



COLBY FREE PRESS

County items include new business idea

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Economic development was one of the items on the agenda at today's Thomas County Commissioners meeting at the courthouse.



M. Woofter

Mike Woofter of Woofter Construction and Gerry Fulwider, Thomas County Economic Development director, discussed the possibility of using industrial revenue bonds and partial tax abatements for a new business.

Woofter said they're just starting to look at the process and getting information together on what it would take to make a wholesale semi truck sale business possible.

"We're in the infancy stage of the deal," he said. "I wanted to see if there was a possibility of moving forward."

Commissioner Glen Kersenbrock said he and his fellow commissioners are in favor of economic development when it's "fair and equitable to taxpayers."

Woofter said he will be back at a later commissioner's meeting with

more information.

The commissioners also approved a bid from Roofmasters Roofing, Inc. in Colby for repairs to the courthouse roof and also the bathrooms at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The cost of the repairs will be \$4,152, which will be paid by insurance.

Jake Haines with Roofmasters was at the meeting to discuss the repairs. He said there are spots on the courthouse roof that have had shingles removed by wind, and the fairground bathroom roof has the same problem.

Haines said some of the courthouse roof gutters need work but he will submit a separate proposal at a later date. He also gave the commissioners an estimate on what it would cost to reshingle the entire roof. He said there is money available through the state historical society for such projects.

Commissioner Ron Evans told him to look into what's available.

The commissioners also signed grant paperwork for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County. Nancy Lepell, with the organization, said they will be getting a \$20,000 grant to help with operating and curriculum costs from the Juvenile Justice Authority.

Accident scene



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Four Topeka residents ended up at Citizens Medical Center in Colby on Friday after a one-vehicle wreck on Interstate-70 at mile marker 54 near Colby. A report from the Kansas Highway Patrol said the 2001 white Ford Excursion driven by Jane K. McCall, 40, of Topeka, was eastbound on the interstate when McCall lost control. The vehicle then entered the south ditch and rolled onto

its top. McCall was also pulling a camping trailer behind the Ford. McCall, along with Drake C. McCall, 2; Connor J. Stotts, 9; and Gabrielle R. Stotts, 7, all of Topeka, were transported to Citizens Medical Center. The four were treated at the hospital and released. The wreck was cleaned up quickly and the interstate wasn't closed.

Sweet Adelines singers have new director

By TISHA COX

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After many years as director of the Hi-Plains Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, Don Kready of Colby has stepped down to make room for a new face.

Larry Patterson of Norton recently took over as the singing group's director.

He said he's been directing the chorus for two months now and is enjoying it.

"They're wonderful, a very, very talented, group," Patterson said, adding they're dedicated to what they do.

He said he's been involved in music all his life, directing men's and women's choirs in Nebraska, teaching high school music and directing as well. Patterson, who owns a plumbing company, also plays 13 different musical instruments.

Patterson said there are some changes in store for the choir, in-



L. Patterson

cluding adding new music and styles and getting ready for international competition.

He said they're also looking for new members to start up a young women's choir for girls in high school or college from age 14 on up.

The chorus is also gearing up for several performances this summer which will feature an appearance during the Chautauqua in Colby.

Patterson said anyone interested in the chorus can drop by during one of their rehearsals. They meet every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Colby United Methodist Church.

Kready helped start the chorus

more than 14 years ago. He was the first director and stepped down in 1995-1996 and began his second tenure in 2001.

"I took the chorus over again," he said.

He said it was time to give something else a try.

"I felt like I wanted to be more free to travel and things like that," Kready said.

He said he retired from his own business more than 10 years ago.

Kready directed both the men's and women's choruses.

He got involved in 1989 when Sweet Adelines International was

looking into the possibility of starting up a group in the area. His wife, Jo, was invited to help with the effort and Kready said the first thing they needed was a director.

Kready had helped with a men's chorus in McCook, Neb., and was chosen temporarily for the Sweet Adelines position.

"That was how I got started," he said.

Kready said he's always enjoyed music. His father had participated in barbershop, which Kready also did, along with singing gospel in high school and later attended several director schools.

President Reagan's final journey is underway

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Ronald Reagan, who spoke 10 years ago about his final journey, was being mourned by a nation while plans called for the late president's body to travel from California to the nation's capital and back home again for burial.

Reagan, 93, died at home Saturday of pneumonia.

Today, his body was moved from a Santa Monica funeral home to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Following a private family ceremony, it will lie in repose at the library through Tuesday night, giving Reagan's fellow Californians a chance to pay their final respects to the man who was their governor from 1967 to 1975.

On Wednesday, the former president's body was to be flown to Washington, D.C. Following a state funeral, it will lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda until Friday.

The funeral, undoubtedly attended by world leaders, will be at Washington National Cathedral. Bush will speak at the funeral. The body will then be returned to

Reagan's presidential library in Simi Valley for a private burial service.

Throughout the day Sunday, mourners milled around the Santa Monica funeral home, many leaving behind American flags, flowers and jars of jelly beans — Reagan's favorite treat.

"Thank you for changing the

world," said a handwritten note among the tokens of remembrance.

People did the same at Reagan's boyhood home in Dixon, Ill.

Ken Dunwoody, who grew up outside Dixon, said Reagan, while an icon of Republican politics, transcended political partisanship. "I just think of him as being an American," said Dunwoody, 82.

Briefly

Water garden tour planned

The Northwest Kansas Transition Council will have a water garden tour in the Colby area on July 10. Tickets will be available June 23 with purchase locations announced later. The event will raise funds for projects for the 2004-2005 school year. The projects will assist at-risk students and disabled northwest Kansas students in preparing for post-secondary training, employment and independent living.

Blood drive coming up

The Colby Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive from 12:30-6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16 at the Colby Community Building. Call 1-800-448-3543 to schedule an appointment. Everyone wishing to donate will need to bring a photo ID or Red Cross blood donor card, which is received after one's first donation.

Super Sitter Class nearing

The Thomas County Health Department Super Sitter class has moved. The class will be held in the 4-H Building directly west of the Thomas County Office Complex. The class will be held Wednesday, June 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and enrollment is not limited. Those planning to attend need to have completed fifth grade. For questions or enrollment fees, call the health department at 462-4596.

Change in billing software

The City of Colby has switched utility billing software. The

bills were mailed out earlier this week, and are now in letter form, not on postcards. Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, asks that residents look carefully over the bills and call 462-4410 with any questions.

Quilters Guild opens meeting to all

Dr. Bryan Grove, art instructor at Emporia State University, will be speaking at the Colby Community Building (basement) starting at 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 21. The program is one of the regular monthly meetings of the Kansas Prairie Quilters Guild. Grove will talk on the subject of "Kansas Landscape and Design," said Kathy Cayton, one of the coordinators. The public is invited and there will be an administrative charge. For questions, call 460-2161.

West Nile tips issued

The Thomas County Health Department is reminding everyone to be aware of the West Nile Virus and mosquito population through prevention efforts. For example, when outdoors officials said to use a repellent with DEET and extra clothing. *Off* brand bug spray has proven to be the best repellent and it comes in all strengths for children and adults, said Juanita Dewey, administrator at Thomas County Health. She also suggests that standing water in yards should be removed since this is a breeding ground for mosquitos and people should avoid wearing perfumes or fragrant lotions or powders to attract mosquitos. Use citronella or candles made for mosquito control.

Chautauqua 2004

Events for the Kansas Chautauqua 2004, "Bleeding Kansas: Where the Civil War Began" will kick off this week, running from June 10-15.

Here is a partial listing of events::

• Thursday, June 10

Watermelon feed at 7 p.m. sponsored by the Colby Rotary Club and entertainment by the Tumbleweed Chorus at the Chautauqua tent on the grounds of the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Also, a tent raising before the watermelon feed.

• Friday, June 11

Adult workshop from 10-11 a.m. with Frederick A. Krebs on the Kansas-Nebraska Act at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Children's workshop from 1-2 p.m. at Pioneer Memorial Library with Charles Everett Pace presenting "Folktales of African Peoples in America." Geared for school-age children. Youth Chautauqua camp from 2-5 p.m. at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, with a program on "Ride Into History" with Ann Birney and Joyce Thierer. Family activities at the Kid-Tauqua Tent from 5-6:45 p.m.

The concession stand will be open from 5-7:30 p.m. followed by local entertainment at 7 p.m. The evening's program starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Chautauqua tent featuring Frederick Douglass.

The Free Press will provide schedules on each front page through the duration of the Chautauqua.

