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The wall crowd is growing

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

The Vietnam Moving Memorial Wall on display in Oakley is bringing in more people than anticipated. The wall is on exhibit at Annie Oakley Park through Sunday.

Larry Rowlison of Oakley VFW Post 2981 and one of the people who helped bring the wall to the area, said they're pleased with the numbers of people coming out to see the wall and the events planned around it.

He said more than 1,000 people showed up for the opening ceremonies Wednesday night and also for Thursday's ceremonies, which were moved to the theater downtown because of the weather. Rowlison said approximately 500 people were on hand for that.

"We were very pleased," he said. "People are still talking about it downtown."

They were only expecting about 300 people for the opening night.

Rowlison said the reception has been positive and far exceeds expectations. He said it's been a boost for the area because at the command post they've been referring people to Oakley, Colby and Hays for museums, shopping, eating and places to stay.

He said he's excited about how things have turned out and is expecting even more people for events tonight, including a barbecue at 5 p.m. which will be followed by a quilt giveaway and music performances by the community choir and others.

Events and other activities will continue through Sunday.

Saturday, Rowlison said, is a



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Volunteer Ray Banks of Wichita explains items left in front of the Vietnam Moving Memorial Wall Wednesday at Oakley. The wall is on display until Sunday. Larry Rowlison, of the Oakley VFW Post 2981, said more people than expected have shown up for various events planned around the exhibit.

day of silence for people to pay their respects to all Americans lost to war.

Other exhibits in conjunction with the wall display are also at Annie Oakley Park. He said the Living Memorial Museum is proving to be a popular attraction with weapons and other items soldiers used in Vietnam as well as items used

against them.

Rowlison said there's also a display of pictures of Kansans who lost their lives in Southeast Asia as well as the Wall of Honor to which people can add the names of anyone they know currently serving in the military or has served in the past. The Fick Fossil and History Mu-

seum is also featuring a display of items from WW I to the present, including items recently brought back by an Oakley doctor who was serving in Iraq.

For information on events or to add a name to the wall, call the command post at (785) 672-0030.

Guns figure in Thursday arrest of three

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

A 20-year-old Colby man and his brother were arrested early Thursday morning after police were called to look into a fight at the 1350 W. 4th St. apartment complex.

Landon Funk, 20, and his brother, Clayton Funk, 21, of Topeka, are in the Thomas County jail awaiting possible charges of aggravated assault, criminal threat, carrying a concealed weapon, unlawful discharge of a weapon, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute within 1,000 ft. of a school, obstruction and criminal damage to property, said Randy Jones, police chief, on Thursday.

A 911 call came in at 12:28 a.m., Thursday, about a fight at an apartment complex and it was later reported that a handgun had been pulled during the altercation, he said.

"As officers were responding to the call, another call was received three minutes later saying that shots had been fired in the vicinity of Fifth Street and Copeland," Jones said.

At that time, a Thomas County deputy saw three people leaving a

2002 Ford pickup and running. Two of those people ran to an apartment at 520 N. Sterling.

Once the two men, later identified as Landon and Clayton Funk, were in the apartment, both city and county officials surrounded the building and talked the two brothers out of the apartment.

After the arrest, a search warrant was issued for the apartment and pickup, said Jones.


Through the warrant, authorities found two handguns, many rounds of ammunition, many packages of marijuana, scales, drug paraphernalia and money.

In addition to the items found, Jones said shell casing were also recovered at the apartment building on Fifth Street and Copeland.

The amount of marijuana and money was not available, but Jones did say the investigation will continue with more interviews expected. No one was injured in the mishap and other charges may be forthcoming, he said.

The third person, who was with the two brothers, has been identified, but no other information about him was available today.

Colby, Brewster, Golden
Plains graduates
section
see today's insert



Thomas County board discusses barn damage on fairgrounds

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Damage to the newly-sided horse barn at the Thomas County Fairgrounds was an issue at Thursday's fair board meeting.

Board president Stan Strange said the west end of the barn was

damaged sometime Wednesday.

"Someone backed into it," he said, adding no one reported the incident to the fair board but he did turn it into the sheriff's office.

Strange said one of the new doors is "pretty well destroyed" and the door plate below the door was split

and knocked away from the foundation.

He said they don't know yet how much the value of the damage is but Jerome Mazanec, who did the residing project on the fairground barns, is trying to find out.

In other business:

- The board approved the hiring of Ron Neitzel of St. Francis to be the judge for the demolition derby at this year's fair. It will cost the board \$400 for his services.

- Strange said the queen's barn will be gone before the fair and work on adding new electrical out-

lets for camping sites will start soon.

- The board also will be holding a special meeting at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25 to discuss buying a new mower.

Also briefly discussed was the issue of insurance for the home-owned carnival. Strange asked

board member Darrel Dible if there was anything new on the situation but he had nothing to report.

Dible explained the company the fair board had their carnival liability insurance through was recently sold to another company that won't carry that kind of policy.



Much warmer

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Partly cloudy. :Lows in the 40s. South winds 10-20 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. 20 percent chance for thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. South winds 10-20 mph, with gusts to 35. **Saturday night...**Partly cloudy. 20 percent chance for thunderstorms. Southwest winds 20-30 mph. Lows in the 50s. **Sunday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the 80s. Southerly winds 15-25 mph, decreasing to 5-15 later in he day. . **Sunday night ...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s..

The numbers: Thursday's high, 51; Low this morning, 29; Records for May 14 97 in 1941 and 26 in 1953; Year ago today, 81 and 44; Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00; May total, 0.27; Soil temperature, 60

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.

Colby couple receives flag flown over base in Kuwait

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

A Colby couple has a memento of a family member's time served in the Middle East.

Elmer and Donna Lawver's daughter-in-law, Maj. Phyllis Lawver, sent the couple an American flag that was flown over her camp in November 2003.

Maj. Lawver, a nurse-practitioner in the U.S. Air Force, was stationed at Camp Wolverine in Kuwait for nearly four months before coming home in late March.

Mr. Lawver said she was working in a 75-bed tent hospital where American sick and wounded were taken before being transported to Germany.

“She just wanted us to have it.”
Elmer Lawver, said about getting the flag

The flag was flown over the camp and Maj. Lawver had it dedicated to them.

"She just wanted us to have it," her father-in-law said.

He said "Phyllis didn't talk much about her experience in Kuwait, but she did send pictures home and did relate a little about her first chopper flight."

He said she sent home pictures of the trip which included transporting

a female soldier whose eyes were wounded for treatment.

Mr. Lawver said she flew over Baghdad, which she related as quite an experience.

The Lawver's son, Lt. Col. John Lawver, retired from the Air Force on April 3.

He said he was glad his wife made it home for his retirement ceremony. The couple lives in St. Paul, Minn.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Phyllis Lawver, the daughter-in-law of Elmer and Donna Lawver, Colby, (far left) helped fold a flag in November that was later given to the Lawvers.

Briefly

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include Clair Shrock from the county road department with public input on the department's five-year plan and landfill supervisor Larry Jumper. The meeting is open to the public.

College board to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include a vet tech/Kansas State University report, approval of contracts and agreements, software and licensing agreements, preliminary budget, auditor bids, approve an application for federal grant, capital outlay, air conditioning unit for the Cultural Arts Center, payment of claims and negotiations. The meeting is open to the public.

School board to meet

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the board room at the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include the consent agenda, reports from the principals, superintendent and curriculum director, a curriculum presentation, superintendent evaluation process, educational and out of district trips, the high school parking lot, 2004-2005 orthopedic and sports medicine agreement, 2004-2005 tentative board meeting dates and personnel matters.

Seniors welcome to Baccalaureate

The Thomas County Ministerial Alliance is once again sponsoring Baccalaureate prior to the Colby High School Commencement, Sunday, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Little Theater at the Colby Community Building. Colby High School's graduation commencement ceremony will begin at 3 p.m.

Donations accepted Saturday

The Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council is taking donations for its flea market later this month. Anyone who would like to contribute can do so by dropping items off Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the old Taylor Motors Building (next to Service Oil) 445 N. Lake, Colby.

College graduation Saturday

The Colby Community College will celebrate its 39th annual commencement starting at 2 p.m., Saturday, in the Colby Community Building. This year's commencement speaker is Sen. Stephen Morris of Hugoton. In addition to degrees and certificates being presented to students, the honorary associate degree will be given to Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel. Other awards include the Mosier Award to the year's outstanding graduate and the Tangeman Award to the college's distinguished teacher in 2004.

