

Enjoy the Rod Run this weekend!



12 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

Friday

June 8, 2007

50¢

Volume 118, Number 91
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Fire kills 10 dogs

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A fire at a dog kennel near Selden claimed the life of 10 puppies Tuesday afternoon.

Chris Rall had been working in the field with her husband, Jerry, and when she returned home at 1:12 p.m. she found smoke and flames coming from her dog kennel.

The kennel housed Lhasa Apso, Shih-tzu, Bichon Frise, Boston terrier and Jack Russell dogs Rall has raised for the past year and a half. She called 911. Rall said it did not take long for area fire departments to arrive and start battling the kennel fire.

"They were fantastic," Rall said. "They were able to put the fire out from the outside and nobody got hurt. These volunteer guys are wonderful."

Fire departments from Selden, Rexford, Hoxie and Menlo responded to Rall's residence five miles southwest of Selden. Also responding to the fire were Mayor Jacque Boultinghouse of Selden and Ross Carder of Hoxie, a Midwest Energy employee who had been in the area. Carder is also the fire chief of the Sheridan County Rural Fire Department based in Hoxie.

Rall said Carder told her the fire probably started in the motor of a fan she had installed in the kennel to circulate air for the dogs. She said the fan was similar to one owned by one of her sons which had its bearings lock up and overheat.

Responding to a fire at a dog kennel prompted Menlo residents to send more than fire equipment.

Rall said Sharon Munk of Menlo, mother of two of the firefighters, owns a kennel and understands the challenges of moving dogs to safety. Rall said the Munk family, as well as Selden kennel owner David Gould, provided her portable kennels for transporting her dogs. The Munk family and Boultinghouse provided water for the dogs because the kennel's water had to be shut off while the fire was being fought.

As of this morning, all 28 of Rall's adult dogs had been accounted for, the last one being delivered home after being found by a neighbor. Rall said the dog had ran away Tuesday as firefighters battled the blaze.

Rall said her state and federal kennel owner's licenses expire at the end of June and she has decided not to renew them. She said her brother, Dan Mummor Selden, also a kennel owner, is housing her dogs and will absorb her business.

"It would just take too much to rebuild in such a short time," Rall said.

Missing soldier found

By Tom Betz
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It is not unusual to see an Army Humvee driving down I-70, but when it is driven on county roads and driven by a missing Army private, that gets more attention.

The driver was identified as Wayne Rambo, 20, of Fort Carson, Colorado Springs. He was arrested Tuesday evening near Goodland.

Rambo apparently left Fort Carson on Sunday driving a stolen Humvee (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV, pronounced "Humvee", also dubbed "Hummer") and pulling a covered trailer said Dee McNutt of the Fort Carson Public Affairs Of-

Worthy cause



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Bill Dowell of Colby, left, watched Lisa Thompson of American Red Cross Blood Services swab his arm before donating blood at the Colby Community Building Thursday. Jo Cheney, one of the blood drive organizers, said 107 people showed up to donate. Of those, 94 productive pints were donated, and two were first-time donors.

Thomas County entities offer variety of activities

Michelle Myers
Free Press Intern

Instead of splurging on summer activities, those who are looking for something to do in the Colby area won't have to go far or spend much on entertainment.

Pioneer Memorial Library is bringing free programs to the community that will keep children of all ages entertained, while encouraging them to keep reading through the summer. The 2007 Summer Reading Program, Get a Clue, began Tuesday and offers sessions for children ages preschool through eighth grade.

The program, said Judy Kleinsorge, education director, is divided into three sections including Weekly Storytimes, Special Events and Top Secret Files, a reading challenge game.

fice. She said the vehicle and trailer were from a training battalion based at Fort Carson.

Tuesday afternoon the Humvee was reported driving around the Burlington, Colo., area, and had been stopped and checked out by a Kit Carson (Colo.) County Deputy about 5:15 p.m.

About 6 p.m. there was a report of the vehicle driving north on Sherman County Road 14 past the Northern Sun plant and the Goodland Energy Center.

Rambo did not give the officers much trouble when they arrested him and impounded the vehicle and trailer.

Rambo was reported absent without leave on Monday.

Children are invited to wear their pajamas to "PJs and Bedtime Tales" session that meets 7 p.m. Thursdays for two nights. June 21 will feature, "Dark and Stormy Night," and July 12, "Pillow Cases."

The library is also bringing the Traveling Lantern Company to Colby, presenting "Sherlock Holmes Takes the Case" at 1:30 p.m. at the library, she said. The audience will help Holmes follow clues to solve the mystery.

Local youth will bring "Mystery and Mayhem" to the library 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 19.

For other information or questions, stop by the library at 375 W. Fourth St. or call (785) 460-4470.

Those looking for a creative outlet can attend Creative Arts Camp 2007 in Rexford, sponsored by the Shepherd's Staff Conference Center.

Campers, ages 8-15, can enjoy activities including sports, drama, puppets, crafts, signing, a picnic and more from July 15-21, a spokesperson for Shepherd Staff said.

Visit www.shepherdstaff.org or call (785) 687-2565 or (785) 890-7143 for more information.

For the athletic-minded or those who like to get outside, t-ball, rookie baseball and softball for boys and girls sign up is underway through the Colby Recreation Department.

Swimming lessons will be offered at the Colby Municipal Swimming Pool in three sessions from June 25 through Aug. 3. Depending on the level of the swimmer will determine the time of their lessons, officials said.

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School board continues computer talk

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Technology needs for Colby School District's immediate future have not changed. But just what computers might fill that need was discussed at the board's meeting Monday.

The district needs 10 PCs for the high school drafting lab, replacement of all the teacher desktops, server update and other upgrades. The board did not take any action as it continues its research.

Board member Kevan Taylor asked about getting personal computers instead of Apples.

Phil DeYoung, district technology director, said the price would be about \$200 more per machine for Apples. However, even though the PCs are cheaper, upgrades and maintenance would require more time and more help, and cost more in the long run.

Eighty-two teacher computers are needed, along with that many iMac desktops for labs and offices.

The estimated cost for Apples is \$387,000 which could be paid for with a three- or four-year lease.

Curriculum director Diana Wieland said upgrades are needed soon because science and social studies are being added to the state assessments next year. Grades three through eight will take the tests online again next year.

Robb Ross, Colby Middle School principal, said the computer labs were tied up. "We were booked solid with testing," he said.

Board member Janice Frahm asked how the testing affected the libraries.

"Library time is non-existent," said Tracy Rogers, board president.

"This is a bad time of year," DeYoung said, "to try and work out a lease." Work on the 2007-2008 budget has not started, and there would not be much time to get computers in place if they are purchased.

For example, if they were ordered by the beginning of July, the machines would probably be shipped the third week of the month.

Phil said 75 percent of the district's computers would need moved, or reconfigured.

Some of the labs would be refurbished with teacher computers.

"It would be the biggest undertaking in the 13 or 14 years I've been here," he said.

Rogers said the money would come out of the district's supplemental general fund.

"This would take precedence up to a point over buses," he said.

The district has purchased only two buses in the past eight years. Activity buses were purchased in 1993. Activity buses are not used on daily routes. Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said it might come down to having to buy several buses at once.

Taylor said they need to find a way to pay for the computers next year, and asked if leases were appropriate.

"When you don't have the money up front, yes," Rogers said.

Jo DeYoung, district financial officer, said if the district wants to remain on the cutting edge of technology, they would have to do the lease, or cut programs and staff.

"We need more revenue," she said. "Our money is spent. We need more kids."

Museum to have art classes

Colby's Prairie Museum of Art and History is offering a series of creative art and craft experiences designed for all ages. Upcoming events for June and July include a watercolor workshop, the "Kids and Artists Connection," and a three-day batik workshop.

The watercolor workshop is from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., June 9 and is part of the "June Art Jubilee," for children ages 10 through 14.

Different famous artists will be featured at the "Kids and Artists Connection" sessions, for children 9 through 11. Rosanne Dougherty, presenter, will tell about the life and work of each

artist, such as Henri Matisse, Paul Cezanne, Faith Ringgold, and Paul Klee. Participants will then be given the opportunity to complete a creative project reflecting the style of the featured artist. Sessions are scheduled from 2-4 p.m., June 21, June 28, July 5 and July 12.

Also, an increasing popular form of art and craft, museum officials said, will be featured July 20-22 during regular museum hours. Jessica Rall will be the presenter for this three-day batik workshop, and explain the process of making a batik, which

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Popular park

COURTESY PHOTO

A large crowd gathered Wednesday to watch the Wagoner Family perform at the first Picnic in the Park of the summer. Larry Booth will perform at noon Wednesday at Fike Park. The picnic will be a weekly event through the end of July.