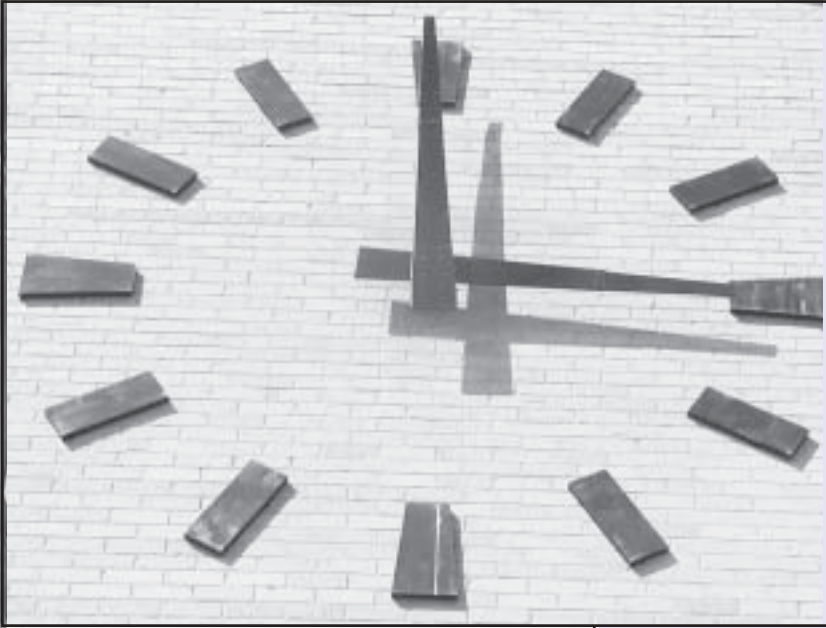
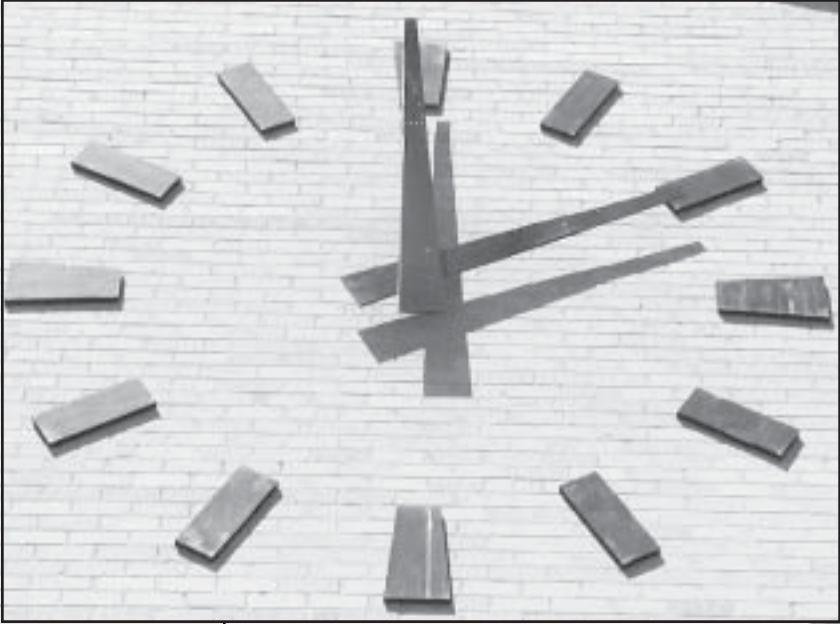




# The message is clear!



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Larry Dilts, maintenance supervisor at the Colby Community Building, will be adjusting the hands on the building's large clock to conform with Daylight Saving Time arriving Sunday morning at 2. He will move the hands up one hour to 3 — as shown on the two clocks above. Do as Larry will do and you'll be on time Sunday.

## Benefit auction Saturday

By **Patty Decker**  
*Free Press Editor*

Saturday marks the 29th year for the Colby Community College Endowment Auction with doors opening at 4:45 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner at 5:30 p.m. and live auction at 7 p.m. at the Comfort Inn Convention Center.

Each year the association holds the dinner/auction to raise money for scholarships and other needs, said Nick Wells, executive director of the association.

The theme this year is “The Orient Express,” and limited seating is still available, he said.

There’s a wide variety of items available this year, Wells said, ranging from firewood and ceramics to bundles of meat and appliances.

More than 100 businesses have either donated merchandise or gift certificates toward the event.

Assisting with the auction this year is Farm and Ranch Realty, Inc.

The endowment’s board of directors include: Sherry McDonald, Karen O’Neal, Lon Frahm, Stan Edmundson, Troy Faulkender, Tom Moorhous, Troy Hilt, Gina Jennings, Nancy Saddler, Darla Mosbarger, Diane Williams, Mark Wingert and Sandy Hill.

For those wanting to reserve a seat for the benefit, call Wells at 460-4684.

## Advance voting in county still on, polling places announced

By **Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*

Thomas County residents still have time to cast advance ballots for the Tuesday, April 5 general election. Voters have until noon on Monday to take advantage of advance voting and can do so at the courthouse during regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

County Clerk Shelly Harms has also announced voter locations for the election. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voters from Levant, East Hale and Barrett townships will vote at East Hale Township Hall.

Brewster City Hall is the polling place for residents of Brewster and West Hale and Kingery townships.

The Gem Community Building is where voters from Gem and Lacey and North Randall townships will vote.

South Randall and Summer township residents will vote at the Mingo Co-op and Rexford City Hall is the polling place for voters from Menlo, Rexford and Smith and Wendell townships.

In Colby, voters living in Precinct I vote in the north lobby of the Colby Community Building and Precinct II votes in the south lobby.

The National Guard Armory is the polling place for residents in Precincts III and IV and Rovohl and East and West Morgan townships.

When it comes to the ballot, there are several contested races but everyone in the county will vote on two different issues. The first is an amendment to the state constitution which would change the definition of marriage, making it a civil contract between one man and woman only and prohibit any other unions.

The second is issue is selecting trustees for the Colby Community College board. Incumbents Cleona Flipse, Curt Stephens and Kenton Krehbiel are seeking re-election. Others in the race are Rich Epp and Cindy Black.

In Colby, four city council seats are up. Incumbents Phil DeYoung, Ward I, and Mark Beringer, Ward IV, are running unopposed. Harold Sulzman who had shown interest in the Ward IV seat, withdrew.

The Ward II seat is open because councilman John Bremenkamp chose not to seek re-election. Josh Faber and Mitch Beims are seeking that seat.

Ward III councilman Eugene Wieland isn’t running for another term but Tim Hutfles has filed for the position.

On the Colby School Board, incumbents Tracy Rogers and Gerry Fulwider are both seeking another term. Board member John

Cranston has chosen not to run for re-election and Janice Frahm is running for the third at large position on the board.

Rexford has contested races for city council. Four incumbents have filed to retain their seats. They are David Williams, Vernon Vance, Michael Johnson and Dwight Williams. Nancy Dahl and Dennis Allison are running for the open fifth seat. Incumbent Rexford Mayor William Dible is running unopposed.

School board members Teri Brantley and Lane Purcell are running for re-election and Dennis Allison is running for the open board position.

In Brewster, three city council members are running unopposed. They are Rex Jamison, Dwayne Randolph and Ed Hut-ton. On the school board, five people are running for three at large seats. Incumbents Leisha Carpenter, Carrie Starns and Tony

Horinek face challengers Leon Schroeder and Michael Schultz.

Rod Gilley is seeking to fill the unexpired term on the board.

Kingery and Summers townships also have to choose school board members for the Triplains school district. Dan Moser, Dennis Gfeller and Belinda Babst are running for three at large board seats.

Thomas County residents living in the Oakley area also have several races to decide.

Four candidates are running for two open city council positions and they are Troy L. Bosserman, Steven Badger, Jack Burkhead and James McGuire. Frank Munk is running unopposed for mayor.

For the Oakley school district in South Randall Township, all three open positions are at large. Seeking those seats are Sherry L. Taylor, Scott Maurath and Butch Burris.

## Thomas County undersheriff gives update on new 911 system

By **Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*

The Thomas County 911 system took centerstage at the commissioners’ meeting Thursday morning.

Undersheriff Jason Moses provided an update, saying the new equipment should be installed by the first week in August.

Also, Moses said he system is being paid for by an emergency

management grant instead of coming out of the county’s 911 budget.

“Everything’s moving forward with the state grant,” he said.

Moses also said they’re moving personnel around at the Law Enforcement Center in order to make room for the new equipment. He said they’re cramped for room, but because the police department moved someone into an office at the

downtown training center, they have a little more room to spare.

The subject of expansion at the law enforcement center also came up.

Commission chair Ron Evans suggested the center could be expanded to the southwest and also include a basement.

Moses said at this point, “it’s just an idea.”

“We’ve discussed all sorts of options,” he said.

The commissioners also approved his request to purchase \$5,300 in equipment for the new 911 system — a mapping interface component and two uninterrupted power supplies.

Evans and fellow commissioner Ken Christiansen praised Moses and the others responsible for help-

ing to straighten out the process to get the system.

Emergency preparedness director John Lygeros gave the commissioners a copy of the contract for the equipment. He said the only change was a clarification that the county will own the equipment and it will be purchased with money belonging to Fischer Scientific, the company supplying the software.

Commissioner Paul Steele said they owe Lygeros “a debt of gratitude” for his work on the contract and helping with the grant.

The contract outlines the purchase price and the cost of a five-year maintenance agreement, which is \$93,623.50.

Commissioners also approved changing the dates of the county’s weed forage inspection contract.

## Briefly

### ‘Spring Social’ planned in Selden

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Selden, is having a “Spring Social” on Sunday, starting at 4 p.m. Featured activities include a White Elephant Auction, games for children, food, drinks and more. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Spaghetti fund raiser scheduled

The Colby Community Building will be the site of a spaghetti fund raiser on Sunday, April 3 for Kristin Rathbun, the daughter of Fred and Marvia Miller of Colby, who is battling cancer. The spaghetti lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will include salad, bread and dessert in addition to spaghetti. A free will offering will be appreciated.

### Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet Monday at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include county emergency preparedness director John Lygeros and emergency medical services director Kathi Wright with personnel issues. The meeting is open to the public.

### Health department holding open house

The Thomas County Health Department is holding an open house from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, April 4 as part of Public Health Week April 4-8. Refreshments and door prizes will be part of the festivities. Thomas County residents are invited to come take a closer look at the department and all of the services it offers. For information, call 460-4596.

### School board to meet Monday

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Administration Building. Items on the agenda include a public hearing on the republished general fund budget; approval of the consent agenda; administrative reports; the budget; bids for a new Suburban/Expedition; approval of the republished 2004-2005 budget; end of year staff gathering; Kansas Association of School Board spring regional meeting and dues; part-time senior schedules; Thomas County strategic planning committee; house construction project and personnel issues.

### Preschool enrollment-open house Tuesday

An enrollment-open house for the 2005-06 school year at Puddle Duck Preschool, 520 W. 5th, Colby, will be held Tuesday, April 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. Puddle Duck preschool is for 3 to 5 year-old children. For information, call Amy Jennings, director, at 460-2603.

### ‘Bowl for Kids Sake’ still needs teams

The Thomas County Big Brothers Big Sisters group will be participating in the “Bowl for Kids Sake,” Saturday and Sunday, April 9-10 at the Colby Bowl and Fun Center, 1175 S. Range. Teams consisting of four to five people are still forming for the event. Questions, call 460-9125.

### After school program registration ongoing

An after school program is being held from 4-5:30 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday until the end of April at the Colby Community Building. Snacks and activities are provided and the event is free. To register, call the Prevention Center at 462-8152 or Recreation Department at 460-4440.

Colby  
Hoxie  
Oakley



70s and maybe even 80s

**Tonight...**Mostly clear. Lows in the 30s. South winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the southwest 10 to 15 mph after midnight.  
**Saturday...**Increasing clouds. Highs in the mid 70s. West winds 5 to 10 mph.  
**Saturday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows around 40. South winds up to 5 mph.  
**Sunday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Southeast winds up to 5 mph turning to south in the afternoon.  
**Monday...**low 40s and highs 80.  
**Tuesday...**Lows 40s and high 50s to near 60, showers possible.

#### The numbers

Thursdays high, 51  
Low this morning, 25  
Records for this date, 87 in 1940 and -4 in 1936  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
Precipitation for month to date: 0.00  
Snowfall for month to date: 0.00  
Soil temperature, 48

#### 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.

