



COLBY FREE PRESS

Open for business



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Rosie Sprinkle, the owner of The Short Stop, organized a display at the new convenience store this morning. The store opened up Friday in the old Butterfield Stage building on South Franklin.

Sprinkle said business has been good even though they're still waiting on more fixtures and products. She said eventually they will sell gas and offer specials during the week.

Goodland man plans running for state senate

By TOM BETZ

Goodland Star New

Goodland Republican Dan Rasure is running for the Kansas State Senate seat for the 40th District coming up for election in November. Current holder of that seat is Sen. Stan Clark, Oakley.



D. Rasure

Rasure, 21, said he will focus on economic development, education and infrastructure.

"The current legislature continues to put counties, cities and schools in tough financial positions," Rasure said, "instead of addressing state spending."

Rasure has already registered his campaign committee with the Kansas secretary of state's office. Ron Vignery of Goodland is the campaign chairman with Cliff Leach of Bird City as the treasurer and Royal

Reid of Goodland as the finance committee chairman. Campaign leadership for each of the 17 counties will be chosen in the near future.

The 40th District consists of Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham, Greeley, Lane, Logan, Ness, Norton, Rawlins, Rooks, Scott, Sherman, Thomas, Trego, Wallace and Wichita Counties.

"We need a strong voice in Topeka," said Vignery, "and we feel that Dan is the right person for the job."

Vignery said he is new to politics but that he is excited about the upcoming campaign. He said he accepted the job with the campaign about a month ago, two weeks after Rasure offered it.

"It's time for change," Vignery said. "We're in dire need for economic development in northwest Kansas." Rasure, the son of Kevin and Christie Rasure, graduated from Goodland High School in 2001 and received his bachelor of science from McPherson College in December.

Community Foundation in Colby gets new director

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Terry Cousins is the new director of the Thomas County Community Foundation. Cousins took over on Dec. 29.

She's excited about the opportunity to work with the foundation. Cousins said it's a unique idea to

have a foundation that benefits Thomas County.

"I think you should give back to Thomas County," she said. "It's a great benefit."

"It's a wonderful idea." The foundation is a not-for-profit organization that was incorporated in Feb., 2001. Cousins said the pur-

pose is to endow funds for charities and organizations in the county and to benefit not just Colby but all of the communities in the county.

She said she works with the foundation board and tries to inform people about what the organization does and what people can do to help out.

"I want to keep this going forever," Cousins said.

"There aren't many things people wouldn't be allowed to do (with the foundation)."

Cindy Black, community foundation board member, said the foundation has to follow by-laws and regulations and are ready to be in

compliance with national standards.

Cousins said people worked hard to get the foundation off the ground. She added it's a significant accomplishment for a small, rural county like Thomas County has a foundation.

"It's wonderful" she said. "There

are a lot of challenges out here."

Black said survival is the foundation's function and decisions made by the board have to be good for 50 to 100 years.

So when they make a decision, they have to take into consideration the choice they make will have repercussions for years to come.



Slightly cooler

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds around 5 mph shifting to the west after midnight. **Tuesday...**Mostly sunny. Highs 55-60 Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. **Tuesday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. West winds 10 to 15 mph and gusty. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Wednesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. **The numbers**
Sunday's high, 59
Low this morning, 16
Records for Jan. 12, 81 in 1953 and -28 in 1912 (these are both the highest and lowest temperatures ever recorded in Colby in January)
Year ago today, 55 and 10
Month's precipitation, 0.05
Month's snowfall, 1-inch
2003 precipitation to date, trace
Soil temperature, 33
The sources:
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Martin Rinehart with Thomas County Emergency Medical Services was at the Thomas County Commissioners meeting this morning to discuss a transfer bill for \$3,500 with the commissioners.

Rinehart said the bill in question

was for transporting a patient to Larned twice.

"This is quite a can of worms," he said. County emergency medical services received a call recently about someone who might have overdosed on their medication and responded.

High Plains Mental Health rec-

ommended taking the patient to Larned. On the first trip, a registered nurse from Citizens Medical Center went along and later a deputy.

Commissioner Glen Kersensbrock said they just wanted to know who would have to pay the bill for the transport but the commissioners

took no action on the item.

County road department supervisor Clair Schrock was also at the meeting to discuss damage to County Road 15. He said the road was damaged recently when a farmer's anhydrous applicator dragged a furrow down the road.

The farmer did call to report the

damage and Shrock said the department repaired it.

"My main concern is that if something like that happens, let us know," he said. "It was just an accident." Schrock said that if someone does damage on a county road or sees damage, the county road department needs to know.

Legislature begins under court order, budget optimism

TOPEKA (AP)—As their 2004 session begins, legislators are under a court order to fix flaws in the funding of public schools but have reason for some hope that the economy is improving.

Both the House and Senate were convening at 2 p.m. Monday, with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius scheduled to give the annual State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature at 7 p.m.

The governor has been tight-

“We’re not going to negotiate with the judicial branch.”

House Speaker Doug Mays (R-Topeka)

lipped about the details of her budget proposals, only giving hints that it will include additional money for public schools. Her staff planned to brief reporters and legislative lead-

ers before her speech.

Education is expected to be a major topic because of the Dec. 2 preliminary order issued by Shawnee County District Judge

Terry Bullock, who gave legislators until July 1 to fix flaws in how the state distributes more than \$3 billion in aid to schools, \$2.6 billion of it from its general tax revenues.

Republican legislative leaders have said they would not bend to judicial pressure.

"We're not going to negotiate with the judicial branch," said House Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka.

Mays said the budget for fiscal

2005, which begins July 1, is likely to duplicate the current year's \$10.2 billion in spending. A rebounding economy has helped state revenue collections track closely with estimates made in November.

Revenue from July 1 through Dec. 31 was \$17.6 million more than expected, at \$2.22 billion, in part from \$10 million collected from corporate income taxes through a tax amnesty program that ended in November.

Briefly

Homestead refund work Thursday

Rosalie Seemann will be at Meadowlark Manor in Colby from 10 a.m. until noon and from 1 to 2 p.m., Thursday, to assist with the homestead food sales tax refunds and utility refunds. She asks that those participating please bring booklets and other needed information. For questions, call (785) 586-2240.

Blood drive planned Wednesday

The next Red Cross blood drive in Colby is scheduled for Wednesday from noon until 6 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. Something new beginning in January of 2004 is that American Red Cross blood donors will be required to provide identification before donating. To make an appointment for the January drive, call, 1-800-448-3543 or visit the website: www.redcross.org.

General requirements for giving blood include donors needing to be at least 17 years of age, weighing at least 110 lbs., and be in generally good health. Most medications do not prevent potential donors from giving blood and those planning to participate are asked to drink plenty of water prior to donation. For other questions, call Jackie Stephens at 462-8122 or Jo Frahm, 462-2082.

Childbirth classes begin

Colby Childbirth Education has started it's January series.

The first session was Thursday with three more classes to follow this Thursday, Jan. 22, and Jan. 29 from 7-10 p.m. at Colby Community College. For questions or enrollment, call Amy Hutfles at 460-4344.

Obedience school Tuesday

The Thomas County Trackers 4-H Dog Club will once again be offering obedience training this winter and spring. There will be an orientation meeting Tuesday, at 7 p.m. at the 4-H building. This will be a meeting without dogs and participants will need to bring a copy of their dog's current vaccination records, said Carrie Bredemeier, trainer. There is a nominal fee required and for details on the cost or other information, call (785) 460-3816.

Jaycees sponsoring 'Coats for Kids'

The Colby Jaycees are hosting "Coats for Kids" from 9-11 a.m. Saturday at the Jaycee Center. Kids who have outgrown a coat or kids needing a coat can come with their parents to pick out a coat or jacket donated by members of the community. Some adult coats are also available. The event is open to the public. For information, call 460-7147.

Church soup supper tonight

Colby First Presbyterian Church will hold a soup supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., today, during the Colby Community

College basketball game against Barton County. The cost for the soup supper is \$3 with chili, chicken noodle, relishes and cake on the menu.

County fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Thomas County 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include the Extension Agents reports, financial report, bills, committee reports on the buildings and grounds, carnival, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising. Also on the agenda are the year-end audit and barbecue bids. The meeting is open to the public.

Heartland Share sign up extended

Heartland Share sign-up extended until Thursday at the State Farm Insurance Office in Colby at 905 E. 4th. Delivery will be at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 24 at Sacred Heart School gym. See page 3 for other details. For other questions, call 460-3579 or 462-3733.

Baseball team plans fund raiser

The Colby High School baseball team is sponsoring a soup supper from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, at the Colby Community Building in conjunction with the Eagle basketball games against McCook, Neb. The cost will be a free-will donation.

