

## Old Depot Restaurant gets update

By TISHA COX  
*Colby Free Press*

Expansion is the name of the game for the Bourquins. Their Old Depot Restaurant will be the site of an open house today and Saturday to give residents and visitors a chance to see two new additions to the eatery and campground. A cabin and tea room have been added to the business. “Those are brand new ventures for us,” said owner Shirley Bourquin. “I think it’s going to be real popular.” The opening will run until 6 p.m. today and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. Free chili will be served out of the cabin and free pecan rolls are available at the restaurant. They’re also having a give away for a free night in the new camping cabin. The campground usually opens April 1, but Bourquin said she and her husband Dan decided to open early this year to show off the cabin and tea room. “We’re a seasonal business because of tourism,” Bourquin said, adding the business is open April through November. “We opened a little bit early this year to get our feet on the ground with these new projects.” She said Dan built the cabin with help. It will sleep four to six people and will feature a couch, bunk beds, table and chairs. Bourquin said it will give people the option to camp without having to drive too far from home. The tea room inside the restaurant is available for meetings and other functions. She said it’s al-



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Dan Bourquin, one of the owners of Bourquin’s Campground and the Old Depot Restaurant, worked on the new camping cabin this morning. The Bourquin’s are hosting an open house today and Saturday to give people an opportunity to see the cabin and the new tea room inside the restaurant. The event runs until 6 p.m. on Saturday at I-70 Frontage Road on S. Franklin.

ready been rented out.

Bourquin said they first opened the restaurant 13 years ago and it was by reservation only, but that changed.

People don’t need reservations to

eat at the restaurant, she said. They can also accommodate special requests or guests who are on the Atkins or South Beach diets. Bourquin said it’s something they can work around.

She also said the restaurant is offering lunch through spring from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. “We encourage Colby and area residents to come out because we enjoy serving them,” she said.

## House panel reviews GOP school finance plan

TOPEKA (AP)—House Republican leaders hope that their \$92 million school finance plan will be debated by their chamber next week. The House Education Committee was scheduled to resume its debate on the bill Friday, and the panel’s endorsement would send the measure to the entire House. Republicans told the committee

during a hearing Thursday that the package should be viewed as a short-term solution at best to school funding issues. But Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka, said the plan still addresses the needs of poor and minority students. “This is probably the defining issue of the session,” Mays said. “I believe in 2005 we will be absolutely consumed.”

Meanwhile, Senate Republicans planned to have a Friday news conference to outline their own proposal. The House GOP plan would allow school districts to increase spending on special-education programs by \$40.5 million, but districts would have to reduce or eliminate a property tax break for home owners to get some of the funds. Kansas currently exempts the

first \$2,300 of a residential property’s assessed value from the state’s school levy, saving owners \$46 a year. The levy is \$20 for every \$1,000 of a residential property’s assessed value. In addition, the plan would add about \$28.5 million for teacher mentoring, bilingual education and programs for children who are at risk of dropping out of school.

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make a decision on implementing all-day kindergarten. He said most of their questions on the matter were answered at the March 1 meeting. Other items on the agenda include reports from the principals, curriculum director and superintendent; a construction project for the high school woods classes; out of district field trip requests and personnel issues. For questions or to receive an agenda, call 460-5000.

## Colby school board to hold public hearing on Monday

By TISHA COX  
*Colby Free Press*

The Colby School Board has plenty on its agenda for its Monday night meeting, including a public hearing on republishing the 2003-2004 budget.

District business manager Jo DeYoung said the district has to go through the process if there are any changes after the Kansas Department of Education audits the budget. She explained the budget the

board passed in August was a preliminary estimate of the maximum amount of money the district can spend. After a September audit, DeYoung said the state found increases in the school’s overall enrollment, including more kids with an at-risk rating and special education students. Because of the increase, the district will get \$32,000 more from the state this year and with the additional money, DeYoung said the

district has to have a public hearing and republish the budget to show the changes and also to get the money. “It’s more money for the school district and it’s not that much paperwork,” she said. DeYoung also said the district usually has an annual decline in enrollment of four percent but this year the number is only about three percent, with 1,053 students enrolled in the district. Other business the board will

have to deal with are track resurfacing bids. A decision was postponed from the March 1 board meeting. “It’s up for a vote,” said Superintendent Kirk Nielsen. The district received two bids on the track project at Dennen Field. Fisher Track of Boone, Iowa submitted the low bid of \$53,386 and Vibra-World out of Panhandle, Texas turned in a bid of \$55,790 for a latex track surface. Nielsen said the board will also

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## Briefly

### Childbirth classes scheduled

Colby Childbirth Education will begin another series of Childbirth Education classes in April. Classes will be held Thursday, April 1, 8, 15, and 29 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Health Sciences Building at Colby Community College. The next class will be a weekend retreat July 9 and 10. To preregister, call Jeanene Brown at 785-460-4850 or evenings at 785-462-7105.

### Smoke-free event Saturday

The Community Awareness Team and Jaycees are co-sponsoring a “free” Bingo night from 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday at the Jaycee Center. The event will feature free cards and lots of merchandise with the goal of providing a fun, smoke-free evening for everyone, said Taylor Miller, board member with the awareness team. Prizes include DVD and CD players, along with a television and many, many household items that were purchased using a grant from the federal government. Young people and adults are all invited to attend.

### Discounted park permits continue

The Thomas County Clerk’s office is reminding everyone that vehicle park permits will be discounted until Thursday, April 1. After that date, said Tracey Perkins, county clerk, the annual costs will go to \$44.50; second to \$24.50; senior

and disabled rates, \$22.25 and second at \$12.25. Spring turkey tags are also available, she said. For questions, call 462-4500.

### Baked potato bar Sunday

In observance of Red Cross month, the Thomas County Red Cross is serving a baked potato bar from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., Sunday. The event is planned at Fairview Estates, 1630 Sewell Avenue, Colby with free will donations being accepted. Board members and other local Red Cross volunteers will be serving. For questions, call Mary Smith, chapter manager, (785) 462-7161.

### Free sports physicals offered in May

Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range, will offer free physical examinations for students in Colby, Rexford and Brewster for the 2004-05 school years. All physicals will be given on Tuesday, May 11 with students from Colby Middle School arriving by 5:30 p.m.; Colby High School by 6:15 p.m., and for Golden Plains and Brewster students, 7 p.m. This is a free service for area students who plan to participate in athletic events next year. Any student planning to participate in the physical examination is asked to bring the forms with them, which are available at the schools. For questions, call (785) 462-3332.

## Athlete’s condition improving

By PATTY DECKER  
*Free Press Editor*

It’s been just over one month ago that a Colby basketball player was injured when his left arm went through a glass window at Norton’s gymnasium. Shane Stover — a senior at Colby High School — is recovering from surgery for a severed artery caused by the impact, but he and his parents still have other concerns. “The vascular surgeon in Kearney (Neb.) recently released Shane,” said his mother, Lori. After Stover was released from that surgeon’s care, the next phase is looking at the bone and muscle damage.

“The splint is off and the staples are out,” she said, “and while the outlook is good, it will still be months before he fully recovers.”

Since the glass cut Shane’s upper arm muscle clear to the bone, he is having trouble with gravity movement, meaning that when the arm is at his side, he cannot move it up, she said.

The Stover’s family physician, Dr. (Victor) Hildyard, explained to Shane and his parents that the next step would be to contact the Colorado Limb Consultants in Denver to begin work on the muscles and bone.

“We visited with the doctors in Denver earlier this month,” Lori said, “and our next appointment is next week.”

The doctors are optimistic about Shane’s arm, she said, adding that because he is young and determined it will go a long way in his recovery. Even though Shane cannot participate in a spring sport, his parents said he is planning to be track manager. With respect to the accident on Tuesday, Feb. 24, the Norton School District has many questions about the structure. Placement of doors and windows in the gym have been raised by the board.

Norton Superintendent Greg Mann said he contacted the district’s architect and the state fire marshal after Stover put his arm through a window in one of the interior gym doors.

The school hasn’t heard back from the fire marshal yet and won’t know what will be done with the doors until it has. Mann said if the doors are there for fire and smoke control, then they will look into what other kinds of doors are available. If not, he said, the district’s options are almost unlimited.

He said the school feels bad about what happened, but doesn’t believe the district is responsible.

“It was a highly unusual thing that happened,” he said. “I think it’s odd that both sides of the glass broke and the window had a hole in it. Normally only one side will shatter.”

He said the doors were installed in 1976 and this is only the second accident in that time. The first happened in the ’80s in a physical education class. That time the glass just cracked on one side like it was supposed to, he said.

He said although districts aren’t required to carry insurance on their students, the Norton district does. All members of the activities association have catastrophic insurance, he said. Also, the district carries a secondary accident policy which covers all student activities at home and away.

Lori Stover said that among the more than 150 get well wishes, the Norton board members also sent a plant to Shane and Norton’s basketball team also sent a card to let him know they were thinking about him.

Shane’s parents said they are also hoping that the Norton School District and other district’s with glass doors will consider changing them.

“As a mother, I believe nobody else should have to ever go through this again,” Lori said.



### Seasonable

**Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...**Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the northwest 10 to 15 mph after midnight.  
**Saturday...**Partly cloudy. More seasonable temperatures. Highs in the upper 50s to around 60. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.  
**Saturday night...**Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. East winds 5 to 15 mph.  
**Sunday...**Partly cloudy. Highs near 60. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.  
**Sunday night through Monday night...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Lows in the mid to upper 30s.  
**The numbers**  
Thursday’s high, 66  
Low this morning, 41  
Records for March 19, 90 in 1921 and -3 in 1923  
Year ago today, 46 and 44  
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00  
March total, 0.74  
March snowfall, 1 inch  
Soil temperature, 51  
**The sources:**  
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

