



14 pages

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New home for administrators



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Workers hammer away at the new school administration building under construction at Third and Grant streets in Colby. The

building is scheduled for completion in November, according to school officials.

Plans for fair falling in place

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Fair Board's plans are moving towards fruition.

The board heard committee reports at its meeting Thursday night at the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds.

Jim Malcolm gave an update on the buildings and grounds. Malcolm said a sign dedicating the rodeo arena to E.L. Garrett, a longtime fair board member, will no longer be on top of the observation booth. Instead, it will be free-standing on two posts at the same level it was before.

"We're redoing the sign because it got weathered," he said.

Malcolm added much of the work he has to complete is getting done and he crossed one more job off his list this morning. Holes in the arena roof have been fixed as well as other repairs and sprucing up.

"We're getting a lot of support from the community," Malcolm said. "Things are coming together. I'm looking for a great fair."

Racing was also on the agenda.

Marty Crampton and Nancy Rundel reported on the fair races and demolition derby. Crampton talked about rain insurance for the races. He said the races have been rained out twice in five years, including last year.

If rain happens this year,

Crampton said the Friday race will not have a rain date but Saturday races will be made up on Sunday.

Rundel said driver insurance has been lined out with a change in the liability forms. She also said letters have been mailed out to the 46 drivers from last year and to others to let them know about this year's event.

The board also approved purchasing black lights to check for stamps for readmission to grandstand events.

Rundel said people will have their hands stamped as they enter the grandstand and if they leave for any reason, they'll be checked for their stamp as they re-enter.

"You can't see them without a black light," she said, adding that it's just to make sure people have paid to get in.

Also, during the races, people won't be able to stake out their seating with a blanket before the event. Rundel said seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mark Anderson, advertising chair, said most of the advertising has been taken care of. "We've got those all covered," he said.

Audrey Hines, board secretary and treasurer, said she's happy with the way planning is progressing. She said things are "moving along" after hearing the reports last night. "I thought it went very good," Hines said.

Foundation creates youth endowed fund

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

There's an organization dedicated to the betterment of Thomas County that seems to never sleep.

With a sharp focus on their mission, they continue to assist, advise, funnel and direct funds into areas they feel could add greatly to the quality of life enjoyed in this county.

With that said, the Thomas County Community Foundation, Inc. announced today that it has established a permanently endowed field of interest fund for youth. The City of Colby "Special Law Enforcement Fund" made the initial gift to start this fund. Now, said Becky Donelan, executive director, an anonymous contribution has

been added in memory of Mr. Pete Henry's commitment to the youth of our area.

Called the "Youth Endowed Fund" it now totals \$3,000. And as a bonus, this endowed fund will qualify for the matching funds currently offered by Kansas Health Foundation. Any further gifts received in 2003 to this youth fund will also qualify for matching money from the Kansas Health Foundation.

The "Youth Endowed Fund" will pool funds from many donors throughout the community, Donelan said. "Gifts of any size are welcome. A contribution to this fund would be an ideal way to honor someone who has been dedicated to a youth organization or has been an

advocate for youth," she said.

"It would be an inspiring way to honor a teacher or mentor," Donelan said.

She explained that when an honor or memory gift is received, a card is sent letting the individual know they have been honored in this way. The gift will be recorded in a special book as a permanent list of those honored. "Anyone interested in promoting projects and programs for youth is urged to consider a gift to this fund," Donelan said.

As an endowed fund, the interest it generates will be used by the Thomas County Community Foundation to make grants in the county for youth-related projects and programs. The principal is left to grow and will continue to generate inter-

est perpetually.

The Thomas County Community Foundation "thanks the City of Colby 'Special Law Enforcement Fund' for initially starting this fund and the donor who gave in memory of Pete Henry," Donelan said.

"We invite anyone interested in our youth to make additional contributions to build it into a vital funding source within the community."

Contributions may be sent to: Thomas County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 174, Colby, Kan. 67701. Simply note that you wish your contribution to be added to the "Youth Endowed Fund."

Anyone desiring more information can contact Donelan at 460-9152.

Speech flap fingers point to CIA

ENTEBBE, Uganda (AP) — President Bush said today that intelligence services cleared his State of the Union speech, which included a now-discredited allegation that Iraq was seeking to buy nuclear material from Africa.

Bush's national security adviser specifically pointed to the CIA and said it had vetted the speech. If CIA Director George Tenet had any misgivings about that sentence in the president's speech, "he did not make them known" to Bush or his staff, said national security adviser Condoleezza Rice.

The issue arose a day after other senior U.S. officials said that before and after Bush's Jan. 28 speech, American intelligence officials expressed doubts about a British intelligence report that the president cited to back up his allegations.

Those doubts were relayed to British officials before they made them public, and that word was passed to people at several agencies

of the U.S. government before Bush gave that nationally broadcast speech. The White House this week admitted the charge about Iraq seeking uranium should not have appeared in his speech.

Bush, asked how erroneous material had ended up in the address, "I gave a speech to the nation that was cleared by the intelligence services." He did not explain how the allegations wound up in his speech.

He said he made the right decision about invading Iraq and asserted that the world is a more peaceful place for it.

Rice said "the CIA cleared the speech in its entirety."

The agency raised only one objection to the sentence involving an allegation that Iraq was trying to obtain "yellow cake" uranium, she said. Yellow cake is a slightly processed form of uranium ore the color and consistency of yellow corn meal.

"Some specifics about amount

and place were taken out," Rice added.

"With the changes in that sentence, the speech was cleared," she said. "The agency did not say they wanted that sentence out."

Rice made the defense of the White House in a rare 50-minute meeting with reporters aboard the president's plane as Bush flew from South Africa to Uganda. Questions about the allegations in Bush's January speech have followed him on his five-day trip through Africa.

The administration is facing rising criticism on another front in postwar Iraq: increasing attacks against American soldiers.

The Senate on Thursday, in a 97-0 vote, called on Bush to work harder to get other countries to share the military burden in Iraq. Bush said Thursday that U.S. forces would have to "remain tough" in the face of attacks that retired Gen. Tommy Franks said were coming at the rate of 10 to 25 a day.



80s and 90s

Tonight...Partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. East wind 10 to 20 mph decreasing late to 5 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers early...then partly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. Light northeast wind becoming southeast late. Chance of rain less than 20 percent. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Sunday...Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s. Monday...Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms during the night. Highs in the upper 90s.

By the numbers

Thursday's high, 98
Low this morning, 60
Year ago today, 87 and 64
Records for the date, 110 in 1954, 46 in 1905
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 0.08
Year's precipitation to date, 10.95
2002's precipitation to date, 4.18

Water Usage/Colby

July 10 = 3.419 million gallons

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other figures from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

Briefly

Ribbon-cutting announced

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce said today that a ribbon-cutting will be held next Thursday for LINK (Living Independently in Northwest Kansas) at their offices at 505 N. Franklin. The ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m.

Levant reunion plans told

The Levant reunion will be held on Sunday, Aug. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Quality Inn in Colby. Dinner will be served in the restaurant at noon. Contact Elva Livingston for reservations by July 16 so she can give the restaurant a head count. For information, call (785) 462-6012.

Car wash to benefit local group

The Community Awareness Team is holding a car wash to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County. The event

will be held all day Saturday, July 19 beginning at 11 a.m. in the Dillon's parking lot.

Coffee House Night scheduled

The Community Awareness Team is sponsoring a smokefree Coffee House Night at City Limits Convention Center from 8 to 11 p.m. on July 26. Team members invite area poets, musicians and comics to perform at the open microphone. The event is open to the public. For more information, contact j_cateam@hotmail.com or (785) 462-7188.

Bluegrass potluck scheduled

A community potluck supper to kick off the "Pickin' on the Plains" bluegrass festival will be held on Thursday, July 17 at 7 p.m. on the cement slab at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Bring a covered dish and then stay for the open jam session. Everyone is welcome.

County meeting to focus on budget

The Thomas County Commissioners face a busy agenda for their Monday meeting in the courthouse.

A lot of the business has to do with the budget.

Scheduled are:

• 9 a.m. - Sue Taylor, Historical Society budget.

• 9:30 - Karen Befort, Oneok/natural gas contract.

• 10 - Larry Jumper and Miller & Associates, new landfill permit.

• 10:30 - Jeff Younger, Midwest United Energy/natural gas contract.

• 11 - Lynette Koon, Soil Conservation budget.

• 1 p.m. - Brian Staats and Cynthia Bieberle of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, 2004 budget.

The meeting is open to the public.

School district has new prefix

Colby Public Schools has changed all telephone numbers from the "465" prefix to "460" prefix, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. The change went into effect on Tuesday, July 1.

Mosquito spraying underway

City of Colby crews are spraying for mosquitoes for the remainder of the summer. For those wanting to be notified before crews enter their area, call Jo Strage, executive secretary to the city manager, 462-4410.

Childbirth classes offered

Colby Childbirth Education will host a series of childbirth education classes in July. Classes will be held at the Colby Community College Health Sciences building on Thursdays (July 17, July 24, and July 31) from 7 to 10 p.m. To pre-register, call (785) 462-4850.

