



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## I t's a big tower!



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Kenny Ziegler, with Time-Warner Cable in Colby, explained the company's 350-foot tall tower and satellite dishes to Puddle Duck Preschool students on Friday. The students were learning about how cable television works.

## Woofter, Eicher win top chamber awards

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A large crowd filled the City Limits Convention Center in Colby for Friday night's annual Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce awards banquet.

Mike Woofter was honored as Business Person of the Year and John Eicher received the Community Service Award.

Woofter was presented with his award by outgoing board member Doug Munderloh. He said Woofter has made a significant contribution to the Colby business community over the past 20 years.

"He has not been afraid to take risks, which has allowed all of us to benefit from the many services his businesses provide," Munderloh said.

"His excellent management and employee choices can be seen when you visit the numerous businesses under his umbrella and consider that they employed nearly 500 in-

dividuals in 2003."

He said Woofter believes in the community and the area and shows this with his involvement, including helping out with his children's 4-H clubs and community organizations like the chamber, Colby Promotion Committee, Convention and Tourism Committee and Tree Board.

"Many individuals nominated him for this award and I am certain you will agree that Mike Woofter has made a positive and economic impact on our community," Munderloh said.

"Mike is so often behind the scenes that we feel it is time he is recognized for all he does."

New chamber board president Mike Wiens presented the organization's award to Eicher, president of the First National Bank, Colby.

"We wish we could choose two or three, but the award wouldn't be as prestigious," Wiens said.

"It is a good problem to have when you are fortunate to live in a community with such great volunteers."

He said there were many individuals to choose from but Eicher was selected because he is a "servant-leader."

"Our community service award goes to an individual that knows the true meaning of servant leadership," Wiens said.

"A servant leader is one that supports people who choose to serve

first, and then lead as a way to expand service to individuals and institutions."

He said Eicher is a member of Kiwanis, the Colby Rod Run, Prairie Heritage Daze and Colby Agriculture Committee, and has helped with the annual Christmas parade and is a former chamber president.

Last year, he also built a playhouse that he donated for the Hospice auction.

Eicher and his wife, Reva, have three children, Michelle, Rick and Pete, and six grandchildren.

During the festivities, four new board members were installed.

They were Bill Biel, Tina Harris, Kristen Ostmeier and Harold Sulz-

man. They replaced outgoing board members Munderloh, John Bre-

menkamp, Larry Maxwell and Mary Lou Jones.

The guest speaker was Kenneth Lerman, a business consultant from Wichita, who spoke about civility.

Brian Staats, outgoing president, gave a year-end review. He said the chamber had a good year, including a successful golf tournament and other events.

"Businesses are coming together to make northwest Kansas a success," Staats said.

He also thanked the Colby/Thomas County Chamber board and all of the members for their support throughout the year.

## Council member to retire

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will be saying, "good-

bye" to Herb Sunderman, who is retiring as a council member at its regular meeting Tuesday starting at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers. Approval of a resolution for Sunderman is also on the agenda

acknowledging him for his service. Following the resolution, Phil DeYoung is expected to be sworn in as his replacement.

The council is also expected to talk about an agreement between the city and Wal-Mart regarding paving costs.

The agreement will focus on paving, sewer issues, and street work on Franklin and Willow.

Should the council approve the agreement, the city would have some responsibility for the street project, along with adjustments to overhead electrical lines, and water

main taps on Franklin.

In addition to costs and other details of the agreement, which will be discussed at the meeting, Wal-Mart is also requesting the completion date be moved up.

The council will also consider authorization for Mayor Warren Hixson to sign additional extensions for water rights and land purchase contract with G & E Farms owned by Max Embree.

For questions about the meeting or for an agenda, call Jo Strange, executive secretary to the city manager, at 462-4410.

## County commission wants road grader bids refigured

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners opened bids for road graders at their meeting today at the courthouse, but didn't accept any of them.

Due to the way two of the four companies calculated lease payments in their bids, they were all told to come back with the bids recalculated.

"In all fairness, I want everyone to do the same thing," said Ron Evans, commission chair, adding only two of the bids submitted were figured with equity left in the machines.

Evans said the county does a five-year lease on motor graders and the method has worked "like a champ."

In other business, Bruce Hardesty and Bruce Schneider, with R&S Digital in Great Bend, gave a

presentation on Geographic Information System mapping. Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong also sat in on the presentation.

The commissioners took no action on the presentation which was for information purposes only. Company President Bruce Schneider said many small counties are finding a need for the services they offer, which include mapping and digitizing counties and communi-

ties and making the information available online for municipal and county staff as well as residents.

He said they've mapped more than 2 million parcels, including recent projects for Scott and Butler counties as well as the city and county of Denver.

Schneider said the maps can be used for 911 location, zoning and other purposes. Their services, he said, include parcel mapping and

aerial photos, maintenance, access to the information through just a plain Web browser and there is no hardware or software purchase needed. Also, he said the cost of such a project can be financed in four to six years and usually runs \$1,200-\$1,500 a month.

The commissioners also approved a proclamation for April 25-May 2 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

## Brownout causes pileups, closes Interstate 70 on Sunday

By TOM BETZ

The Goodland Star-News

The high winds Sunday caused a 17-car and one semi pileup a mile west of the Kansas Stateline, and caused two other accidents which closed I-70 for several hours.

Three people were seriously injured in the 18-vehicle accident with two flown to Denver and one sent by ambulance to Denver, Colorado Highway Trooper Lloyd Beck said.

He said it appeared the accident began about 11:30 a.m. when cars started slowing down because of a brownout condition, and couldn't see the conditions in front of them.

"It may take several days to figure out who hit who first," Beck said. "It was quite a mess, and we went through lots of face masks."

Beck is the accident reconstructionist stationed in Burlington, and said there were many minor injuries in the cars, and the semi tractor was badly damaged.

"We have not had an update on the condition of those flown to Denver," Beck said. "We will probably hear today, and hopefully they will be all right."

He said several state troopers were treated for dust in their eyes, and that they asked Kansas to stop

the westbound lanes at Goodland because the conditions were bad on that side as well as the eastbound where the accidents happened.

Beck said that about the same time as the larger pileup three cars hit each other about one-half mile from the stateline. There were no injuries in this accident.

Four miles west of the stateline two semis hit each other in a minor accident and there were no injuries.

Beck said all the accidents were in the eastbound lanes, and that the farmer who owns the land was called and he came out and plowed the fields to stop the dust blowing. "When he began plowing it really

cut down on the dust and we could see the cars," Beck said. "I was trying to draw a diagram at the scene and with the dust I missed one the first time. Have you ever tried to draw on a piece of paper when the paper is the only thing you can see. It was that bad."

The Kansas Highway Patrol did not report any injury accidents on Sunday related to the wind, and there were no reports of accidents on I-70.

However, there was a two-car accident near Brewster about 4 a.m. on Monday with two people taken by ambulance to Goodland Regional Medical Center where they

were treated and released.

Trooper Richard Hageman was called to the accident at 4:09 a.m. at milepost 31.5 west of Brewster.

He said both vehicles were westbound when the 2002 Mustang driven by Nicholas A. Borean, 20, of Columbus, Ohio went to pass the 2000 International semi driven by Timothy A. Smith, 37, of Jefferson, Ark.

The Mustang veered into the trailer of the semi and both vehicles stopped on the westbound side.

Sean T. Leaman, 20, of Bailey, Colo. was the passenger in the Mustang and was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

## Briefly

### Driver's office closed two days

The Kansas Department of Revenue Driver's License Division in Colby will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11 and 12 for office training. Anyone planning to visit the office for renewals, permits and other driver's license questions, should do so prior to or after those dates. For questions, call 462-3620.

### Video concerts return

Gaither video concerts will continue at the Colby Wesleyan Church, the first and third Sundays of the month. The next video concert is planned for Sunday, May 2, beginning at 6 p.m. and is open to the public and free of charge. Everyone is encouraged to attend and enjoy gospel music on the big screen. For questions, call Rich Epp, 443-1994.

### Red Cross offers courses

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering Adult, Infant and Child CPR classes on Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those re-certifying will need to bring their books and skill cards. Another course, First Aid, is scheduled for Monday, from 6 to 10 p.m. For questions or to register, call 462-7161.



### Thunderstorms

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area

Tonight...Mostly cloudy in the

evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Breezy. Lows in the middle 40s. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Breezy. Highs in the lower 70s. North-west winds 15 to 25 mph. Tuesday night...Clear. Lows in the upper 30s to around 40. North-west winds 10 to 20 mph, decreasing to 5 to 10 mph after midnight. Wednesday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 60s to around 70. North-west winds 5 to 10 mph. Wednesday night and Thursday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 40s and highs 65-70.

The numbers: Sunday's high, 84; Low this morning, 40; Records for April 19, 92 in 1946 and 19 in 1953; Year ago today, 55 and 39; Precipitation past 24 hours is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

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.



