



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Wheat plot tour Tuesday

By Patty Decker  
*Free Press Editor*

The Thomas County Extension Council is again offering its annual Wheat Plot Tour starting at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, at the Mike Brown farm located five miles south of the Levant/Interstate-70 interchange.

The first part of the tour will be held in the shop on the east side of the road from the interchange, said Doug Musick, extension agent.

The purpose of the annual tour, he said, is to offer assistance to area farmers on issues that affect them.

"The tour helps producers stay up-to-date on the current wheat varieties and provides information to assist them in future years of farming," Musick said today.

By offering updates on the current wheat varieties, farmers have a better idea of what works, he said, and this year there are 18 varieties that will be reviewed.

Some are of the white wheat variety, but the majority are hard red winter wheat, Musick said.

Regarding the educational aspect of the tour, Jim Shroyer, Kansas State University extension wheat specialist and Brian Olson, agronomist, are the guest speakers.

"They will discuss stripe rust and the long term impact of the disease on wheat production in northwest Kansas," Musick said.

Before touring the plots, there will be discussion on nitrogen management issues, Wheat Streak Mosaic and Hessian Fly control.

"While touring the plots, we will view the conventional and no-till variety and seeding rate plots," he said. "Additionally, Jim and Brian will point out any visible signs of insect, disease or weather damage to help improve our crop scouting skills."

The tour and presentations are informal, he said. In fact, Mattson Farms will be providing doughnuts and the Kansas Crop Improvement Association is providing free "Koozies" (insulated pop can holders) to the first 40 guests.

As for the recent rains and cooler temperatures, Musick said the rain has been a help — late for a lot of farmers — but still a help.

"The rain in recent days has increased the wheat kernel size a little, which will mean more yield, but could not help with making more kernels," he said. The cooler temperatures are also welcome in helping to fill the wheat kernels.

Everyone is invited to this annual tour, Musick said. For questions, producers may e-mail him at: dmusick@oznet.ksu.edu



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

**ABOVE:** Kristina Deges of Colby admired one of the many classic cars on display at Fike Park Saturday during the annual Colby Rod Run. **BELOW LEFT:** Children enjoyed the two jumping castles provided by the Thomas County Amusement Association. **BELOW RIGHT:** A horseshoe tournament was just one of the many activities at Fike Park Saturday that took place in conjunction with the Rod Run.



## Cruisin' to the past Rod Runners love their cars

By Tisha Cox  
*Colby Free Press*

The Colby "Cruise to the Past Rod Run" brought out classic car enthusiasts from a wide area of Kansas and from other states this past weekend.

The people who show their cars either previously owned one of the cars like they now have or came to them years after they were originally manufactured.

All have different tastes when it comes to the classics but they all have in common one thing — their enthusiasm and passion for their cars.

Martin Lovenstein of Colby spent five years restoring his 1967 Chevelle Malibu.

"I did everything on it except the paint," he said.

His attraction to the Malibu began in 1967 when he purchased one brand new, which he sold in 1995. Lovenstein later decided he wanted another so he bought the car he restored in 2000.

And the shiny red beauty was a far cry from the automobile in the pictures that were shown with the car. They showed just how much work was done on restoration.

David Wagner of Castle Rock, Colo. and Sid Jacobsen of Denver, members of the Mile High Falcon Club in Denver, were two of the club's members that had their cars on display. The club had a total of 12 cars in Colby over the weekend.



S. Jacobsen

Wagner's black 1965 Ford Falcon sprint convertible has been his pride and joy for 10 years now.

"We had one just like it we bought in 1965," he said. His first was totaled and he wanted another. When he saw the Falcon, he bought it, and he was getting a gem when it comes to collectible cars. Only 300 of the Falcon sprint convertibles were made.

"It's kind of rare," Wagner said. "It's only one of two in the state of Colorado."

Jacobsen's reasons for owning his 1964 Falcon convertible were a little more personal than Wagner's, considering his history with that particular type of Ford.

When he was a little boy he drove one, and as a teenager he had a "hot rod" Falcon. He said an accident resulted in the loss a leg.

Jacobsen said they're now becoming like the Ford Mustang — hard to find and expensive, which made him glad he bought his Falcon when he did five years ago.

Another Colorado car on display was Jim Schneider's 1968 Chevy Camaro.

Schneider, of Parker, Colo., said he's owned the Camaro for 20 years. "That's the only Camaro I've ever owned," he said.

Schneider has owned 15 different classic cars but the Camaro is a favorite. He chose it because of its body style. At one time, he had a Pontiac Firebird, but he said it wasn't nearly as nice as the Camaro.

He just had the car painted last year and did some custom work on it. This was the first time he's had the Camaro at the Rod Run, but he's brought other cars in the past.

"I couldn't wait to come back," Schneider said.

## Commissioners hear plan to fix courthouse clock

By Tisha Cox  
*Colby Free Press*

Time continues to stand still — at the Thomas County Courthouse.

However, work to repair the clock faces on the building's tower is one step closer to becoming a reality.

Dennis Meitl of The Tool Box, Bruce Bandy of Commercial Sign and Rod Rodenbeck of Colby Glass were at the meeting this morning of the Thomas County commissioners to discuss repairs to the clock's faces.

They weren't able to get a look

**"We are talking about another 100-year fix."**

Bruce Bandy,  
owner of Commercial Sign

this morning at the faces outside using a cherry picker because of the wind, but Bandy said they did get to see them from the inside.

Because the faces are historical, they can't be altered but they can be preserved, he said, and added the

three of them came up with a plan.

They presented their plan and will come back at a later meeting with a written proposal and a better idea of the cost, which is estimated around \$15,000.

They told the commissioners the

wood retention rings holding the clock faces in place are at risk at this time.

Over the past 100 years, the faces have sunk about an inch and a half.

Outside, the wood has rotted away and has become a problem.

"Inside's not really bad," Bandy said.

They suggested putting an aluminum retention ring inside and outside around the faces.

The rings wouldn't be attached to the faces but would be sealed with urethane to keep out water and would also stop the downward mi-

gration.

"We're talking another 100-year fix," he said.

The work could take up to a week and would involve two crane trucks on the courthouse lawn, Bandy said today.

Chairman Ron Evans said the commissioners owe it to the citizens of the county to preserve the clock tower and said the plan that was presented was a good one.

In other business, the commissioners approved the Monday, June 6 minutes and paying the first half of the June bills.

## First week: Excavation uncovering signs of human habitation

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Star-News*

KANORADO — Bones are not the prime targets of the archaeological dig along the banks of the Middle Beaver Creek near Kanorado, but everyone on site gets excited when one is found.

Volunteers from the Kansas Anthropological Association are helping excavate three sites. They are wrapping up their first week, but work will continue daily through June 19.

"We are not looking specifically for bones," said Dr. Steve Holen of the Denver Museum of Science and Nature. "Finding bones is part of excavating sites where we believe there are artifacts that may prove that humans lived in this area over 12,000 years ago."

"Archeologists are interested in finding anything that will help tell who was in the area and what was happening at different times. The sites are worked by scraping small areas down a 5-centimeter level at a time, and all the dirt is sifted to find any small pieces that might help tell the history of the area."

Completing the first week the volunteers have found bones, stone scrapers, ancient painting material

and numerous flakes of rock that were chipped off by the humans as they made tools or arrowheads to hunt mammoths, camel and bison.

Over 100 volunteers have signed up to help with the excavation, and more than 40 took the yellow school bus Wednesday, supplied by the Goodland School District, and split up at the three sites. That was the largest crew on a single day for the first week. The number varies each day, and some work the full day while others work either the mornings or the afternoons.

At the site, the volunteers are assigned to an area and a specific unit, which has been laid out with large spikes and string. The elevations of each unit are confirmed with a surveying system that has a built-in GPS to make the measurements as exact as possible.

Each volunteer uses a sharpened trowel and scoop to shave thin layers of dirt off the top of their unit. The dirt is then screened to find the smallest pieces of both bones and tool flakes. The field work is half of the field-training program. Back at Goodland High School, classes are taught in the mornings and a lab is set up in the cafeteria.

The classes range from studying

architecture to the proper way to photograph a scientific site. Some of the students are taking the classes for credit through Emporia State University.

In the lab, the volunteers are helping wash, sort and dry brush historic material gathered at Fort Hays and Rice County sites in past years.

All specimens collected from the excavation this year are being taken to Denver for examination, carbon dating and cataloging.

The volunteers in the lab are learning how to use toothbrushes and water to clean pieces of glass and ceramics, and to dry brush metal fragments that came out of the dump site of the old Fort Hays military post. Other volunteers sort the glass by color and types so it can be cataloged. One person has been working on a tray of old pieces of leather found at the same site that includes pieces of shoes, belts and straps. The lab is open from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. Visitors are welcome to drop by to see what the volunteers are cleaning and to see some of the special items that have been found over the past week from the historic fort's dump. Based on the amount of green champagne bottle glass, the offic-



TOM BETZ/Colby Free Press

Dr. Steven Holen of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science held up a calcite flake that was found last week at the westernmost of three sites.

ers had a lot of parties. The final evening program will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, when the volunteers will gather for an ice cream social and review what has happened during the two weeks. Sage said there will be a silent auction to

help raise money for the Anthropological Association for upcoming digs. Evening speakers include local historian Mike Baughn or Marilyn Cooper, who will talk about the July 1867 Kidder Massacre at 7 p.m. on Friday at the high school.

Tuesday at 7 p.m., Janice McLean of the state Historical Society will speak on "Patterns of High Plains Lithic Resource Use." Next Friday at 7 p.m., Chris Widga will talk about the Claussen site excavation last year.



