



# County signs agreements with city for services

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners signed two agreements with the city of Colby at their Monday meeting to provide services for the county.

Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore presented a contract for rescue services and hazardous materials response services which the city provides for the county. The contract included a \$3,000 increase to \$11,804.82.

McLemore explained that part of the increase is due to setting aside funds to replace the rescue truck in 2004. The present truck, he said, was purchased used, and that it is getting hard to get repair parts for it. The commissioners signed the contract.

The commissioners asked about the new emergency preparedness plan being prepared. McLemore assured them they would receive a copy when it is completed.

The commissioners also confirmed that the fire chief is in charge of all rescue efforts in the county in case of emergency. He works with other department heads.

The commissioners also signed an agreement with the city of Colby for \$50,328.76 for 24-hour communications. This is for the dispatchers, 911, etc. The agreement is up \$4,792.49 from last year, which reflects salaries and higher insurance costs, according to Sally Tibbles, city of Colby finance officer.

In other business:  
• The commissioners signed a proclamation

for May 20-26 as Emergency Medical Services Week. Josh Buffington, EMS director, brought the proclamation, and said there will be an emergency services open house from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at the National Guard Armory to let people know the services of the EMS, police, and fire department.

• The commissioners sympathized but took no action on a land dispute between farmers. Pam Medford said a neighbor was denying her access to her land. The commissioners said they could not practice law, and referred her to a lawyer.

• They signed a resolution accepting the Weis Fire and Safety Equipment of Salina bid of \$87,700 for the fire truck for Rural Fire Department No. 4.

• They approved a request from Big Brothers Big Sisters to endorse a grant application for funding through the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. If approved, the money will be filtered through the county clerk.

• They decided to put up "Watch for Turning Vehicles" signs on each side of the I-70 overpass on County Road 415.

• Larry Jumper, landfill director, received approval to close the landfill on Sunday and Monday, May 27-28, for Memorial Day. It will be open Saturday, May 26.

• Tracey Perkins, county clerk, told commissioners the Nex-Tech representative had stopped in and changed their rate from 10 to 9 cents per minute for long distance phoning.

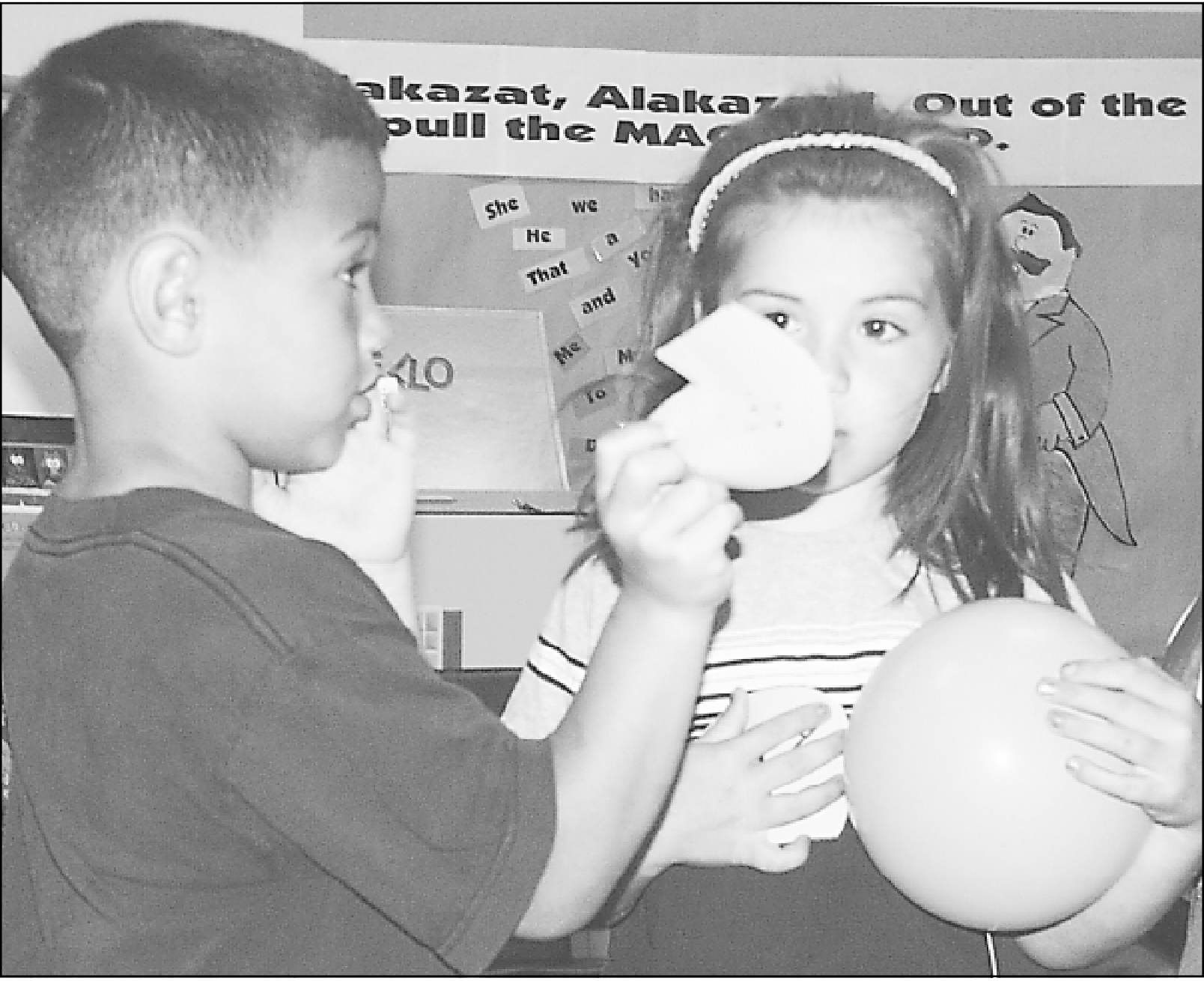
Nex-Tech had made a presentation last week, quoting 10 cents per minute. A representative of S&T Telephone of Brewster has also been invited to make a presentation.

• They reviewed a research report from the Kansas Association of Counties for the year 2000, which said Thomas County levied \$233.35 per person for countywide services and ranks 75th in Kansas. The average amount spent is \$241.39, ranging from \$116.27 per person in Wyandotte County to \$2,016.96 in Stanton County.

• They decided to ask Jim Smith to be the auctioneer for the land sale on June 25, 2001.

• Charlie Krull, Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative, presented a health plan proposal. No action was taken.

## Fairy tale days



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Marcus McArthur and Hannah Shaw checked their puzzle pieces during "fairy tale day" for the Colby Grade School kindergarten. Both

Julie Ross and Vicki Nickols' classes dressed up as their favorite fairy tale characters for the day.

## Clean-up week considered success

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Landfill Director Larry Jumper reported to the county commissioners Monday morning that the city and county clean-up week last week was a success.

He said the total additional tonnage deposited at the Thomas County Landfill during clean-up week was 99.14 tons. This is in addition to the normal tonnage received at the landfill during the week.

"The city crews from Colby, Brewster and Rexford worked very hard to make this happen," he said.

According to Jumper, Colby's department of public works made 37 trips containing 63 tickets to the landfill. These loads contained trees, metal, tires, tires on rims, construction debris, oil, appliances, and municipal solid waste totaling 10.18 tons. They cleaned up 58 tires from the city.

Colby's sanitation department col-

lected approximately 10 tons of additional trash curbside during cleanup week.

Brewster made nine trips to the landfill. These loads contained municipal solid waste, metal, street sweepings, and debris from a pile that contained ashes, tree branches, tree stumps and some concrete debris. They brought out 3.30 tons of metal.

Brewster also brought out seven loads of street sweepings and other debris from a pile totaling 57.79 tons.

Brewster's sanitation department collected approximately two additional tons of municipal solid waste picked up curbside. They brought out 100 tires to the landfill that were cleaned out of the City of Brewster.

Rexford brought out three loads of clean up debris on Saturday. These loads contained construction and demolition debris, metal and municipal solid waste. These loads totaled 2.5 tons.

## Technical College will graduate 15 from here

More than 250 students will graduate Wednesday night from Goodland's Northwest Kansas Technical College, with 22 getting the first advanced degrees from the newly promoted college.

Students from Thomas County participating in the ceremonies are Desseare Tilden, Lindsey Harrison, Jason Shanks, Aaron Janousek, Jeremiah Faber, Justin Mattson, Ronnie Baalman, Laura Bradley, Justin Sloan, Tim Kistler, Glenn Kaaz, Dale Headley,

Joel Sowers, Chris Orth, and Michael Hawkins.

"This will be a historic moment," said President Larry Keirns, "in the fact that we will be issuing associate and applied science degrees for 22 students." The speaker will be Kay Melia of Goodland, retired radio station manager and host of the morning radio program "The Gardener."

The ceremony is open to the public and will probably last about an hour and 15 minutes, Keirns said.

## Peace Officers Memorial Day observed today; local activities planned

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Flags flew half-mast today, in part to honor the 151 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2000, along with recognizing Peace Officers Memorial Day, which is celebrated during National Police Week.

Local activities include flying blue ribbon's on car antennas during the special week and remembering those officers here who either had close calls or gave their lives protecting the community and its people, police officials said.

According to Sgt. Kent Dible, who compiled information, Sheriff Tom Pratt was the first officer to die in the line of duty. He was killed at a road-

block north of Colby on Aug. 24, 1925 while trying to apprehend two fugitives wanted for the death of a police officer in Nebraska. A little over 70 years later, Kansas Highway Patrolman Dean A. Goodheart became the second and last law enforcement officer to die in the county. According to police accounts, Goodheart was killed east of Colby on Interstate 70 when he was struck by a passing car while conducting a truck inspection.

Goodheart's wife, Marilyn, continues to grieve the loss of her best friend and partner.

Now living in Salina, Marilyn said that after his death, she leaned heavily on the support of her husband's fellow troopers as she worked through the

emotional and financial hurdles that faced her.

Today, she said she is returning the favor by forming a Kansas chapter of the national organization, Concerns of Police Survivors, which is a support group that has about 50 members.

"They (officers) were always around to support me if I needed anything," she said. In addition to officers who died in Thomas County, there were other former Thomas County law enforcement officials who died in the line of duty.

"The year 1995 was not a good year for officers in Thomas County," Dible said. "We saw three good friends and fellow officers killed that year and two of those who worked closely with us."

On April 9, 1985, John Teter, who was the chief of police in Oxford, died from injuries while in pursuit. He had been the investigator for the Quad County Task Force and he had also served with the Logan County Sheriff's Office.

The second officer that year was Daniel Trail, who was a patrolman with the Beloit Police Department.

On June 25, 1995, Trail died during a water rescue attempt involving two young men who were caught in the current and drowned. He had served with the Colby Police Department and the Atwood Police Department.

There were also four close calls in the county's history.

The first happened on Feb. 13, 1985

when Thomas County Undersheriff Ben Albright was severely wounded west of Colby on I-70. According to police accounts, Albright was stopping a suspicious vehicle after a broadcast of a murder in Grainfield. Before that day was over, two Thomas County citizens would be killed and more seriously wounded.

The suspects were later taken into custody and one killed after a shoot out with officers.

The second close call occurred on May 29, 1990, when several officers were confronted by a suspicious person in the downtown area. At the time, it was unknown that this man had already shot a police officer the day before in Nebraska. While attempting to

flee, the man fired at officers and was killed after choosing to continue to shoot at officers. On Jan. 14, 2000, when Cpl. Scott Sitton made a traffic stop on the eastbound ramp at I-70 and K-25.

After further investigation, Sitton asked the passenger to step out of the car and he turned away from Sitton and reached into his waistband. Within seconds the passenger had drawn a handgun and fatally shot himself while Sitton was trying to control him.

The first national tribute to law enforcement officers occurred on Oct. 1, 1962 when public law authorized May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, falling within the same week as Police Week recognition.

extra large, call her at 462-7903.

### Group needs officers

Colby Secondary Parent Teacher Student Association still need officers for the year 2001-2002. Call 462-7188.

### Applications sought for pageant

Applications are being sent out for the 2001 Thomas County Rodeo queen and princess pageant. The event is planned for Friday, July 27.

Anyone interested in receiving a packet is asked to call Trudy Wildeman at (785) 462-2848.

### Free compost available

The Thomas County landfill has compost to give away free to whoever will come and get it.

If there are any questions, call Larry Jumper, landfill director, at 462-8139.

### College board to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday in the board room of the Administration Building. They will discuss negotiations and any other item any member wishes to discuss.

### Choir concert Thursday

The Colby High School Choir Concert will be Thursday, May 17, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

### No trash collection May 28

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be operating Monday, May 28, due to the Memorial Day holiday. Monday's yard waste will be picked up on Tuesday, according to the public works department.

### Middle school band to perform

The Colby Middle School band concert is planned for

Tuesday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby High School auditorium. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Reception for principal next week

The Colby Parent-Teacher Organization is sponsoring a reception for Colby Elementary School Principal Becky Holtwick, who is leaving the district at the end of this school year.

Everyone is invited to attend the event from 7 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 22, in the cafeteria at the grade school. If unable to attend, cards can be sent to Holtwick at Colby Elementary School, said Lisa Wilson, one of the organizers.

### Booster club fund-raiser continues

The Colby Booster Club still has state championship wrestling T-shirts for sale, said Tami Brown, president. For those wanting to purchase a T-shirt in sizes small to extra-

## Briefly

### Weather: Near record highs

Hot Wednesday, but not as hot Thursday. That's the Colby region's forecast as issued this morning by the National Weather Service. Tonight, partly cloudy, low in the 50s and light winds. Wednesday, sunny, hot, high 90-95 (in record high territory), and northeast winds 5-15 mph, turning to the south. Wednesday night, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, with the low around 55. Thursday, thunderstorms likely and the high in the 80s. Monday's high in Colby was 91 (far off the record high for the date of 97) and the overnight low this morning was 53. There was no additional precipitation, leaving the month's total at 2.32 inches.

The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 75 degrees. The records for May 15: 97 in 1931 and 25 in 1907. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

