



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

# Enrollments show varying patterns in the county

By TISHA COX  
*Colby Free Press*

The numbers speak for themselves. Enrollment at some Thomas County schools is up for the current school year and at some it's down. Reporting a decrease is the Colby Public Schools, Jo DeYoung, business manager, said today. She said the district doesn't have to turn in its numbers to the state until Oct. 8, but that the actual student count was done Sept. 22. The head count for Colby schools, she said, was 365 at the grade school, 265 at the middle school and 378 at the high school. DeYoung said that head count

totals 1,007 students and the full-time equivalency is 996.4. Last year, the head count was 1,037 and the full-time equivalency was 1035.8. She said the 2003-2004 school year is the first time the full-time equivalency has been below 1,000 in probably 20 years. Other schools in the county have experienced a boost in their enrollment. Sacred Heart School and Heartland Christian School both have increased enrollments. There are 104 kindergarten through fifth grade students enrolled at Sacred Heart, along with

54 preschoolers. There was an overall increase of five or six students this year. David Evert, principal, said he's happy with the increase, especially since people seem to be moving away from the area. "I'm very happy with it," he said. "I'm happy we're still growing." Evert added the school will continue to give a quality education through spiritual formation. Heartland Christian School's enrollment increased to 68 students this year, up 12 from last year. Dr. Roger Baskerville, superintendent at Golden Plains., said enrollment there is up slightly over

last year. He said the actual head count is 197 and the full time equivalency for this year is 190.5, up 6.5 over last year's 183. Enrollment has increased each year since 2000, although Baskerville said this year's numbers are down slightly because there were less kindergartners coming in to replace last year's graduating seniors. "We have gone up a little over 30 heads in three years," he said. "That's good. It means it's alive and viable." Baskerville attributed the increase to more students moving into the district.

Brewster public schools experienced a slight drop in enrollment. Superintendent Sherry Edmundson said the enrollment dropped to 143 students, down nine from last year. "Most of it was graduating," she said, adding a smaller incoming kindergarten class didn't help bring the numbers back up. She's happy despite the slight decrease and said the numbers will go back up next year with a larger kindergarten coming in. "We'll be OK next year," Edmundson said. "We'll be steady for a couple of years." Deb Schwanke, public informa-

tion officer at Colby Community College, said the school's full time equivalency numbers are up two percent over last year but didn't have exact figures yet. Dick Carter, Jr., director of external relations with the Kansas Board of Regents, Topeka, said Kansas community colleges aren't required to turn in their numbers to the state until sometime in October or November. He said the state hasn't yet put out its request for those numbers. Schwanke said the school will have its numbers tabulated by the end of next week, at which time they will appear in the *Free Press*.

## Looking mighty good



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Lyle Hockman, with Kyle Railroad, checked out a railroad crossing arm on Country Club Drive on Monday. The railroad was tam-

ing tracks and Hockman was checking the crossings to make sure nothing was broken and that they worked fine.

## A second doctor commits to Colby

By PATTY DECKER  
*Free Press Editor*

Another doctor has signed a letter of intent to practice medicine in Colby, hospital officials said today. Dr. Timothy Hoskins, who is currently in the Wesley Family Practice Residency Program at Wichita, is expected to complete that program in June of 2005. Hoskins was born and raised in Ellis County, said Scott Focke, manager of the Family Center for Health Care. His wife was born and raised in St. Francis and together the couple has one nine-month-old son. "Dr. Hoskins is very friendly, courteous and has a great personality," Focke said. "Both he and his wife are a lot of fun and are outgoing and motivated." Focke said he believes Hoskins will be a good fit for the Colby community. As for Hoskins, the prospect of coming to Colby is something he said he is excited about. "I was impressed with the (Citizens Medical Center) hospital board and recruiting committee," he said. "We are looking forward to coming to Colby to raise our family in such a great community."

Hoskins also said he knows Dr. Gary Slavens, who will be in Colby next month. He said he worked with Slavens for almost two years in residency and will be happy to work with him again here. "We compliment each other because we have the same professional goals and have worked well together over the last year," Hoskins said. Once Hoskins completes his residency in Wichita, Focke said, he plans on practicing a full spectrum of services to include caring for all ages through family practice obstetrics and gynecology, endoscopic

procedures and other procedures. Kevan Trenkle, who is serving as the interim chief executive officer for Citizens Medical Center, said it's going to be very busy over the coming months. "We are receiving inquiry calls on a fairly consistent basis," he said. "The physician recruitment team has been doing just a super job." During the next two months, Trenkle said, Citizens Medical Center has scheduled four to five site visits for different interested doctors. "The physicians coming to visit Colby," he said, "are candidates who will look to begin and who are eligible to practice in 2004."

Prior to Hoskins signing a letter of intent with the Colby hospital, Hoskins had considered Cheyenne County and working with Dr. Mary Beth Miller. For many years, the Cheyenne County hospital board had Hoskins under contract for the purpose of recruiting him to come there. The Cheyenne County Board Chairman Reuben Schultz was quoted in the *Saint Francis Herald* last week saying he asked Dr. Hoskins why he had made the choice of Colby over them after they had helped support his schooling with the understanding that he would come back to the county. Cheyenne County Hospital Administrator Les Lacy said that Hoskins had some issues with the hospital's contract and the biggest single thing is that the loan prepayment is treated as part of the salary and it is apparently not treated that way in Colby. "Our package is attractive for doctors wanting to come to Cheyenne County, but we can't match opportunities such as Colby," Lacy said.

## Fort Riley soldier killed

FORT RILEY AP) — An Army battalion scout who had been in Iraq for less than a month was killed when an explosive device detonated west of Baghdad, military officials and his family said Tuesday. Army Staff Sgt. Christopher E. Cutchall, 30, of McConnellsburg, Pa., was killed Monday when the explosive device went off near his vehicle, the Department of Defense

said. Cutchall, assigned to Delta Troop, 4th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, left for Iraq the day after Labor Day, said his father, Paul Cutchall, 50. Cutchall joined the Army in 1991 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since May 2000. Cutchall, who was on his fourth tour with the Army, planned to make the military his career, his father said.

## County commissioners get some good news about landfill

By TISHA COX  
*Colby Free Press*

The new Thomas County landfill is inching closer to becoming a reality. Landfill supervisor Larry Jumper gave the county commissioners an update on the status of digging a new landfill and closing the old pit at their Tuesday meeting. He said the county will be allowed to build and operate the new landfill under the permit for the current landfill. Jumper said that's good news because they've been trying for the past two years to get a new permit. The new landfill will be grandfathered in under the old permit regulations, which are less stringent than the new rules, he said. "It'll save the taxpayers of Thomas County an extremely large

amount of money while still being able to protect ground water and the environment," Jumper said. The county will also be able to start work on the new pit when they're ready. "We can pretty much start any time," he said, adding the county will probably take bids for the actual digging of the pit in the near future. Jumper said during the meeting he would like to look into buying a scraper to use in the closure of the old pit and in digging the new landfill pit because his department has had to borrow one from the county road department. "I really appreciate being able to use the road department's scraper," he said. However, Commissioner Ron Evans said they should look at putting the project out to bid. Jumper he didn't know how long

it will take to get the new pit constructed but he hopes it won't take long. "It'd be nice to have it ready by spring if this winter allows," he said. Evans said he and fellow commissioners Glen Kersenbrock and Duane Dawes are pleased with the work Jumper and the landfill staff are doing. Evans was also glad to hear about the progress with the permit. He said after the meeting it's less restrictive than having to get a new one. "It looks like we'll be able to keep our old pit open longer," Evans said. In other business, the commissioners approved a \$2,950 bid from Integrity Steel Works to do some work on the county jail's locks and doors.

## Briefly

### Diplomats plan ladies luncheon

The Colby Diplomats are once again sponsoring a ladies luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Colby Country Club. The format for this year's event is somewhat different than in previous years, organizers said, with a "come and go" and a request for a non-perishable food item to help the Genesis Food Bank. Please make reservations by Wednesday, Oct. 8 by calling either Bette Albers, 462-3939, or Jada Tubbs, 460-3401 or make payment by mailing checks to Colby Diplomats, c/o Bette Albers, P.O. Box 506, Colby, Kan. 67701; or Colby Chamber of Commerce, c/o Jada Tubbs, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby, Kan. 67701. The meal will include soup, salads and sandwiches.

### College offering certification courses

Colby Community College is offering certification courses for social service designees. The courses will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 6, 13, 20, 22, Nov. 3 and 10 in the Robert

Burnett Memorial Student Union. Four college credits and two certificates will be awarded for attendance at all eight classes. Two college credits and one certificate will be awarded for six classes. To enroll or for more information, call (785) 462-3984, Ext. 286.

### Red Cross offering class

The Thomas County American Red Cross is offering an adult infant and child CPR class at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 6 at the Thomas County Office Complex conference room, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby. For questions or to register, call 462-7161.

### Retirement coffee planned

There will be a retirement coffee for Irvin Schwarz, who is retiring as a maintenance worker for the City of Colby. The event is planned for Friday, Oct. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. in council chambers. Schwarz began working for the city on April 15,

1971. The public is invited to attend. For questions, call 462-4410.

### Checks still need to be picked up

Premium checks for this year's Thomas County Fair need to be picked up at the Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range, Colby, before the end of September. Anyone entitled to receive a check and haven't done so yet are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

### Free program offered

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley is sponsoring a presentation geared for parents, childcare providers, preschool staff and kindergarten through third grade teachers. There are two opportunities available with the first from 1 to 4 p.m. and the second from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9. To register for either presentation, call the service center at (785) 672-3125, ext. 124.



### Comfortable

**Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...**Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Thursday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 5 to 15 mph shifting to the west after midnight. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. North winds 5 to 15 mph. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the lower 40s. **By the numbers** Tuesday's high, 49 Low this morning, 33 Records for the date, 96 in 1899 and 21 in 1985 Year ago today, 78 and 44 24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.03 (moisture came during the day Tuesday.) Month's precipitation, 0.00 Year's precipitation to date, 14.05 2002's precipitation to date, 10.31 The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

