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## County settles lawsuit

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Free Press Reporter  
jkackerman@gmail.com

A lawsuit against Thomas County and two of its employees has been settled out of court.



Steele

Colby resident Darrel E. Wark serves as trustee of the Mary L. Osborne Testamentary Trust.

Wark alleged chemicals applied at the county's direction on June 8, 2006, killed or damaged trees on property owned by the trust. The land on which the spraying was done consists of about 1,120 acres in the far northeast corner of Thomas County.

Defendants in the case are Kenneth F. Ptacek, Jon Selley, former Thomas County Commissioner Ron Evans, and current Commissioners Ken Christiansen and Paul Steele. Sowers was not on the board of commissioner at the time of the incident and is not part of the case.

"This settles it," Steele said. "We told them they could sue us, but that we were going to ask for our \$6,000 and we are going to get it. We are now out of the deal and we are getting paid."

Ptacek was noxious weed director at the time the incident took place and Selley worked with in the department with Ptacek. Selley is currently Assistant Noxious Weed Director, working along side Clair Schrock, who was not named in the case because he assumed the position after the time of the incident. Ptacek is employed by the county as a part-time seasonal worker.

Also named as a defendant is Frontier Ag Inc. of Oakley, Wark, on behalf of the Trust, continues his claim against Frontier Ag. Inc.

Wark believes the trees were killed or "severely damaged" when Frontier Ag sprayed over the late Osborne's land, according to court documents.

Great Bend attorney Allen G. Glendenning was assigned to represent the county and its employees by the county's insurance pool, KCAMP.

The money Steele referred to during the commission meeting on Wednesday when settlement agreement paperwork was signed is \$5,704.40 in unpaid taxes due on the property listed in the lawsuit.

As part of the agreement, the county's insurance carrier, KCAMP, will pay \$6,000 to the Mary L. Osborne Testamentary Trust and the trust will pay its taxes making the settlement an almost dollar for dollar wash.

## On stage



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Dr. Paula Farraday, far left, played by Mysti Rothfuss interacted with Thomas Marcus played by Chace McNinch Friday during Heartland Christian School's play "The Old Faith, Hope and Charity." Dr. Lorraine Marcus, far right, played by Kasey Donley looked on.

## Truck stop to open

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Free Press Reporter  
jkackerman@gmail.com

One of Colby's newest businesses plans to open its doors May 19.

"It's turned out really nice," said Charlie Bosselman, vice president of retail operations for the Grand Island, Neb., based Bosselman's Corporation. "It will be a nice addition to the town of Colby."

For the past four months, work has been underway for the new Bosselman's Truck Stop located on East Willow Drive at exit 54 on Interstate 70.

"The travel center and Wendy's (fast food restaurant) will open as part of Phase One," Bosselman said. "We'll have 80 full- and part-time employees."

The travel center and restaurant are only the first step for the 1948 founded company which has similar centers in Salina; Des Moines, Iowa; Grand Island, Wood River, Elm Creek, Big Springs, Alma and Hastings, Neb.

The travel center in Colby will have six gas gasoline pumps and eight diesel pumps.

Rumors about Bosselman's adding a motel and stand-alone restaurant have circulated since the groundbreaking which took place in December.

"We are just finalizing things right now," Bosselman said. "I can't go into details about the franchise brand, but we are hoping to start building this summer. It will be a 60 room motel, part of Phase Two." As for another restaurant, Bosselman said that is coming in Phase Three.

"There's nothing concrete yet," he said. "But we are looking at something down the road. And we are looking at other developments such as a service shop. We don't know when, but it's on the plans and we don't have a timeline for that right now."

## Help with domestic violence increases

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Free Press Reporter  
jkackerman@gmail.com

Providing people a safe haven during a crisis prompted two area agency workers to meet with Thomas County Commissioners recently.

Becky Bond and Michelle Morris, outreach advocates for the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Inc., talked to Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and Byron Sowers and asked them to renew funding for the Hays-based agency.

"We served 44 clients in Thomas County during 2006 and 67 clients in 2007," Bond said. "That's a 35 percent increase."

The Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Inc. serves Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton, Rooks, Osborne, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Graham, Logan, Wallace, Logan, Gove, Ellis, Phillips, Russell, Smith and Trego counties by providing safety and advocacy to abused people.

Based in Hays, the agency has two satellite offices, one in Colby and the other in Phillipsburg, all three of which offer services at no charge to abuse victims.

Steele asked Bond about a brochure she gave the commissioners on which it said the agency provides "legal, medical, financial and personal advocacy."

**"We use our safe houses up to 72 hours, then we transport them to Hays, or if they have a family member in another state ..."**

Becky Bond,  
Northwest Kansas Domestic Violence Services

"If they need legal protection we go with them to a meeting," Bond said.

"We don't provide the legal service, but we go with them to meetings."

Bond said part of the service is to provide safe lodging.

There are two houses where people can be away from their abuser until more permanent residence is arranged.

She said the \$1,000 requested from the county assists with transportation from the 18 counties to a safer area for the individual.

"We use our safe houses up to 72 hours," Bond said.

"Then we transport them to our home in Hays, or if they have family in another state we'll help them get a bus ticket."

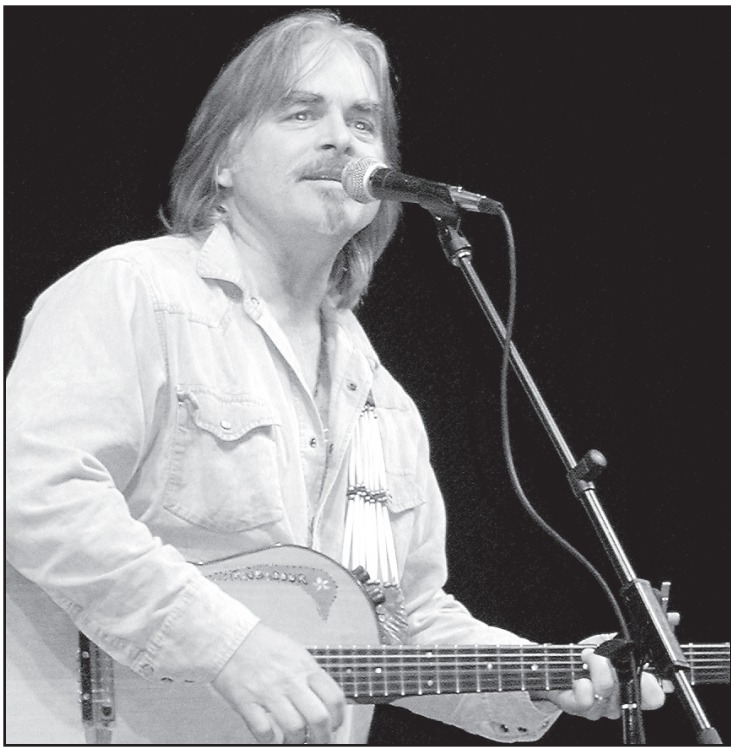
Thomas County budgeted \$1,000 in 2008 for the agency. That figure is part of a total agency budget of \$400,000, which stems from contributions from the 18 counties and cities within them of between \$10,000 and \$12,000 dollars per year, with the balance from state and federal grant money and private

donation, according to Charlotte Linsner, executive director out of the office in Hays.

Other services provided to abuse victims by the Northwest

Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Inc. are information about domestic and sexual assault, counseling for victims and family members and support groups for children and adults.

Bond's request for the same was the second budget request to be submitted for review. The first, according to Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms, was a request for \$3,000 submitted by Greg Hoover of Hays on behalf of the Northwest Area Agency on Aging.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

## Special treat

Hundreds of people attended a concert Friday featuring country-western singer Hal Ketchum. The event was held at the Colby Community Building and sponsored by Colby radio stations KXXX (790 AM) and KRDO, formerly KQLS (100.3) and KWGB (97.9).

## Briefly

### Council meets Tuesday

The Colby City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in council chambers. Agenda items include an update from Tuffy Taylor of Colby regarding a residential pond near the municipal airport and continued discussion on rent at the Thomas County household hazardous waste site. The commissioners will be available to answer questions. Other business items include a discussion of economic development efforts and barriers to the creation of new higher-paying jobs; annual report of Pioneer Memorial Library; awarding bid for fuel service, roof replacement at Law Enforcement Training Center, possible approval of integrated resource plan and other requests or approval issues.

### Spring concert Tuesday

The Colby Community College vocal music department is sponsoring its spring concert at 7:30 p.m.,

Tuesday, at the Cultural Arts Center on campus. The event will include the Sunflower Singers and Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Phillip Shuman. The groups will be accompanied by Pat Ziegelmeier. The event is free and open to everyone.

### Annual meeting May 12

The Colby Community College Endowment Foundation annual meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Monday, May 12, in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union on campus. The meeting is open to the public. For questions, call Foundation Director Nick Wells, 460-4684.

### Clean up week begins

The City of Colby and the Thomas County Commissioners have combined efforts to sponsor a "City-Wide/County-Wide Cleanup Week," which started today and continues until Friday. Area service clubs

and church groups are asked to commit their organizations to clean public areas of the city, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. People and businesses are also encouraged to make an extra effort during this week to spruce up their yards and share in the pride of having a clean city. For trash pickup during the cleanup week, call 460-4410, to make arrangements.

### Provider Day Friday

Provider Appreciation Day, a day to recognize child care givers, teachers and other educators of young children, is Friday.

### Free trap shoots planned

The Colby Trap Club, Hunting Heritage Group and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks "Pass It On" program are sponsoring free shoots this summer for all area youth, women and inexperienced

shooters. The first shoot is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Sunday, May 11, at the Colby Trap Club, five miles west and one mile south of Colby on Old U.S. Highway 24. For questions, call Benny Young, 462-7602 or Matt Bain, 462-3367, both with the state wildlife and parks department.

### Class of '98 plans reunion

Members of the Colby High School Class of 1998 are planning a 10-year reunion. The plans are to meet at 8 p.m., Friday, July 25 at City Limits fireside lounge for a social, then at noon, Saturday, July 26 at Fike Park for a brown bag lunch with families, pets etc., said Jada Tubbs, one of the organizers. Also on Saturday, at 6:30 p.m., the class will be dining together in Montana Mike's conference room, finishing at 8 p.m. and returning to City Limits fireside lounge for another social. "We hope all are able to attend and please update your contact information at www.eaglesalumni.org," she said.