



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Keyboard artists



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Piano students from around the area gave a piano concert at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center Saturday afternoon. Twelve keyboards were set up for the group perfor-

mance. The concert was part of the Northwest Kansas Piano Clinic. Ninety-four piano students were in town for the day-long event, said Pat Ziegelmeier, one of the coordinators.

## Attempted murder Wanted man caught Friday at motel here

By **PATTY DECKER***Free Press Editor*

A 36-year-old California man wanted for attempted murder was captured at a motel in Colby on Friday morning after police ran a check earlier on a woman who came to the law enforcement center requesting traveler's aid.

**Eddie Ortiz**

The woman, Colleen Crispin, also from California, along with her two children went to police station at 10:14 a.m., said Gary Shull, investigator with the Colby Police Department, and as a matter of routine she was checked through the nationwide database.

The result of the check, Shull said, was that Crispin was associated with Eddie Ortiz, who was wanted by the Paradise Police Department in Paradise, Calif., for attempted murder using a handgun.

Paradise police said the incident happened on Dec. 31, 2003 after Ortiz allegedly shot the victim in the chest following a verbal argument.

"In questioning Crispin," Shull said, "she denied that Ortiz was in Colby with her."

However, authorities discovered which motel and which room she had been registered in and located the suspect in that room, he said.

Ortiz was taken into custody without incident from the Country Club Drive Motel.

After getting a search warrant for the motel room and the pickup truck Ortiz was traveling in, authorities did not find the handgun, but did find many other items that have now been turned over to the Paradise police.

According to authorities from the Paradise Police Department in Butte County, the alleged shooting occurred when Ortiz was visiting the same location as another Paradise resident, Sean Demel, 31.

While at the house, an argument started and Ortiz is alleged to have pulled a handgun out and shot Demel in the chest.

Authorities in California said Demel then staggered out of the house until a motorist picked him up and drove him to Feather River Hospital.

After the incident, two women, Lisa Nix, 37, and Roxanne Peralta, 19, fled with Ortiz, but later contacted Paradise police about the shooting.

Ortiz was nearly captured by the Riverside Sheriff's deputies after the pickup he was driving crashed into the side of a cliff near the Arizona and California border.

Following the mishap at the border and prior to being caught in Colby, Ortiz had last been seen running into the Arizona desert.

"Mr. Ortiz has indicated he will refuse to waive his extradition back to California," Shull said. "He may be in custody in the Thomas County jail for several weeks while California obtains a governor's warrant that will require Ortiz to be returned to California."

## Fire rescue truck back on agenda

By **PATTY DECKER***Free Press Editor*

Separate bids on a chassis and body for a new fire rescue truck will be reviewed at Tuesday's Colby City Council meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers, 585 N. Franklin.

Following the council's last meeting, the two bids that were received on the chassis and body were

rejected with the understanding that new bidding would require the chassis and body be separated in the bid process. The reason for this change was so that local automobile dealerships could have a chance at bidding the chassis, along with the out-of-state dealers.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said the bids were opened last Friday and the vehicle committee is

expected to have a recommendation at the meeting.

The council is also expected to discuss many items that could materialize this spring. Among those items are zoning issues, new development projects, reviewing and evaluating the city's electrical systems across I-70 to serve these proposed developments and possible building permit for gas pumps at

Dillons. If approved, the gas pumps would be located at the grocery store location.

Another area of concern that could be discussed is Villa High and the low water levels.

Armstrong said the city was approached about dredging Villa High and Gerry Bieker, utilities director, is expected to bring cost information to the meeting.

## County holds public hearing on loan program

By **TISHA COX***Colby Free Press*

A public hearing on a loan program to help get businesses started in Thomas County was one of the items on the agenda at the county commissioners meeting at the courthouse today.

Gerry Fulwider, director of the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, explained the pur-

pose of the loan program and what it's helped provide during the hearing.

"We have had the loans for some time now," Fulwider said.

The program started in 1999 and evolved into a loan portfolio designed to help start up businesses.

He said the first round of funding came from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment through the state.

It was \$50,000 additionally, with another \$50,000 added later. The money has all been loaned out but Fulwider said they continue to make loans once payments come in.

The loans have created 10.5 new jobs and helped retain five.

He said the hearing was mainly a legal requirement — after the money is loaned out, a closeout has

to be done, which is mainly a report for federal purposes.

"It's just a technicality," Fulwider said.

"That money will remain."

In other business, the commissioners briefly discussed two bills in the state House of Representatives that they have some concerns with.

Commissioner Glen Kersen-

brock takes issue with HB 2584, which would allow for union organizing by public officers or employees without the permission of the local governing body, and also HB 2614, which would raise the salary for district magistrate judges from \$33,416 to \$47,616, an increase of more than \$14,000.

Kersenbrock said the salary doesn't need to be raised.

## MyDoom virus not a concern locally, but is elsewhere

By **TISHA COX***Colby Free Press*

Nationally, the MyDoom virus has Microsoft quaking in its boots, so much so the company's offered a \$250,000 bounty for the person who created the cyber menace.

Locally, however, there's not too much concern over the latest virus threat. Phil DeYoung, technology coordinator for the Colby school district, said he's not worried about

it. "It's not something we're overly concerned with," he said. "It certainly can cause a problem. At this point, for our district, it has not been a problem."

DeYoung said it primarily affects personal computers, not Apple Macintoshes, which is the school's main operating platform. The school district does have several non-Mac computers but all it takes to correct any problems is rebooting

the computer.

Also, the school district's computers are protected with antivirus software.

He explained the virus works by first showing up in someone's e-mail inbox with a legitimate-looking prompt in the subject line. After it's opened, it will "grab" e-mail addresses off the computer and replicate. The effect clogs e-mail servers, slowing down computer net-

works to a crawl.

Doug Tittel, one of the partners at Office Works in Colby, said they haven't received any more calls than usual on viruses.

He said customers do call for assistance with viruses but none have needed help getting rid of MyDoom.

"It's not anymore than what we've had in the past," Tittel said.

Kim Haremza, a customer ser-

vice representative with Time Warner Cable in Colby, said they haven't had any calls on the virus. She added their national office monitors viruses but they hadn't received any notice on MyDoom.

Reports from The Associated Press said Sunday the virus took down the Web site of a small software company in Utah and a variant, MyDoom B, is set to attack Microsoft on Tuesday.

## Briefly

### Colby College page delayed

The Colby Community College newspaper, generally a feature of each Monday's *Colby Free Press*, will be delayed until Wednesday, Tom A. Dreiling, publisher, said today. "Blame it on computer problems," he said. "Whatever bug was bugging us has been corrected and the page, a popular feature, will take its place as page 3 on Wednesday. Sorry 'bout that," he said.

### Pancake feed Saturday

The annual Oddfellows and Rebekahs pancake and sausage feed is planned for Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. Proceeds from the pancake feed are used for freshman and sophomore scholarships, organizers said.

### College board meets today

The Colby Community College board of trustees will hold its regular meeting at 5 p.m. today in the board room of the administration building. Items on the agenda include pro-

gram review, performance agreements, approval of contracts and agreements and negotiations. The meeting is open to the public.

### Share sign up this week

Heartland Share sign up for February began today and will continue through Friday at the State Farm Insurance office in Colby. Delivery will be at Sacred Heart School gymnasium starting at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 21. For questions or information, call Gene Griffin, 462-3579.

### Tax help available Wednesday

AARP Tax Aide help is now available on Mondays and will continue through April 15 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the meeting room at Pioneer Memorial Library. On Wednesdays help will be available on simple tax forms from 1-3 p.m. at the Senior Progress Center. For information, call Alvin Volk at 462-2645 or Lela or Don German at 460-3062.

### Red Cross offers first aid

The Thomas County Red Cross is offering Standard First

Aid at 1:30 p.m., Friday at the Thomas County Office Complex. This course consists of first aid and adult CPR only. To enroll, call (785) 462-7161.

### Rotary soup supper next month

The annual Colby Rotary soup supper will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, during the Colby High School basketball game against Goodland at the Colby Community Building.

### Girl Scouts cookie deadline this week

The Colby Girl Scouts annual cookie drive will continue through Friday. In case a scout misses someone, Shannon Koon, one of the coordinators, encourages calling her at (785) 460-6662 prior to the deadline.

### Landfill hours for winter

The Thomas County landfill is operating on its winter hours, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. The hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



### More snow

**Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...**Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 12. South winds 5 to 15 mph.

**Tuesday...**Partly cloudy then mostly cloudy with a 20-30 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 30s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. **Tuesday night...**Cloudy with snow likely. Snow accumulation of 3 inches expected. Lows in the lower 20s. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent. **Wednesday...**Cloudy with snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs in the upper 20s. East winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent. **Wednesday night...**Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows around 15.

**Thursday...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs in the upper 20s.

**The numbers**  
Sunday's high, 26  
Low this morning, +3  
Records for Feb. 2, 71 in 1963 and -15 in 1902  
Year ago today, 51 and 37  
February 2004 precipitation, 0.1 inches  
February 2004 snowfall, 2 inches  
February 2003 precipitation, 0.00  
February 2003 snowfall, 0.00  
**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.

