

Enjoyable evening



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

The crowd at the Army Ground Forces Band concert Monday night at the Colby Community Building was treated to a wide variety of selections, to include John Phillip Sousa's world famous marches. Colby was one of the band's stops on its winter tour which takes place through mid-month. The band's appearance was through sponsorship of the Western Plains Arts Association and the *Colby Free Press*.

Schedule cut in half

Sheridan commissioners cutting back on meetings

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

HOXIE—After decades of meeting weekly the Sheridan County Commissioners have decided to cut office time in half.

County Commission Chairman Ron Schamberger said meetings will now take place every other Monday instead of every Monday.

However, the practice is not set in stone.

"We are kicking it around. If it doesn't work out we'll go back to weekly meetings. Other counties have tried it and it seems to work," he said.

Schamberger said after attending state meetings designed to help county commissioners learn the business of leading a county, the option to reduce the meeting num-

ber was considered locally.

"Some of the (commissioners of) bigger counties we've talked to at county commission meetings said they are doing it and meeting less than we do," Schamberger said.

Schamberger, along with Keith Kennedy and David Zimmerman, are all three farmers, but Schamberger said that was not the driving force behind the change.

"Meeting every week has never bothered me, I work a little harder the day before (the meeting)," he said.

Logan County Clerk Pat Schippers said in the past 15 years she's worked with commissioners their meetings have been the first and third Monday of each month.

"A few years ago (the commissioners) met one week in the

evening, but there wasn't any more attendance than during the day so they did away with that practice," she said.

Sheridan County Deputy Clerk Lea Herl said as long as she's worked in the clerk's office, which has been 14 years, the meetings have been weekly.

She said the agenda will still drive the length of time the commissioners meet.

"The length of time the commissioners meet will be agenda driven. If they need to stay until two- or three-o'clock they will," the deputy clerk said.

A schedule of meeting dates for either county commission is available at the Sheridan County Clerk's office or the Logan County Clerk's office.

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Authorities are investigating the hospitalization of a Colby child as a result of a head injury earlier this week.

Colby Police Investigator Gary Shull said a 23-month old female was airlifted to Children's Hospital in Denver late Sunday night.

"At 4:54 a.m. Monday we received a call from Protection Report Center, the after-hours center of SRS, about a possible child abuse.

"By then, the child had been flown to Children's Hospital in Denver," Shull said.

Shull said the child is being hos-

pitalized for head injuries, among "other less serious injuries."

Both the injured child, and her 11-month old sibling, have been placed in the custody of the Social Rehabilitation Services as of Monday afternoon.

Shull said on Monday afternoon he was advised by the hospital the child had been moved from the intensive care unit to the critical care unit and was stable.

An ongoing investigation is being conducted by the Colby Police Department and Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

No arrests had been made in the case as of Tuesday.

Colby child airlifted to Denver

Area archaeological site hailed as significant find

GOODLAND (AP)—Scientists say mammoth and camel bones unearthed in northwest Kansas that date back 12,200 years could be part of "one of the most important archaeological sites in North America."

The bones, found last June in Sherman County, were alongside a piece of stone that archaeologists say was the kind used in tools that humans once used to butcher animals.

Archaeological geologist Rolfe

Mandel of the Kansas Geological Survey said carbon-14 dating completed last week shows the bones are between 12,200 and 12,300 years old, which could mean humans lived on the Great Plains 1,300 years earlier than had been

previously thought.

Mandel said if excavations this summer verify the finding of the stone tool, it would make the archaeological site near here among the oldest such sites in the New World.

"It would be one of the most important sites in North America," he said.

Researchers initially found mammoth bone and stone-tool flint next to each other in soil dating back 11,000 years at the site.

Below that, they found mammoth and camel bone that were fractured in such a way that they say could only have been caused by people who shattered bone with stone to either make flaked bone tools or get to the marrow.

State falls out of top ten in meth labs seized in 2004

TOPEKA—The Kansas Bureau of Investigation announced today that, for the first time in a decade, the state has fallen out of the top ten states in the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized.

Final 2004 figures released this week put the total at 583, placing Kansas at #11. That figure would be down a little over 10 percent from last year's number of 649 clandestine laboratories reported seized.

Director Larry Welch of the KBI expressed hope and concern over the situation.

"We've tried about everything to fight this plague, from education, prevention and prison to prayer. I'm pleased with the apparent success those efforts have shown.

"But in the last few months there have been alarming increases of the reports of Oklahomans coming to Kansas to obtain the precursor chemicals and make methamphetamine here. Our success might be short-lived.

"Hopefully the legislature will act quickly to pass SB 27, based on Oklahoma's successful law, and we can then copy their success in reducing their lab seizures by 80 percent," he said.

SB27, as passed by the Senate Judiciary Monday, would place the commonly used tablet forms of the precursor drugs used to make methamphetamine on schedule 5 of the

controlled substances act, thus requiring a photo ID to purchase at a pharmacy.

Liquid and gel cap forms of the drugs, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, would still be available at other retail outlets but the board of pharmacy would be charged with working with the KBI and other law enforcement agencies in tracking the use of the liquid forms and make a report back to the legislature next February.

Laboratory Incidents Summary:

- Total Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents for 2004 — Kansas (583)
- Chemical /Glassware/Equipment seizures — (119)
- Dumpsite seizures — (273)
- Operating Laboratories — (191)

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