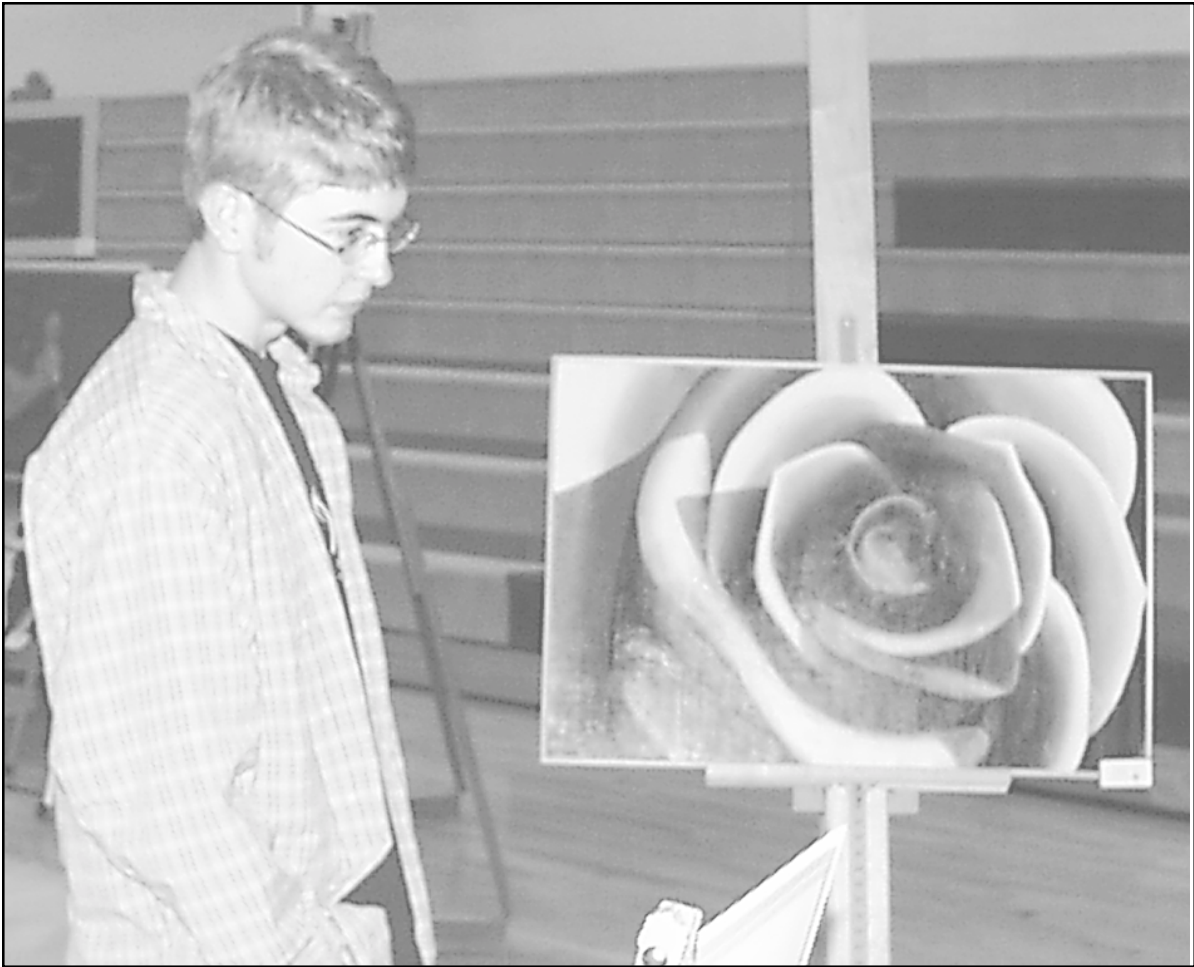
Indian burial pit part of program

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will host the program, “Salina Area Archaeology in the 1930s: The Indian Burial Pit and Other Adventures of the Whiteford Family,” at 2 p.m., Sunday, in the Garvey Educational Room, 1905 S. Franklin Ave. The program, which will be presented by Donna C. Roper, a professor in anthropology, is free and open to the public

Barbershop show Saturday

The Tumbleweed Chorus of Northwest Kansas will be presenting a Barbershop show entitled Songs of the 40s on Saturday, April 7, at the Colby High School auditorium. Show times are 4 and 8 p.m. with tickets available at the door for \$8. Other highlights of the event include the quartet, Fatherly Advice, Harmony Halls and the Hi Plains Harmony local chapter of the Sweet Adelines.

Admiring local artwork



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Tanner Holloway, a student at Colby High School, admires some projects at the Northwest Kansas League Art Show in the Colby High School gym on Thursday. Students K-12 from all league schools participated in the show.

