



COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Friday

January 16, 2009
Volume 120, Number 9
Serving Thomas County since 1888



At the Koerperich Bookbindery in Selden, brothers Chris and Don Koerperich (above right) looked at some of the color op-

tions for book covers. Dallas Koerperich (below) worked on putting a hard cover together.

Bookbindery a real wonder

By Kimberly Davis

The Oberlin Herald
k.davis@nwkansas.com

What may look like stacks of papers to some looks like books in the making to the Koerperich brothers.

Near the front door of Koerperich Bookbindery on Main Street in Selden are stacks upon stacks of white paper, waiting to be stitched together, covered with a hard front, back and spine, labeled and shipped out.

For 40 years, the family-owned business has operated in the Selden area. Chris Koerperich, who now runs the business with his brother Don, said it all started in their father Richard's garage. Chris said his Dad's uncle had a book bindery in New Mexico, and he decided to start one at the family farm north of Selden.

The business was run out of the garage and then a building opened up in town, said Don, and the operation was moved to Main Street in Selden. It's been there ever since.

Chris, who lives in Oberlin, said he worked at the bindery throughout college and then started full-time in 1987. He said he decided to work at the family business full-time because it's a good one and it doesn't cost a lot to live in northwest Kansas. It's also a good place to raise a family, he said.

Don said he too worked at the business throughout high school and started full-time in 1995. He said he enjoys working and liv-

ing in Selden.

All of the books start up front, said Chris, where the over-sewing machines are. The paper is stitched together, he said. If it's a book being rebound, the old binding is taken off first and then the paper is stitched together.

Threading the paper together, said Don, makes the book more durable.

End sheets are stitched on the front and the back of the book so the cover can be glued on.

Glue is put on the edges, which fill in the holes, and a piece is folded over to cover the thread. Chris said they use a rubberized glue which doesn't crack with age like others.

The edges are trimmed, too, before the book is put into a machine that makes a rounded back where the spine is to be attached.

Then the front and back covers and the spine are put on the books and the cover is wiped down. The outside is then labeled in a different area of the shop and the books are packaged and ready to be shipped. United Parcel Service stops at the business each day to pick up orders.

People have a choice of several hundred colors, different grains and different materials for binding. The leather is a genuine lambskin that comes in different colors. Just recently, said Chris, they recovered a Bible in pink.

Things kind of slow down in

See "BINDERY," Page 3



KIMBERLY DAVIS/The Oberlin Herald

City getting long warranty on fire station

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The company that provided the steel for Colby's new fire station, Butler Manufacturing, agreed to give the city a 25-year extended weather-tight warranty on the roof at the City Council meeting last Tuesday.

The original warranty was for 20 years. This was changed after Butler sent out 10 or 11 roof panels with holes where no holes should have been drilled.

The company filled the holes, but agreed to extend the warranty five years. The building has 232 roof panels, a company representative said at the meeting Jan. 6.

The panels with extra holes are being filled with the same lock rivets used on the rest of the panels, he said.

Later, City Attorney John Gatz reviewed the file on a property at 505 S. Lincoln and recommended the council pursue the matter under the dangerous and unfit structure ordinance. The council approved Gatz's recommendation and set a hearing for March 3 to give owners and citizens a chance to say why the house should not be demolished.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong told the council checks by the utility city electric crew had revealed that 324 out of the city's 2,800 electric meters were not giving accurate readings. She said a few meters were way off and the rest were anywhere from 4 to 500 kilowatts off. The two meters with the largest inaccuracies were 10,000 to 11,000 kilowatts off.

The people receiving electricity with these meters were getting power bills that were lower than they should have been, she said.

The city will try to estimate what some of the users owe.

"The adjustment costs for homes will be based on their history of usage over a four year period," said Armstrong.

She said for any house that had been receiving electricity from a meter that was over 100 kilowatts off, the city will check their usage history to figure out an adjusted bill. Homes that had been receiving electricity from meters that were less than 100 kilowatts off will not have their history reviewed, said Armstrong.

Armstrong told the council a 2,000-gallon underground tank will be installed by the wastewater treatment plant, at 1945 County Road 21 east of the Wagner Salvage Yards. The tank will be installed by BRB Contractors, a firm which builds waste water facilities. The firm also built the treatment plant.

The tank will be used to water the five city ball fields on East Ninth Street, Armstrong said. It can water one field or all the fields at the same time. The tank, projected to have a 20-year life span, will cost \$11,334. The money will come from the state revolving loan for the new wastewater plant.

The city had planned an open pit to store irrigation water, but later decided that plan would not work as well as a tank. A change order was issued on the contract, Armstrong said.

The tank is not big enough to provide water for anything but the ball fields, the manager said. Any business that wants to use the city's water, such as a golf course, would have to have its own storage area. Companies that use the city's effluent water will have to pay \$200 a month or \$2,400 a year under city policy.

Banks, federal offices will close on Monday

All federal and state offices and banks will close Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The post office will be closed and there will be no mail service.

All county and city offices will remain open and trash pick up will run its normal route. Colby Community College and public schools will be in session.

Doctor moves practice to clinic at the hospital

Dr. Ladonna Regier, a long-time family practice physician in Colby, is moving to the Family Center for Health Care, just east of Citizen's Medical Center, on Thursday.

She had practiced with the Colby Medical and Surgical Center for more than 30 years.

Two of Dr. Regier's nurses, Cindy Theimer and Nancy Arndt, will be moving with her, she said. Physician's Assistant Brian Unruh will remain at the Colby Medical and Surgical Center, however, practicing with Dr. Victor Hildyard.

Briefly

Cookies may come a knockin'

If you're on a diet, you may not want to answer the door. But who can resist Girl Scout cookies? Sales begin Saturday and run through Sunday, Feb. 1, said Scout leader Penny Cline. Cinna-Spins have been renamed Daisy Go Rounds in honor of the littlest Scouts, but they still come in 100-calorie packs. If you miss the knock, call Mint Culver at 460-6005 or Cline (after 6 p.m. only) at 460-2929 to order.

Author visiting Colby school

Children's author John B. Hall is visiting the Colby Grade School today. Critics say Hall has the magical gift of seeing the world through the prism of a child's imagination. His first book, "How to Get a Gorilla Out of Your Bathtub" is a nominee for



the Kansas State Reading Association's Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award.

Hospital offers blood tests

Though there will be no health fair this year, Citizens Medical Center will be drawing blood for lab tests from 6 to 9 a.m. each day through Saturday. A complete blood count and comprehensive chemistry profile, including a lipid panel, will cost \$25. The thyroid stimulating hormone test is \$20, the prostate specific antigen test is \$25 and the hemoglobin A1C, which shows peak blood sugar, is \$20.

Heartland barbecue Sunday

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 Knights 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 archeological sites at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Prairie Museum of Art and

History. This talk is co-sponsored by the High Plains Chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Association and the museum. Refreshments will be served and there will be a chapter meeting after the talk. For information, call Nancy Arendt at 460-6653.

Church life seminar Saturday

A "Life Overflowing" seminar will be presented by DVD with a brown bag lunch on Saturday at Redeeming Love Ministry, 345 N. Franklin. Bible College credit is available. For questions or reservations, call (785) 650-2375.

College offers fitness free

Colby Community College will waive all costs for people who enroll in a cardio and strengthening class beginning Tuesday. Classes will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through May 21. Call the Admissions Office to enroll.