



COLBY FREE PRESS

Chautauqua conversation



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby and neighboring towns will host the June 2004 Tour of Chautauqua "Bleeding Kansas." In addition to the Colby-area, there are only three other cities planning Chautauqua activities to include Junction City, Fort Scott and Lawrence, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators. Colby's tour dates will be June 11-15, 2004. Due to the extensive prep work in bringing

Chautauqua to the area, she said, committee members met Wednesday afternoon to go over some of the details. Pictured left to right are Margie Broeckelman, Oakley Chamber of Commerce; Leilani Thomas, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau; and Deb Bickner, Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College.

One-ton flag installed in new Dole building

LAWRENCE AP) — The new Dole Institute of Politics has installed a 36-foot-high, 1-ton tribute to America.

The stained-glass American flag, installed Tuesday at the institute at the University of Kansas, is believed to be the largest of its kind in the world.

"You can't help but feel some sense of dedication to the United States. It's very awe-inspiring," said Steven Stepaniak, owner of

Stained Glass Overlay in Roseville, Minn., which installed the display.

Installation of the flag began Monday afternoon and was completed after about 10 hours of work.

Stepaniak said the red and blue colors in the flag were custom made. Most of the 960 pieces were hand-painted to add texture and make the flag look more like fabric. The sections were soldered together and put into 27 panels to make the flag.

"We're absolutely thrilled to death," Stepaniak said, looking up at the completed flag. "In the studio, the largest section we could put together was 8 feet by 8 feet, so it's exciting to see it all together."

Stepaniak said his company could not find any other stained-glass flags of comparable size from any country. He intends to submit the flag to the Guinness Book of Records.

The big flag took about 1,600

man hours to complete. The glass weighs 1,640 pounds. With the frame, the flag weighs 1 ton.

The building, which will house exhibits and papers from former Sen. Bob Dole's political career, will be dedicated during three days of World War II-related events July 20-22.

The institute's flag was paid for with a \$200,000 donation from Forrest and Sally Hoglund, university alumni from Dallas.

Kline opinion causing lots of chatter

TOPEKA (AP)—Attorney General Phill Kline's legal opinion that doctors must report all pregnancies of girls under 16 to authorities contradicts an opinion issued by one of his predecessors.

Kline's opinion also conflicts with how the State Board of Healing Arts has interpreted the state's abuse-reporting law in licensing and regulating medical personnel.

But Kline's opinion squares with what the Sedgwick County district attorney's office has told Wichita-area physicians for years.

Reaction was mixed Wednesday to Kline's legal opinion, which said doctors are obliged to report all such pregnancies because they are evidence of child abuse. Kline based his opinion on Kansas laws that make sex with a girl under 16 illegal, even if the sex involves another teenager and is consensual.

Another Kansas law requires doctors to reports suspected abuse to law enforcement authorities or the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Kline's opinion was limited only to abortion providers, leading abortion rights supporters to charge he was attacking physicians performing the procedure. However, his office later said the opinion would apply to doctors who render other services, such as prenatal care.

"I expect it to be followed, because it is the law," Kline said during a news conference, referring to his opinion.

Kline issued the opinion at the request of Sen. Mark Gilstrap, D-Kansas City, who said a constituent raised it with him. Gilstrap, who opposes abortion like Kline, said the opinion "kind of made sense to me."

But in 1992, then-Attorney General Bob Stephan came to a different conclusion when asked the same question by an aide to then-Gov. Joan Finney, who opposed abortion.

Stephan said state law requires doctors report instances of suspected abuse when a minor is injured. He said while a pregnancy is

a clear signal abuse may have occurred, it is not necessarily an injury.

The Board of Healing Arts has made the same interpretation in the past, said Mark Stafford, its general counsel. As for disciplining doctors under Kline's new interpretation, Stafford said the board is likely to confront the issue case by case.

He said doctors are likely to struggle with whether they need to report each pregnancy to authorities, based on the circumstances.

"That's the issue we're going to have to struggle with," he said.

But some doctors already have been advised to report all such pregnancies as evidence of potential child abuse. Sedgwick County Deputy District Attorney Kim Parker said her office has been interpreting the law that way for years.

She said her office has investigated abuse cases that started with reports from abortion providers.

"Actually, we're really glad to see the opinion," she said.

Escape fire

Detectors gave family escape time

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Smoke detectors gave a family at Friendly Acres Mobile Home Park a chance to get out safely before anyone got hurt following a fire Wednesday morning.

Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore credited the devices for giving Loretta McAuley, her husband Ronald Blackmon, and the rest of their family the warning they needed to leave their trailer when a fire was started in a bedroom.

"That's what first alerted them," McLemore said.

He attributed the cause of the fire to a child playing with a lighter.

"Luckily there were no serious injury," he said, "and I'm glad everyone got out."

McLemore said today the American Red Cross provided assistance to the family and Blackmon spoke about gratitude.

"The Red Cross helped us out a lot," Blackmon said the day after the fire while moving. "My mom's room was destroyed," noting that as an extended family member, she also resided in the mobile home.

He said the Red Cross helped out by putting them up at the Quality Inn Wednesday night and providing new clothes and a new bed for his mother along with helping supply her medicine because she is diabetic.

She lost her wheelchair in the fire and is using a walker, but Blackmon said she could use a new wheelchair.

Even though the fire was not a good thing, he did say good things have come from the incident.

"We've gained some friends, and I appreciate the whole community of Colby," he said.

The Red Cross isn't the only or-

ganization that deserves thanks, he said.

Neighbors have helped out, giving their support and the community also has rallied around the family.

"The community around us has come together and helped us," Blackmon said. "I appreciate it. I can't say enough about the community."

He also extended his thanks to the fire and police departments. He said the fire department's quick action helped keep the damage from being worse than it was.

"The damage was basically to the front bedroom," McLemore said. "There wasn't a lot of damage to the front of the house."

The trailer home is owned by Mike Schriner, who has another trailer open that he is making available to the family.

"He's (Schriner) been good to us," Blackmon said, adding that Schriner said it might have been God's way of opening up our eyes.

As for new living arrangements, Blackmon's wife, Loretta, said they have a new place.

She said Schriner is transferring their lease to another trailer he has open. She said her family's loss of a home was also a loss for Schriner since it was his trailer that was damaged.

"Mike is an awesome landlord," McAuley said. "He is working with us in every way."

Originally from Arkansas, the family moved to Colby a year ago.

"We've never felt more welcome in a community than we do now," she said. "We would also like to send out our gratitude to Wal-Mart, the Deep Rock Cafe, the merchants, the Red Cross, the community and everyone who helped."

FBI checking derailment

MONTEZUMA (AP) — The FBI said Wednesday it was investigating the possibility someone tampered with rail line switches in southwest Kansas, causing a freight train to derail a day earlier.

Four westbound locomotive engines and six railroad cars owned by the Cimarron Valley Railroad left the tracks at 7:08 p.m. Tuesday in Montezuma, about 180 miles west of Wichita. Two engineers were hospitalized with minor injuries.

The initial investigation showed someone may have deliberately tampered with switches on the rail line, FBI spokesman Jeff Lanza said. That would be a violation of federal laws involving the nation's transportation system, Lanza said. No suspects had been identified

as of Wednesday afternoon, Lanza said.

"Obviously if it's an act of sabotage, then the FBI would continue to pursue it," said William Seck, a senior agent with the FBI's Wichita office. "If it turns out that it was a bent rail or something like that, then the FBI would no longer investigate."

The train, which was headed toward Colorado, spilled about 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel from the locomotive engines, a load of telephone poles from one of the cars and a load of bean meal from another car. None of the spillage was considered hazardous, but a hazardous-materials unit from Great Bend, about 110 miles northeast of the crash, was assisting with the cleanup.

Briefly

Football camp deadline nears

June 30 is the deadline to register for the Colby Eagle Football Camp, according to camp director Brad Wildeman. The fee is \$35 and is for athletes entering 7th through 12th grade this fall.

The camp will run from July 21-24, with the morning sessions, 8:30-10:30 for 7th and 8th graders and the evening sessions, 6-8:30 p.m. for 9th-12th grade.

Camp will be held at the Eagle practice field at the high school. Registration and checks should be mailed to Wildeman at 475 S. Chick, Colby, 67701.

Trophy sponsors wanted

The Thomas County Extension Office is looking for businesses and individuals to sponsor 4-H trophies for this year's county fair, said D'Ette Sholtz, county extension agent. Each trophy is \$8, she said.

For questions or information call (785) 462-4582.

Personal, real estate taxes due

The second half of 2002 Thomas County personal and real estate taxes are due by Friday. For questions, call the county treasurer's office at 462-4520.

Babysitting class planned

The Super Sitter Class will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, June 25 in the Thomas County Office Complex. Children who have completed fifth grade are eligible to enroll, said officials at the Thomas County Health Department. Events planned throughout the day include baby bath demonstration, interaction with local daycare children, fire safety and 911. Children who plan to attend need to bring pen and paper and a sack lunch. Snacks will be provided The cost of the class is \$15.

Still accepting military photos

Colby Photo at 420 N. Franklin is still accepting pictures

to honor military members either serving overseas or in the United States. Ardath Beringer, owner of the business, said the "window to honor our troops," can also include Reserve and National Guard members. Photos used in the tribute will be returned. Questions to 462-8169.

La Leche League plans told

La Leche League of Northwest Kansas announces a summer series of informal meetings for women interested in finding out more about breast feeding. Meetings will be held Sunday, June 22 and Sunday, July 20, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church meeting room, 515 W. 4th St., Colby. A family potluck is also planned from 6 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17 at Fike Park. The events, said Connie Davis, with La Leche League, are for all interested mothers-to-be, mothers with nursing babies and their partners or support people. For information, to rent or buy a pump or questions about the meetings, call Davis at (785) 462-7188 or (785) 675-3501.



Warm, windy

Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...Cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may contain heavy rainfall. Lows in the lower 60s. South wind 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. Friday...Becoming partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Windy. Highs in the mid 80s. South wind 20 to 30 mph...Gusting to 40 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent. Friday night...A chance of showers and thunderstorms until midnight...Otherwise partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows near 60. Chance of rain 30 percent. Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.

By the numbers

Wednesday's high, 78
Low this morning, 57
Year ago today, 103 and 70
Records for the date, 105 in 1988, 39 in 1985
Soil temperature, 72
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, trace
June's precipitation to date, 2.14
Year's precipitation to date, 8.49
2002's precipitation to date, 4.02

Water Usage/Colby

June 18 = 1.363 million gallons

