



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Thomas countian infected

### Another four cases of West Nile confirmed

WICHITA (AP)—A 25-year-old Thomas County resident is one of four new cases of West Nile virus confirmed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the department said Tuesday.

The new cases bring to 14 the total number of West Nile virus meningitis or encephalitis infections in the state this year.

"It's within the range that we expected," said department spokeswoman Karen Watson.

The agency had expected a spike in the number of severe cases in August and September, then a drop off in October with the change of season, she said.

All the latest victims have been hospitalized. The others are an 11-year-old in Barton County, a 57-year-old in Seward County and a 49-year-old in Sedgwick County. No further details were released by the state.

But in the Wichita-area case, the Sedgwick County Health Department said the patient was first hospitalized with signs of the virus on Aug. 8 and was still in the hospital and recovering. It also said that due to the patient's travel outside of Kansas, it was possible the infection occurred elsewhere.

Symptoms of the virus are usually mild and include a headache, low-grade fever and muscle aches. It is rare for the virus to result in serious illness, and about 80 percent of those who contract the virus never know it.



### Cool down coming

**Tonight...**Partly cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. South wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.  
**Thursday...**Partly sunny. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms late. Highs in the lower 90s. Light south wind becoming north late in the morning. Chance of rain 20 percent.  
**Thursday night...**Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Chance of rain 20 percent.  
**Friday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s.  
**Saturday...**Highs in the lower 70s.  
**Sunday...**Highs in the upper 70s to around 80.

**By the numbers**  
Tuesday's high, 91  
Low this morning, 60  
Records for the date, 105 in 1899 and 44 in 1967  
Year ago today, 80 and 59  
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
Month's precipitation, 2.52 (includes 0.38 received Monday)  
Year's precipitation to date, 13.81  
2002's precipitation to date, 8.78  
Mingo, 0.62 (Monday)  
**Water Usage/Colby**  
Aug. 25 = 3.017 million gallons  
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other figures are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby and the Colby Public Works Department..



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

An Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter from Salina landed at the Colby Municipal Airport on Tuesday. The chopper, or one like it, will be part of the "Celebration on the High Plains" at Southwind Plaza on Saturday, Sept. 6. Mayor Warren Hixson, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong, Chief of Police Randy Jones, along with Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby/Thomas County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Jada Tubbs, Chamber director, will arrive at the celebration site aboard the chopper. (Left): crewmembers CW3 Jim Oliver and 2nd Lt. Randy Matthews from B Company with the 1-108th AVN out of Salina scope a landing spot

## Black Hawk to provide new twist for celebration

### Noon landing to open fun event

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Looking for something to do the weekend after Labor Day? The second annual "Celebration on the High Plains" might fit the bill on Saturday, Sept. 6 at Southwind Plaza in Colby.

The free portion of the event runs from noon to 5 p.m. and concerts will follow featuring Lip Riddle at 6 p.m., No Parking at 7 p.m. and headliners Sawyer Brown at 8:30 p.m.

Jada Tubbs, director of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce said the celebration was started last year because there wasn't a fall event and it would be a good idea to celebrate what is here.

The event will start at noon with the landing of a U.S. Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter from Salina.

Food and craft vendors will have booths at the festival and Tubbs said they'll have items like kettle corn, barbecue, snow cones, jewelry and T-shirts.

"There's going to be so much," Tubbs said.

For those older than 21-years-old, there will be a beer garden.

The Thomas County Amusement Association will have rides set up and representatives from the National Weather Service in Goodland will also be present.

"We really encourage families to come out," she said. "It's a neat family event to come to."

Locals aren't the only ones expected to come to the celebration.

"This event is intended to draw from outside this area," Tubbs said. "I think we're getting the job done."

She said people from as far away as Manhattan, Atchison and Derby in Kansas and Omaha, Neb., and Denver, Colo. have bought tickets to the Sawyer Brown Concert.

"We are extremely excited about hosting the Sawyer Brown band," she said. "If you don't come out to see them you're missing a show."

Tickets for the Sawyer Brown concert are \$15 for 16 and older and \$5 for kids 4- to 15-years-old before Sept. 6. The day of the show, tickets will be \$20 and \$8.

However, Tubbs said the Thomas County Sheriff's Office and Colby Police Department, along with the

county attorney's office purchased tickets for students in Thomas County in grades first through fifth.

She said the tickets should be handed out at school by the end of the week so parents don't have to buy children a ticket.

Seating for the evening entertainment is on a first-come, first-served basis and Tubbs encourages people to get there early for the concert.

She said people should also bring lawn chairs or blankets even though there are going to be bleachers available.

Linda Taylor, a member of the celebration committee, said they're hoping for better weather this year. Last year very strong winds made a visit.

"It's going to be a fun day for the whole family," she said. "Hopefully everybody will come out." Taylor added there will be plenty of parking for the event.

Tickets are available at several locations in town. For tickets for information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at (785) 460-3401 or 1-800-611-8835.

## State employees are now getting e-mail from #1

TOPEKA (AP) — You've got mail — from the governor.

As of Tuesday, state employees began receiving an electronic newsletter from their boss, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, an effort of the state's chief executive to improve communications.

Sebelius' 'E-News' will be sent to all state employees with e-mail accounts, as well as residents who subscribe to the newsletter through the governor's official Web site. Sebelius said the newsletter is a response to requests statewide to be better informed about her activities.

"We have great things happening around the state and this 'E-News' will enable us to share some highlights that I am able to be part of," the governor said.

The first edition included photographs and short news items from Sebelius' visit to a General Motors plant where she picked up a new Chevrolet Malibu and the dedication of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.

Sebelius also mentioned in the newsletter progress of her Budget Efficiency Savings Team process, which she claims has identified more than \$60 million savings out

of the state's \$10 billion budget since January.

The initial newsletter had a few glitches. Of the 10,013 newsletters sent, many were returned because of security programs in the state's e-mail system. The format was revised, without photos, and newsletters retransmitted. Those who don't wish to receive the newsletter can unsubscribe to the service and view it instead on the governor's Web site.

According to Sebelius' staff, the governors of Hawaii and Washington also use electronic newsletters to communicate with employees and the public.

Not everyone was enthusiastic about the new service.

House Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka, said he found it ironic that the governor was sending out thousands of unsolicited e-mails at a time when federal officials are looking to eliminate so-called spam messages.

"I think we're going to see a little loss of productivity," Mays said.

Nicole Corcoran, the governor's spokeswoman, said she had received telephone calls from employees Tuesday who were "excited" to hear what is happening.

## Brownback pushing coal, nuclear power

WICHITA (AP) — Sen. Sam Brownback advocated increased investment in coal and nuclear power plants Tuesday, saying natural gas is not plentiful enough to supply all the power generation plants that use it.

Brownback said he expects that a federal energy bill, if and when passed by Congress, will likely include provisions to boost ethanol production, increase wind and other renewable energy sources, as well spur the nuclear energy industry.

"I am hopeful we are going to start sending the first signs of rejuvenating the nuclear energy industry," Brownback said. "We haven't built a nuclear plant for 30 years. It doesn't emit (carbon dioxide), which is a major problem, and it helps with the (electric) baseload."

The Kansas Republican made the comments at a Wichita Chamber of Commerce federal issues forum in response to a question about a national energy policy.

Charles Benjamin, an attorney for the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, said Brownback should be looking for ways to encourage wind power in Kansas instead of promoting coal and nuclear power plants.

### Military photo display ending

The display of military personnel in a downtown store window is rapidly coming to an end.

Colby Photo, at 420 N. Franklin, had asked for and received a number of pictures of local military per-

"That is absurd coming from a senator who comes from a state which has the capacity to produce what some people estimate is a third of the nation's electricity from wind power," said Charles Benjamin, an attorney for the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club. Even though Kansas was not directly affected by the Aug. 14 blackout that swept across eight states and Ontario, the outage has been the topic of conversation as the Kansas congressional delegation travels the state during the August congressional recess.

"We have not been wise on our electric power production here, I think, in the past 10-20 years," Brownback said. "Coal is by far the most abundant, cheapest source of energy that we have in this country and I think we are going to have to re-engage coal."

At the same time, the nation needs to invest in the next wave of technology, such as new hydrogen-based energy sources that are 40 years away from development, Brownback said. Benjamin said Brownback could facilitate an economic revival of Kansas by instead promoting renewable energy sources such as wind power.

sonnel as their way of saluting those serving in the armed forces. "Our way of saying thanks," said Ardath Beringer, of Colby Photo.

After Monday, Sept. 1, families are asked to claim their pictures.

## Briefly

### School activities noted

Colby School activities for this week include: **Thursday** — High school/middle school "Spirit Spreader Clinic" at Oakley at 8:30 a.m. **Monday, Sept. 1** — Labor Day, no school. **Tuesday, Sept. 2** — School Board meeting at 7 p.m. (Sports-related briefs can be found in "SportsLine" on page 8 today).

### 'Worker Auction' planned at Brewster

BREWSTER — The high school and junior high vocal groups at Brewster will be holding a fund raiser on Friday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the football field. Called "Worker Auction" students will work four hours and the work must be completed by Nov. 1. Call Alice Collett at (785) 694-2236 for additional information.

### No Free Press on Monday

The Colby Free Press will not publish on Monday — La-

bor Day. "We will all be enjoying the holiday with family and friends," said Tom (TD) Dreiling, publisher. "We encourage our readers to simply relax on this, the final holiday of the summer season," he said. The Free Press will resume normal operations at 8 a.m. on Tuesday.

### Landfill hours are noted

The Thomas County Landfill will close at noon on Saturday for scale repair and maintenance, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. The landfill will also be closed Sunday and Monday for the Labor Day holiday.

### Commodity distribution Tuesday

There will be a United States Department of Agriculture commodity distribution on Tuesday, Sept. 2 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Colby Senior Progress Center, Fike Park. Eligible persons may receive them according to income guidelines. Distribution is on a first come-first serviced basis. For questions, call Laura Withington, coordinator of the program, at 462-6744.

### Childbirth classes planned

Colby Childbirth Education classes will begin on Thursday, Sept. 4 from 7 to 10 p.m.. This is a four-week series and is held at Colby Community College in the Health Science Building. Call Amy Hutfles at 460-4344 if you need additional information. .

### City spraying for mosquitoes

Due to the high number of mosquito complaints received, the City of Colby will be fogging nightly for mosquitoes over the next two weeks. For questions, call the public works department at 462-4420.

### Class needing applicants

Leadership Thomas County is seeking applicants for its new class, beginning in October. Call 460-3401, 460-7643 or stop by the Chamber office at 350 S. Range for an application.



