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## New rides arrive for fair

By Andy Heintz

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Two new rides will be featured at the Thomas County Fair this summer, a 1950s Allen Herschell "Little Beauty" carousel and a Frederiksen Giant Fun Slide.

"The carousel should give the home-owned carnival a more traditional 'County Fair' feel and look," said Kerry Wark, president of the Thomas County Amusement Association. "Lots of people

really wanted a carousel.

"The slide should be a nice added attraction for all ages. It's 90 feet long and 32 feet tall when set up and has three lanes to slide down."

Wark said they got the ride from a man in Bloomington, Ind., who used to run a catering and carnival business.

The merry-to-round needs some cosmetic work. Anyone who would like to help with some painting and touch up can call Wark at (785) 443-6174.

The association was able to buy the rides with money from the Farmers and Merchants Thomas County Community Fund at the Thomas County Community Foundation, he said.

The bank initially approached the county foundation to get the fund started, said Melinda Olson, executive director for the community foundation. She said the bank contacted Western Sprinklers and the Pete Henry Foundation about donating. The fund is being facilitated by the community founda-

tion, she said.

Wark said he would like to thank the donors, who put up a total of \$50,000 for the project.

He said the carnival is still accepting donations to complete a building constructed last year, as well as ride improvement and maintenance. Anyone who wants to volunteer for the association can contact secretary Wanda Brown at (785) 462-5857. She said the association always needs help during the county fair, which will run from July 27 to Aug. 1 this year.



This Herschell "Little Beauty" carousel is one of two new rides that will be featured at this summer's Thomas County Fair, which will run from July 27 to Aug. 1.

## Wellness 'event' draws big

By Vera Sloan

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This year's Thomas County "wellness event" got off to a flying start Monday as 156 people registered and checked in for the Wise Up and Count Down Thomas County challenge.

Extension Agent Diann Gerstner said she could see excitement among all the participants, who registered as four-member teams or as individuals. They were checked for weight, body composition testing and blood pressure. All the readings were recorded and the tests will be repeated at the end of the program to show how much the numbers improved.

Participants will have blood taken at Citizens Medical Center for reduced-rate tests which used to be done for annual the health fair. Anyone else who wants to have the inexpensive tests is welcome, organizers said.

Gerstner said she had set a goal of 100 for this first year of the new program, so she was pleased with the turnout. The eight-week chal-



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

The "Wise Up and Count Down Thomas County" wellness program got underway Monday when participants gathered at the Colby Community Building (above) for the initial weigh-in. Organizers also had blood-pressure, muscle mass, resting metabolism and body composition checks for participants. One woman got the news about her weight (right) while Rachel Spare (right, in photo below), a sophomore physical therapy student from Fort Scott at Colby Community College, checked Nikol Nolan, college director of admissions, for body composition.



## Missing pilot located

*With plans to flee,  
'advisor' is caught*

QUINCY, Fla. (AP) — An investment manager who apparently staged a plane crash to evade personal and financial ruin was barely conscious and muttered the word "die" when federal agents found him bleeding from a slashed wrist, an investigator said today.

U.S. Marshals apprehended Marcus Schrenker, 38, late Tuesday at a northern Florida campground two days after the amateur daredevil pilot apparently tried to fake his own death in a plane crash. Authorities believe he parachuted to the ground and later sped off on a red motorcycle he had stashed in central Alabama.

Frank Chiumento, an assistant chief with the U.S. Marshals in Florida, said officers had to tend to Schrenker's self-inflicted gash to the wrist before he was airlifted to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Schrenker was listed in fair condition early today.

The gash was "very serious at the time," Chiumento said. "He was bleeding profusely from the wounds to the left arm." Besides the slashed wrist, there was a puncture wound near his elbow, he said.

Schrenker was semiconscious and muttering single words but appeared to resist first aid from the marshals.

"Just as we were administering first aid to him we were giving him assurances that he would be OK and he seemed to mutter some words that he was resistant to that. He muttered 'die' at one time as if he didn't want the first aid that we were rendering to him," Chiumento said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

A law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because no charges have been publicly filed yet, said prosecutors in Florida are considering whether to charge Schrenker with two federal crimes: one for making a false distress call, and another for recklessly letting his plane crash.

Schrenker arrived at the campground Monday night riding his

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## Briefly

### Museum offers soup, thought

Former Sheriff Mike Baughn will talk about the Smoky Hill Trail Association from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The talk is part of the Food for Thought program, which feature a soup lunch and history program the third Thursday of the next three months. Different presentations will be offered Feb. 19 and March 19, with presenters including Evelyn Hoyt-Ward, Doris Johnson and Ray Imhof. Call the museum at (785) 460-4590 for details.

### Conservation meeting Feb. 16

The Thomas County Conservation District will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Deadline for

reservations is Friday, Jan. 30. Call district manager Debbie Potter at (785) 462-7482, extension 303.

### College offers fitness free

Colby Community College will waive all costs for community members who enroll in a cardio and strengthening class beginning Tuesday. The one-credit-hour class, taught by Linda Pitner, will be held in the Cultural Arts Center. Classes will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through May 21. Call the college Admissions Office to enroll.

### Emergency classes to begin

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will be offering classes for the emergency medical technician B certificate, starting with an

information session at 7 p.m. Thursday at the EMS garage, 1275 S. Franklin. The first class will be at 7 p.m. Monday at the garage. Classes will run for 5 to 6 months; financial assistance is available. For information, call coordinator Dawnelle Umberger at 460-4585 or 443-0176.

### Dance team fixing soup, chili

The Colby High School dance team plans a soup supper from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday at the Colby Community Building before the Eagles' basketball games. On the menu are chili and cream of potato, homemade chicken-noodle and cream of broccoli soups, beverages, brownies and crispy-rice treats. Donations will be taken for the team.

### Heartland having barbecue

Heartland Christian School invites everyone to their annual barbecue pork dinner from 11 a.m. to 2

p.m. Sunday at the school, 1995 W. Fourth St., The menu includes pork, corn, salad, baked potato and dessert. Donation for the school will be accepted.

### Knights plan free-throw event

The Colby Knight of Columbus will hold their annual free-throw contest at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Grade School gym. Plaques will be given in each age group for boys and girls who were age 10 to 14 by Jan. 1. Winners will go on to the district competition here Sunday, Feb. 1, with regional and state contests after that. Bring a copy of your birth certificate to register. For information, call Dewey Augustine at 443-1548.

### Expert to detail ancient sites

Dan Busse will talk about area archeological sites at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. For info, call Nancy Arendt at 460-6653.

