



10 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

Friday
August 6, 2004

50¢

Volume 115, Number 123
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Fun at the fair



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Eric Blanton (left) and Cade Carter of Colby enjoyed the “scrambler” during Thomas County fair activities Thursday night. The “scrambler” is the newest addition to the carnival, said Dick Parnell, amusement association committee member. In total, the association now has 10 carnival rides and the group hopes to add a merry-go-round and train in the future. **LEFT:** Along with the rides, many young people like Joseph Walter, 3, enjoyed trying out the agricultural equipment in the commercial building. Joseph’s parents are Clay and Cheryl Walter of Colby. The carnival will remain open through Saturday night with ticket prices ranging from 50¢ to \$1.50 depending on the ride. There are also plenty of places to sit and watch the activities thanks to businesses and individuals donating money for benches and tables.

Thornburgh surprised with primary turnout

TOPEKA (AP) — Contested primaries and special questions helped push turnout in Tuesday’s primary election to nearly 30 percent, the secretary of state said Thursday. Ron Thornburgh had predicted about 430,000 voters would go to the polls, but a preliminary count shows he missed the mark by about 44,000 voters. “I think that’s great news for Kansas,” Thornburgh said.

“What it really shows,” he said, “where there was a contested race or a special election, turnout was good.” There are more than 1.59 million registered voters in Kansas. Republicans hold the advantage in registration with 730,049 voters, followed by Democrats at 428,728 and unaffiliated voters at 421,946, records showed. There are 9,019 registered Liber-

tarians and 1,686 voters registered with the Reform Party, but they were not eligible to cast ballots in the primary, because they choose their candidates in conventions. Turnout was particularly strong in Johnson County, where a three-way GOP primary for the 3rd Congressional District and six Republican primaries for state Senate drew voters, he said. Some areas saw turnout as high

as 70 percent of registered voters, officials said. In Shawnee County, turnout was bolstered by an initiative to increase the county’s sales tax for roads, bridges and economic development. Conversely, the lack of contested Democratic primaries in Wyandotte County held turnout to less than 20 percent, Thornburgh said on Thursday.

Hearing scheduled in recent drug arrest

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor
A preliminary hearing is scheduled on Sept. 8 for a Colby man arrested last month for possession of marijuana, said Gary Shull, police investigator. Rowan Nathan Lee, 22, is charged with two



Rowan Lee

counts of selling an hallucinogenic drug in March and two more counts of selling marijuana in April. “The arrest concluded a four-month investigation by the Colby Police Department and the Thomas County’s Sheriff’s office involving Lee,” Shull said this week. At the time of his arrest on July 19, police discovered marijuana, scales, drug paraphernalia and thousands of dollars at his residence in the 400 block of N. Martin Av-

enue in Colby, Shull said. In addition to charges stemming from Lee’s alleged sale of drugs, he was also involved in an April incident when a 21-year-old man drove a pickup into the apartment wall at the same location. The damage to the apartment was caused by Andrew Michael Andrijeski of Colby whose motive for ramming the pickup into the wall was unclear at the time, Shull said. “We believed his intent (And-

rijeski) was to commit theft, but we’re unable to prove that intent,” he said. In that investigation, Andrijeski is facing three felony counts of criminal damage to property resulting from nearly \$10,000 worth of damage to the pickup and apartment. Lee is currently out on a \$50,000 signature bond until his preliminary hearing at the Thomas County District Court on Sept. 8, Shull said.

Briefly

County budget hearing Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the county courthouse. Items on the agenda include a public hearing on the 2004-05 budget. The meeting is open to the public.

Heartland Share sign-up

Heartland SHARE sign-up is Monday through Friday of next week at State Farm Insurance office, with delivery at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 at Sacred Heart school gym. For information, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

‘Sneak Peak’ at Colby Grade School

Colby Grade School will be open on Wednesday, Aug. 18 from 5-6 p.m. for students to meet their teachers and tour the classrooms.

Singles dance tonight

The Colby Singles Club is sponsoring its monthly dance from 8 p.m. to midnight, tonight, at the American Legion, 1850 W. 4th. This month’s entertainment will be provided by *Off Limits* featuring Dick and Maybelle

Moore and Bill Summers of Colby. The dance is open to all single people and alumni, said Don Birzer, coordinator. For questions, call 462-2127.

Volunteers needed Sunday at fairgrounds

The Thomas County Amusement Association is looking for volunteers on Sunday starting at 1 p.m. to help with the carnival “tear-down” and “put-up” party, said Wanda Brown, coordinating the event. Those interested are asked to go to the fairgrounds. There will be something for everyone to do, she said, so all ages and sizes are welcome. Depending on the number of volunteers, the project could take between four and six hours, but once the job is completed, the task of setting up again won’t be for another 360 days, Brown said.

Library book sale continues until Sunday

Pioneer Memorial Library is continuing its annual “Summer Book Sale” from now through Sunday. Book prices will start at 10 cents. As the week progresses, all book prices will drop. The book sale will take place during normal library business hours. For more information contact the library at (785) 462-4470. All proceeds go to benefit the library.

Two retiring commissioners lead fair parade

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Favorable weather is expected to bring out a large crowd for Saturday’s Thomas County Fair Parade. The parade will start at 10 a.m. at Fike Park and will feature a number of entries. This year’s grand marshals are county commissioners Glen Kersenbrock and Duane Dawes, both retiring from the board after years of service. The theme for the parade is “All Roads Lead to the Thomas County Fair.” Saturday is the last day of the fair, which began Tuesday.

Here is the remaining schedule:
• **Today** — 5 p.m.’ Buyers’ Appreciation Barbecue and 4-H Livestock Sale; 7 p.m., Modified Qualifying, Sprint Cars and Cruisers; 7-11 p.m., Carnival and games
• **Saturday** — 8 a.m., Release of livestock and clean up of barns; 10 a.m., Parade, downtown Colby; Noon, Pioneer Day at the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds; 7 p.m.’ Modified Shoot-Out, Super Stock and Bombers; 7-11 p.m., Carnival and games
• **Sunday** — 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Release of all exhibits
• **Monday** — 6 p.m. Fair Clean-up

Adequate state cash reserves reported

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators heard more good news Thursday about the state budget, learning that Kansas ended its 2004 fiscal year with adequate cash reserves for the first time in three years. The state had a balance of \$327.1 million in its general fund on June 30, the Legislative Research Department reported. The general fund — where the state deposits most of its tax revenues — finances aid to public schools, social services and other government programs. The cash reserves were equal to 7.6 percent of the \$4.32 billion in

general fund spending in fiscal 2004. A 1990 state law requires legislators to approve a budget each year setting aside balances equal to 7.5 percent of spending, but the state had not met that target since the end of fiscal 2001. The state met the target this year because it collected \$68.1 million more than anticipated in revenues. Legislative leaders considered the additional revenues a sign that Kansas’ economy is recovering from a slump that began in 2001 and accelerated after the Sept. 11 attacks, officials said.

Woman finally buried

TOPEKA (AP) — More than four months after she died in the home she shared with her elderly mother, Mary Shannon Smith has been buried in a Topeka cemetery. But many questions about the two women remain, including how Smith died and why her mother kept the body in the house for so long. The death of Smith, 39, came to light in late June, several days after Juanita L. Smith was discovered to have lied for years about surviving one of the most brutal episodes of World War II. Police went to the house June 28 after neighbors reported they had not seen Juanita Smith — whose

age has been given variously as 83 or 86 — for two days. Officers found Juanita Smith in the home, unresponsive, and also came across the daughter’s remains. Police later confirmed that the older woman wrote a suicide note saying her daughter died March 21 and that, unable to afford a burial, she kept the body in a bedroom. On Monday, the daughter’s body was turned over to people involved with the Topeka YWCA, who had her buried that day in a small Topeka cemetery, said Sharon Mandel, medical investigator for the Shawnee County district coroner’s office.

Colby Winona Monument



Warm days and nice nights

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds around 15 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. **Saturday night...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph. **Sunday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. South winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon. **Sunday night and Monday...**Partly cloudy. Lows around 60. Highs in the upper 70s to mid-80.
The numbers
Thursday’s high, 85
Low this morning, 60
Records for Aug. 6 109 in 1934 and 46 in 1974
Year ago today, 100 and 64
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.06
August, 0.06
Soil temperature, 81
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
• Aug. 5 = 2.886 million gallons
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.

