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Easy does it



Red Cross nurse Estelle Davis puts a needle in Francis Landry's arm as she draws blood during the drive on Thursday at the Colby

Community Building. Reports are 179 people donated, 11 more than they have ever had. There were also 14 first-time donors.

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

A busy time for county's 'new' ag agent

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

There's more to Doug Musick's job than just crops or livestock. The Thomas County extension agent has been on the job since February, doing everything from organizing 4-H camps to managing volunteers and getting ready for fair season.



D. Musick

Musick worked as an extension agent in Sheridan and Pottawatomie Counties before coming to Thomas County.

He said the Colby position was open for more than six months before he filled the vacancy on Feb. 15.

When he had the chance to return to the area, he and his wife, Cathy, both jumped at it. Cathy is the Gove County extension agent.

He attended Cloud County Community College and Kansas State University, earning his bachelor and masters degree in agricultural economics.

"I was looking for a job in agriculture," Musick said. He liked it so much he stayed with it.

He is originally from Harveyville, southwest of Topeka. The fact the job is never the same each day is something he likes.

"The diversity, it's different," he said. "I enjoy meeting all the people."

Musick also likes the the educational aspect, helping people learn more as well as receiving an education himself. He said K-State always provides education and training for its agents.

"My primary job is to provide education to the community on programs areas defined by the extension council," Musick said.

Twenty-four elected individuals decide what the programs are. So far, they haven't outlined any programs yet because there is still a five-year planning process going on.

He said it just started for the entire state.

However, that doesn't mean Musick hasn't kept busy. Along with D'Ette Scholtz, he's helped plan several 4-H camps and is gearing up for the 4-H shooting sports program this fall.

"I'm hoping that will be one of our large projects," Musick said. "We'll have some success I hope. There's been a lot of interest from parents, a lot of support."

Fund raising for equipment is still going on and volunteers have to finish their certification before teaching this fall.

Preparation for the fair, state fair, winter agricultural education, 4-H programs and more have taken up his time.

"It's tough to stay on top of all that," Musick said. "That's why we have a lot of reference materials."

Another project was a butterfly identification wheel produced by Thomas County Master Gardeners. They produced 10,000 of the wheels.

"That's been a big project," he said.

Musick said Thomas County differs from the others where he's worked.

"Every county I've been is a really small county," he said.

While in Sheridan and Pottawatomie counties he dealt more with horticulture and agronomy. In Thomas, the focus has changed more toward crops and irrigation.

"It's very similar to Sheridan County," Musick said.

Pottawatomie County had more livestock but he finds Colby's climate more agreeable.

Military Appreciation Day declared here

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The City of Colby is recognizing the 170th Maintenance Company of the Kansas National Guard based here by proclaiming Saturday as "Military Appreciation Day."

Mayor Warren Hixson signed the resolution during the council meeting earlier this week with the full approval of council members as a way of honoring the company for their service to the city and country.

In addition to the proclamation, which will be presented by Hixson to the 170th Maintenance Company during a special ceremony on Saturday, some 270 soldiers, spouses and children will take part in family readiness training.

M/Sgt. Manuel Rubio, coordinating the training weekend and support service specialist with the National Guard, said the entire company is appreciative of the city's recognition. "We want everyone to know we will be here in the event of an emergency to protect the people of northwest Kansas," he said, "by responding to any situation."

Although the weekend activities are specifically for the soldiers and their families, Rubio did request that residents consider flying the American flag as a way of honoring the guardsmen.

Among the activities on Saturday and Sunday, he said the proclamation will kick off events at 1 p.m. at

the Quality Inn conference room. For the next four hours, soldiers and their spouses will be in workshops dealing with Judge Advocate General (JAG) briefings, Red Cross briefings and family readiness.

The 85 children of the soldiers will also be busy during the conference with the Whacky Banana group from Kansas City entertaining them at Fike Park.

Rubio said there will be inflatable rides and other activities set up for them at the park and at 6 p.m. all the military families from the 170th Maintenance Company will share in a big barbecue and paint ball activities. The training will continue into Sunday with more workshops for the soldiers and spouses and ac-

tivities and childcare for the children. Those services will be provided by another group from Topeka with the Family Support Center.

The weekend event is actually a very special occasion for the 170th Maintenance Company, Rubio said. "As a whole, it is rare when we all get together," he said. "Normally we are split up into different missions and so this is one of the few times we have an opportunity to be together."

The 170th Maintenance Company includes guardsmen from Norton, Russell, Goodland and Colby, he said. In total, there will be 125 soldiers attending, 60 spouses and 85 children.

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

While the rest of the country is caught up in "Harry Potter" fever, Colby is quietly celebrating the release of one of the year's most highly anticipated books.

Joanne Sunderman, librarian at Pioneer Memorial Library, said the library will have available for checkout two copies of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

However, she said patrons who come to the library expecting to

check out the book when they arrive will have a wait ahead of them. Each book already has a long waiting list and will only be available for a two-week check out until the books have made their way down the list.

Sunderman said the library isn't doing anything special because most people already know about the book. "I know everybody in town is going to want to read the book," she said. "We didn't need the hype."

For those who can't wait, both Wal-Mart and Dillons will have

copies of the book available for purchase first thing Saturday morning. There is no reserve for the book and it will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Sunderman has managed to resist the urge to take a peek at the library's copies of "Order of the Phoenix" but did offer up one major hint about the book.

"You can expect a major character to die but we don't know who it is. You'll have to read the book to find out," she said.

No Potter party planned Colby quietly celebrating arrival of #1 best seller

TOPEKA (AP) — A two-day exercise testing the state's response to an agroterrorism attack left officials pleased with the results but aware that more work lies ahead.

The event, dubbed "Exercise High Stakes," ended Thursday and

tested the state's foreign-animal disease preparedness, simulating an intentional introduction of foot-and-mouth disease to livestock in southwest Kansas. Maj. Gen. Greg Gardner, director of emergency management and homeland secu-

rity, said the presence of U.S. Department of Agriculture representatives, as well as the use of the National Agriculture Biosafety Center at Kansas State University, will improve preparedness at all levels of government.

"This one really does represent high stakes. To get it right is really important," said Gardner, also the state's adjutant general.

He said the potential economic impact of foreign-animal disease in Kansas was staggering. There are

four times as many animals susceptible to foot-and-mouth as there people in Kansas, with a state population of 2.6 million. "The more I thought about it, the more I realized how appropriate the name of the exercise was," Gardner said.

Briefly

Football camp registration notice

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 Scholtz, county extension agent. Each trophy is \$8, she said.

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

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. To enroll, call the health department at (785) 462-4596.

Share delivery date noted

Heartland Share delivery is scheduled for Saturday, June 28, at 10 a.m. in the Colby Sacred Heart School gymnasium. As an added bonus this month is those ordering Share and a special of the month will have an opportunity to win a barbecue grill.

Questions to 460-3579.

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.

Swim lessons continue

The Colby Recreation Department is offering swim lessons. The second session is underway and will conclude on Thursday, June 26, and the third session is from Monday, June 30 until Thursday, July 10.

For questions or to register, call the Colby Recreation Department at (785) 462-4440.



Hold on!

Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...Partly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may be severe with damaging winds and large hail. Windy. Lows near 60. South wind 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 40 mph decreasing late to 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. Saturday...Mostly sunny and warmer. Highs in the mid 90s. Southwest wind around 15 mph. Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s. Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Monday...Clear. Highs in the mid 90s.

By the numbers

Thursday's high, 77
Low this morning, 61
Year ago today, 88 and 64
Records for the date, 106 in 1988, 42 in 1946
Soil temperature, 71
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.48
June's precipitation to date, 2.62
Year's precipitation to date, 8.97
2002's precipitation to date, 4.02

Water Usage/Colby

June 19 = 1.271 million gallons

