



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## How much is that doggy in the window?



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Ardath Beringer of Colby Photo looked at some of the items on display in her window for the Colby Community College Endowment Association Auction to be held Saturday at City Limits Convention Center. Items are also on display at the His Shop. The doors open at 4:45 p.m. and will be followed by a buffet dinner at

5:30 p.m. and a live auction at 7 p.m. Endowment Association Director Nick Wells said last year's event raised \$50,000 for scholarships. The theme is "Hollywood on the Plains" and people will have the chance to win a one-carat diamond. Tickets are still available by calling 462-4684.

## Colby High senior going to Caucus

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

An interest in seeing democracy at work is what got Colby High School senior Chris Gordon a place as a delegate to the First district Democratic Caucus at Ellsworth on Saturday.



C. Gordon

Gordon was chosen as a delegate during the 40th Senatorial District Caucus held in Colby on March 13. He said he was the youngest person there and was proud to be selected.

"I was very excited," he said. "I wasn't sure how the whole process works. I'm very obliged and grateful."

He got interested in the election process after watching what happened with the 2000 presidential election. Gordon said he was a little disappointed with the way it turned out, but he said it also showed that people can make a difference. "It showed every vote counted," he said.

When he turned 18, he decided to get involved at the party level. Gordon said the Democratic Party fits his personality because he's always

been opinionated and liberal. He said the party reflects that.

"I just thought I needed to get involved," he said. "I thought this would be a great way to do it."

Gordon has filled out his paperwork to become eligible as a national delegate but he'll have to wait and see what happens at Ellsworth on Saturday. He's also ready to support one candidate.

"I'm putting my support behind (Sen. John) Kerry," Gordon said, adding he likes Kerry as a candidate because he has experience in the Senate and politics, was a war hero and has military experience and is good on foreign policy.

Gordon said his parents are behind him and his mother Cathy was also elected as a delegate. "We didn't intend it but we both got picked," he said.

He and his mother will be among the delegates from the First Congressional District, which includes Thomas County, at Ellsworth Elementary School. The doors open at 1 p.m. and the caucus starts at 2 p.m.

Delegates will be chosen for the Democratic National Convention in Boston July 26-29. The First District will elect five delegates and one alternate.

Kansas will send a total of 41 delegates and six alternates to the national convention.

## Founder of many car dealerships in Kansas faces child sex charges

WICHITA (AP) — A philanthropist who founded several car dealerships in Kansas has been charged with having a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old.

Rusty Eck, 75, of Wichita, faces one count of indecent liberties with a child and three counts of aggravated indecent liberties with a child.

The charges were formally presented

during Eck's first court appearance Wednesday.

The case was scheduled for a preliminary hearing April 13.

A co-defendant, John Profita, 47, of Wichita, was charged Tuesday with identical counts.

According to the criminal complaint, the crimes occurred during January and Feb-

ruary of this year and involved the same 15-year-old victim.

One count alleges the men solicited the teen to "engage in lewd fondling or touching."

The other three counts allege the men had sexual intercourse with the teen, according to information from the courts in Wichita.

Eck was released from jail on Tuesday.

His bond had been set at \$250,000.

Eck, the founder and former owner of Wichita's Rusty Eck Ford dealership, donated money to the Wichita State University baseball program, which named its stadium after him in 1984.

A decade later, he and his wife gave \$1.75 million to Kansas Newman College — now Newman University — and a new building

on campus was named for them.

His son, Les Eck, who bought out his father eight years ago, said that Rusty Eck has an office at the dealership, but he spends 80 percent of his time on a farm in Rice County.

"Obviously, it's embarrassing to the family and to the 200 employees," Les Eck said.

## New physical therapy clinic opens on Range Avenue

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The community has gained another new business.

Called Northwest Kansas Physical Therapy, owned by physical therapist Dawn Stephens, it is located in the former KLBV-TV building on Range Avenue.

Stephens said she used to work for a therapy clinic housed at Lantern Park Manor in Colby, which has since closed.

The closing prompted her to open her own business.

"I wanted to continue to provide

outpatient services to the community," she said.

Stephens said people thought the clinic at Lantern Park only worked with the nursing home but that wasn't the case. Many of the same services that were provided at that clinic will continue at Stephens' clinic, including sports injury rehabilitation, wound care, foot orthot-



D. Stephens

**"I wanted to continue to provide outpatient services to the community . . ."**

Dawn Stephens, physical therapist, in response to why the new business was started

ics, worker's comp, pool therapy, Medicare patients, joint replacement therapy and foot pain.

Stephens said the clinic will ser-

vice all of northwest Kansas and she has patients from around the area, including Colby, Quinter, Wa-

Keeney, Winona, Hoxie, Goodland,

Brewster and Victoria.

She also wants people to know that they accept most insurance except Medicaid, which they are working on.

"It's a complicated process," Stephens said.

She said she's happy to have her own business and is also glad it's been busy already.

Stephens said she has a background in sports, explaining she played basketball at Penn State University and earned her master's degree in physical therapy from Wichita State University.

## Briefly

### Memory Walk set for Saturday

The Alzheimer's Association is planning a "Memory Walk" in Colby starting at 1 p.m., Saturday, with registration and the walk beginning at 1:30 p.m. The event will be held in Fike Park for the purpose of raising awareness about Alzheimer's, said Rhonda Riedel. For questions or information, call her at 673-3149 or 800-487-2585.

### Aviation safety seminar planned

There will be an aviation safety education seminar, Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Colby Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park. The seminar is a national program developed by the Federal Aviation Administration Central Region, said Mark Ostmeyer, manager of the Colby Municipal Airport. The program is designed to make using all types of airports, airways and other situations safe and fun. For questions, call Bruce Allred, (316) 941-1208 or Ostmeyer at (785) 462-4438.

### Blood drive next Wednesday

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Colby High School from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7. Donors are asked to bring photo identification. Walk-ins are welcome or an appointment can be scheduled by calling 1-800-448-3543.

### Singles dance Friday

The Colby Singles Group has planned a dance, Friday, from 8 p.m. to midnight at the American Legion in Colby.

Swingin' Country from Imperial, Neb. will provide entertainment. All single people and alumni are invited to attend. For questions or other details, call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

### Easter Cantata scheduled

A community-wide Easter Cantata will be performed at 7 p.m. on Good Friday (April 9) at the Berean Church in Colby. The public is invited to attend.

### Career day planned next week

The Colby Grade School Site Council members are planning a career day for students on Thursday, April 8. For questions about career day, call the school at 460-5100.

### Senior dance planned

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program annual recognition night will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 21 at the American Legion in Colby. The dance is open to all seniors and the Ramblin' Andy Family Band will provide entertainment. Tickets are available at the RSVPOffice, P.O. Box 803, Colby, Kan. 67701 or call (785) 462-6744. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

### Vendors wanted for Chautauqua

Food vendors are needed in June during Chautauqua, said Leilani Thomas, one of the committee members. Any groups or organizations looking for a fundraising event might want to consider this opportunity during the week of June 11 through June 15. Food service is needed each evening from 5 to 7 p.m. with beverages and sandwiches offered. Groups

interested in being a Chautauqua vendor are asked to call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643 or write to 350 S. Range #10.

### Corn growers meeting next week

The Northwest Kansas Corn Growers Association will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, in the Gem Community Building, Gem. For questions, call Julie Saddler at (785) 462-2237 or Steve Friesen at (785) 462-6343.

### Class reunion scheduled

The Colby High School Class of 1984 has set its 20th reunion for July 2, 3, and 4, coordinators of the event said. In an effort to communicate with others in that class, a website has been set up. The address is: www.colbyhigh-1984.com

### Coaches needed for swim club

The Colby Swim Club is now taking applications for coaches for summer swim. For information, call Mark and Angie Goudy, Brewster, at 694-2599 or Tracy and Robyn Rogers, Colby, at 462-3128.

### 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. For questions, call (785) 462-3332.



### 60s for Friday

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area

Tonight...Partly cloudy.

Lows in the upper 30s to around 40. Southeast winds 10-20 miles per hour.

Friday...Partly cloudy.

Highs in the 60s. East winds 10-20 miles per hour.

Friday night...Partly cloudy.

Patchy fog toward morning. Lows in the 30s. East winds 10-20 miles per hour, decreasing to 5-10.

Saturday...Partly cloudy.

Patchy fog early morning.

Highs in the upper 50s to around 60.

East winds 5-15 miles per hour.

#### The numbers

Wednesday's high, 70

Low this morning, 30

Records for April 1, 87 in 1940 and -4 in 1936 (lowest

April temperature on record for Colby)

Year ago today, 85 and 37

Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00

April total, 0.00

April snowfall, 0

Soil temperature, 53

Total March precipitation, 0.74

Total March snowfall, 1 inch

#### 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.

