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Going underground



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Chad Neirmeier, foreground, drilled a hole through the ground in preparation for running a flexible pipe through to Dave Backus. Midwest Energy is in the process of lowering a gas main pipe-

line that runs under Range Avenue on 6th Street. The gas main is currently just a couple of feet under the street, and needs to be lowered so as not to interfere with the viaduct removal project.

Colby meeting to air Drought concerns

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

With the current drought, officials at Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby, are hosting a meeting this week designed to help producers evaluate their cropping system and plan any needed changes to adapt to the conditions, said Roger Stockton, crops and soil extension specialist at the center.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday at the Colby Quality Inn meeting room with registration beginning at 9 a.m.

"We need at least 10 people pre-registered prior to the deadline date on Wednesday at noon in order to hold this special drought response meeting," he said.

Among the specialists planning to make presentations, Stockton said, is Kent McVay, who is the state soil and water conservation specialist, who will discuss how the various crops handled the drought and heat in 2002 and what to expect in 2003.

Dale Fjell, he said, is the state row crop production specialist, and he

will be providing the latest research in corn, soybeans and milo.

Dan O'Brien, the Northwest Area Agricultural economist will have the Kansas State crop budgets for the coming year and Stockton plans to talk about the latest sunflower research and wheat production, including no-till wheat research.

"All of the specialists encourage questions from producers," he said, "and we usually learn as much from the producers as they do from us."

The registration fee is \$30, which includes lunch and all materials and can be paid at the door, he said, but it is imperative that producers pre-register prior to Thursday.

For questions or information on the topics, Stockton encourages people to call the Northwest Research-Extension Center at 462-6281, or you can e-mail him at rstockto@oznet.ksu.edu

Stockton said tht mail inquiries can be addressed to: The Northwest Research and Extension Center, P.O. Box 786, Colby, Kan. 67701-0786 or by faxing to: (785)-462-2315.

February to usher in 'Operation Heartbeat'

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Each year, the American Heart Association sets aside the month of February as "American Heart Month" as a time to educate people on cardiovascular disease, how to prevent it by looking at warning signs and much more, said Linda Hauder, health initiative specialist in Topeka.

In addition to the month-long campaign known this year as "Operation Heartbeat," Thomas County and other locations across the state will take part in the fund-raising event known as "Cardiac Arrest,"

involving local people asking for donations to further the goals of the association.

One such goal is purchasing automated external defibrillators that can save lives, she said.

Citing examples, Hauder talked about different situations involving people of all ages who would have died from a heart attack had there not been the external defibrillators readily available.

"We know that these defibrillators save lives and we are working to make sure that more Americans take action to become lifesavers and make their commu-

nities safer for everyone," she said.

External defibrillators, she said, don't replace CPR, which needs to be performed immediately after a victim collapses, but they are necessary within minutes.

"About 250,000 Americans die each year from a sudden heart attack," she said, "and only five percent of these victims survive because CPR and defibrillation usually occur too late."

Another misconception about heart attacks, she said, is that many people believe the attack will be in public and the victim a stranger.

"The truth is that 80 percent of

sudden cardiac arrests happen at home, so if you administer CPR, it will likely be for a loved one," Hauder said. "Call 9-1-1 is essential, but not enough — people must take two more steps — first CPR while waiting and second is defibrillation."

More information on this year's Cardiac Arrest in Thomas County will appear in a later publication.

For other questions about American Heart Month, Hauder encourages people to either call her at (620) 285-6896 or log on to the association's website at: www.americanheart.org

Kline's newest deputy raises some eyebrows

TOPEKA (AP) — The state's new deputy attorney general for consumer protection, who participated in mass abortion protests in Wichita in 1991, said Monday he would look beyond his views on abortion in enforcing Kansas law.

Bryan Brown, 44, said he was hired by Attorney General Phill Kline because of his sense of justice and his desire to see people treated

equally.

"I'm not a political hack brought in to shut down abortion in Kansas," Brown said.

Kline's office called a news conference late Monday to discuss Brown's appointment, which has drawn attention because of Brown's background in the anti-abortion movement. Kline opposes abortion and has promised to interpret the

state's law more narrowly than his predecessor, Carla Stovall.

Brown was hired from the Tupelo, Miss.-based Center for Law & Policy of the American Family Association, a Christian advocacy organization. As a litigator for the past six years, Brown represented parties in state and federal cases on First Amendment issues.

Earlier this month, according to

a news release on the group's Web site, Brown won a federal challenge to two Florida statutes restricting sidewalk distribution of certain kinds of literature. The case stemmed from two women's distribution of fliers critical of the Disney Corp. as they stood on a traffic island near Disneyworld.

Brown said Monday he had been arrested about a dozen times.

Might weigh passengers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some airline passengers just getting used to baggage inspections and patdowns at airports soon may have to reveal how much they weigh before boarding small commuter and regional planes.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced the temporary weigh-in policy for planes with 10 to 19 seats. This is part of a month-long survey to determine whether or not current weight estimates at vari-

ous nation's airports are accurate.

The FAA also issued an order requiring inspections of elevators on all Beech 1900 series planes.

The elevator is a flap on the tail that moves up and down and causes the plane to climb or dive.

Investigators are looking at excess weight and elevator malfunction as possible contributing causes of the Jan. 8 crash of a 19-seat Beech 1900 turboprop in Charlotte, N.C. All 21 people aboard died.

Internet disruptions a shocker

WASHINGTON (AP) — Disruptions from the weekend attack on the Internet are shaking popular perceptions that vital national services, including banking operations and 911 centers, are largely immune to such attacks.

Damage in some of these areas was worse than many experts had believed possible.

President Bush's No. 2 cyber-security adviser, Howard Schmidt, acknowledged that what he called "collateral damage" stunned even

the experts who have warned about uncertain effects on the nation's most important electronic systems from mass-scale Internet disruptions.

"This is one of the things we've been talking about for a long time," Schmidt said, "getting a handle on interdependencies and cascading effects."

The White House, along with Canadian defense officials confirmed that they were investigating howsuch an attack, which started

about 12:30 a.m. EST last Saturday, could have affected ATM banking, as well as other important networks that should remain immune, or thought were immune, from traditional Internet outages.

The attack, alternately dubbed "Slammer" or "Sapphire," sought vulnerable computers to infect using a known flaw in popular database software from Microsoft Corp. called "SQL Server 2000."

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Monday's high, 74
Low this morning, 28
Soil temperature, 32
Year ago today, 33 and 6
Precipitation for month: 0.00
Records for this date: 67 in 1986, -14 in 1948

The forecast

Tonight, cloudy, lows lower 20s, north winds becoming southwest late 5-10 mph. Wednesday, cloudy, highs in the lower 40s, southwest winds becoming east late 5-10 mph. Wednesday night, cloudy, lows lower 20s. Thursday, cloudy, highs lower 50s.

Briefly

Play auditions are tonight

Auditions for the Colby Community College spring production "Angel Street" and the college's touring children's show will be held tonight at 7 in the Cultural Arts Center on the campus. Actors interested in "Angel Street" are asked to prepare a one- to two-minute monologue. Those interested in the children's tour will read from the script. For questions, call Walter Yuhre at 462-3984, ext. 783.

Dog training starts Thursday

Dog training classes will be offered beginning at 8 p.m., Thursday, at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds, said Carrie Bredemeier, coordinator. Those interested will need proof of current vaccinations from a licensed veterinarian. The class fee is \$50, which will be required on the first night of training. This class, she said, will teach discipline and other basic techniques.

For questions or other information, call Bredemeier at 462-3816.

Friday is 'shadow day' for kids

Second through fifth grade students at Colby Grade School will be job shadowing in area businesses on Friday, from the opening of that business until 10:45 a.m., said Terrel Harrison, principal. Parents will ask the business to give approval on a permission slip, which will need to be returned to the grade school office.

For those with questions about the project, can call Harrison at 465-5100.

Rotary Club plans soup supper

The Colby Rotary Club is sponsoring its annual soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, during the Colby-Goodland basketball game at the Colby Community Building. The cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 12 and under. Tickets will be available at the door or from any Rotary Club member.

All proceeds will benefit the community.

Booster Club on the hunt

The Colby Booster Club is looking for any school group or team interested in earning extra money for their group, to work at its concession stand during home wrestling matches and basketball games, said Shawn Stephens with the club. In the event there is no school or team response, the club will extend the offer to church youth groups and other organizations.

If interested, call Stephens at 462-6929.

Cemetery board meetings change

The Colby Cemetery District board meetings will be held on Thursdays instead of Mondays for the next couple of months, said Relda Galli, board member. The meetings, however, will still be held at the Thomas County Courthouse beginning at 2 p.m. Board members should note that Thursday meetings include Jan. 23, Feb. 20, March 20 and April 24.

For questions, call Galli at 462-3670.

