



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Booth buddies



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Pat Erickson and Seth Bredemeier of Colby were among many who worked Sunday to get the Colby Swim Club's food booth ready to open when activities begin Tuesday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. In addition to the swim club booth in the Commercial Building, other food concessions and local businesses will be displaying items of interest to fairgoers.

## Financial spots could be targeted

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal authorities warned of potential al-Qaida bombing attacks on prominent financial institutions in New York, Washington and Newark, N.J., prompting increased security and concern from the unusually detailed information unearthed on the plot.

“The quality of this intelligence — based on multiple reporting streams, in multiple locations — is rarely seen, and it is alarming in both the amount and specificity of the information,” Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said at a hastily arranged news conference Sunday.

A cache of recently obtained information — including photos, drawings and written documents — indicates that al-Qaida operatives have undertaken a meticulous preparations to case five specific buildings: The Citigroup Center building and the New York Stock Exchange in New York, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington and Prudential Financial Inc.'s head-

quarters in Newark.

Ridge raised the terror threat level for financial institutions in the three cities to orange, or high alert, the second highest level on the government's five-point spectrum. Elsewhere, he said, the alert would remain at yellow, or elevated.

The fresh intelligence did not give crucial details about when, where or how terrorists may strike, Ridge said, but government analysis indicates terrorists may prefer to use car or truck bombs or other means to physically destroy targets.

When asked why Cousins was running for the commissioner's position, he said he believes he can make a difference.

At the top of his list, Cousins said the tax problem, which continues to climb higher and higher and economic development are two major issues.

He said the days of agriculture being the sole economic support in the county has changed and more industry is needed for future growth.

## Primary election polling places named

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Thomas County residents will be heading to the polls Tuesday for the primary election. County Clerk and Election Officer Tracey Perkins said the polls will operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Here are the polling locations:

Colby voter locations are the north lobby of the Colby Community Building for Precinct I and the south lobby in the Community Building for Precinct II.

The National Guard Armory is

where voters in Precincts III and IV vote as well as residents of Rovohl and East and West Morgan Townships.

Other polling places around the county are:

- East Hale Township Hall is the location for Levant, East Hale and Barrett township residents.
- Brewster City Hall for Brewster, West Hale and Kingery voters.
- Mingo Co-op for South Randall and Summer voters.
- Rexford City Hall for Menlo, Rexford, Smith and Wendell voters.

There are 3,080 Republicans registered, 1,107 Democrats, 31 Libertarians and 5 Reform Party.

The unaffiliated voters number 1,244, for a total of 5,467.

Races for County Commissioner District 2 and County Commissioner District 3, along with the 40th District Senatorial race are expected to attract a good size showing.

The weatherman said the day will be hot and sunny.

For questions, contact Perkins at 462-4500.

## Cousins, Stefan face off in commissioner's race

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Following Glen Kersenbrock's decision not to run for another term as the Thomas County Commissioner in District #2, two Colby Democrats are vying for a place on the November ballot.

Jim Cousins, a Thomas County native, and Richard Stefan, a northwest Kansas native, said they are both concerned about the county's economic development. Their names will be on the Tuesday primary ballot.

Cousins, 57, is a fourth generation Colbyite having farmed the same ground as his great-grandfather.

Stefan, 47, was born in Grainfield and for the past 25 years has farmed land located in part of Sherman, Logan and Rawlins counties. In addition, he has worked for United Parcel Service and, at one time, owned his own car franchise and has served on a bank board.

“We need businesses that will employ a lot of our local people.”

— Jim Cousins

“By having information, I can better answer the public's questions.”

— Richard Stefan

“We need businesses that will employ a lot of our local people,” Cousins said, “and I have a strong feeling I can make a difference — this is my home too.”

Cousins said he also believes that Thomas County should be 100 percent the hub of this area.

Although he said he hasn't had a great deal of political experience, Cousins did say he served for 14 years on the Thomas County Fair Board and also was in law enforcement. That, along with being familiar with the area, getting encouragement from others to run, and his ability to look objectively at the issues, he thinks he would be the right choice for the job.

Stefan said he also has concerns about the county tax structure and economic development.

“I am also concerned about transportation, businesses and the landfill,” he said.

Along with wanting to help his county, he said he decided to run for the commissioner's seat so that he could gather information and sat-

isfy questions he has had about the problems in Thomas County.

“In turn, by having information, I can better answer the public's questions as well,” he said.

Stefan said this is the first time he has ever run for a political position and he believes he would be an asset if elected.

Having worked for UPS, he said he has seen a lot of changes. “Maybe there is something that can be done to help the county — or at least I could look at the options,” he said. He also said he understands that everyone has a point of view and he would listen to new ideas and suggestions, then consider taking and using those if possible.

Cousins and his wife, Terry, have a son, Corey, 24, in South Fork, Colo. and a daughter, Jennifer Gade of Phillipsburg.

Stefan is single, but has 10 siblings — 7 brothers and 3 sisters.

Thomas County's District #2 is the same area as the City of Colby's Wards III and IV and basically is anything south of Fourth St.

## Budget talks on Colby council agenda Tuesday

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The 2004-2005 proposed budget is on the agenda for Tuesday's Colby City Council meeting. The council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall.

The council will have a public hearing followed by adoption.

Other budget items include pre-

sentations on the 2005 Pioneer Memorial Library, Recreation Commission, and Convention and Tourism budgets.

The three organizations will give a short report on their requests and answer questions.

The council will also hear a presentation from Kirk Young who is looking at moving his Truck Town

business from Oberlin to Colby.

Other items include a lease with S & T Communications for tower space and a lease with Curt and Jacqueline Stephens for Colby Sign.

Reports and discussions will include a report on the reason why the city scrapped the new utility billing system and reverted back to the old

system.

Other items on the agenda are:

- Authorization to acquire water main easements.
- Presentation of capital credits for 1983-1984 by Bob Muirhead of Midwest Energy.
- Electric distribution information.
- Consent agenda.

Colby  
Edson  
Brewster

## Prepare for a hot week

**Tonight...**Clear. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 5 to 15 mph.  
**Tuesday...**Mostly sunny then partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.  
**Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.  
**Wednesday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. East winds around 10 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon.  
**Wednesday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s.  
**Thursday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.  
**Friday...**Mostly sunny. Highs around 90.

**The numbers**  
Sunday's high, 99  
Low this morning, 63  
Records for Aug. 2, 107 in 1938 and 50 in 1927  
Year ago today, 92 and 58  
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00  
August, 0.00  
July total, 4.25 inches  
Soil temperature, 82

**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.

**Water use**  
• July 30, 31 = 2,508 million gallons (average)

**Water advisories**  
• Water **Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.  
• Water **Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.  
• Water **Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

## Briefly

### Leadership applications wanted

The Quest and Leadership Thomas County application forms have been sent to those nominated, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators. The Quest is the informational piece which explains the program. It has also been sent to the executive officers of some of the larger organizations in Thomas County who may also nominate their employees. The sessions will be held the third Wednesdays beginning in October and running through April. For those who did not receive an application form and are interested in the program, stop by the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and pick up a form. Applications are due Friday, Aug. 20 with the class being announced Sept. 17. For questions, call 460-3401.

### School board agenda noted

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in the board room of the administration building. The meeting will start with a public hearing on the 2004-2005 budget. Other items on the agenda include principals, superintendent and curriculum director reports, approval of the 2004-2005 budget, out of district student requests and personnel matters, if necessary. The meeting is open to the public.

### Garage sale donations needed

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is holding a garage sale in early August. Donations are appreciated and can be dropped off at 1960 W. Fourth. Call 460-9125 to schedule a time to drop off items.

### Girl scouts plan 'thermometer exchange'

Colby Cadette Girl Scouts are inviting everyone to take part in the "Mercury Thermometer Exchange," from 6 to 8 p.m., Aug. 20 at the Thomas County Household Hazardous Waste Site, 190 W. 4th St. (formerly Pyramid Oil). Only metallic mercury fever thermometers will be accepted and in exchange participants will receive digital thermometers. For information, call Jo Cheney at 462-2082 or Sandy Swob at 462-3438.

## County Fair Schedule

- **Tuesday, Aug. 3:** 7:30-11 a.m. — 4-H Livestock weigh-in, deadline for entry of all 4-H exhibits  
8 a.m.-2 p.m. — Open class entries taken  
11:30 a.m. — Judging of all 4-H exhibits  
2 p.m. — Open class exhibits judged  
2 p.m. — Cat, rabbit, hand pet, poultry show  
8 p.m. — PRCA rodeo  
Thomas County Amusement Association carnival
- **Wednesday, Aug. 4:** 8 a.m. — 4-H swine show followed by sheep show  
3-9 p.m. — Antique tractor show and stationary engine display  
5:30 p.m. — Free barbecue  
8 p.m. — PRCA rodeo  
Thomas County Amusement Association carnival

