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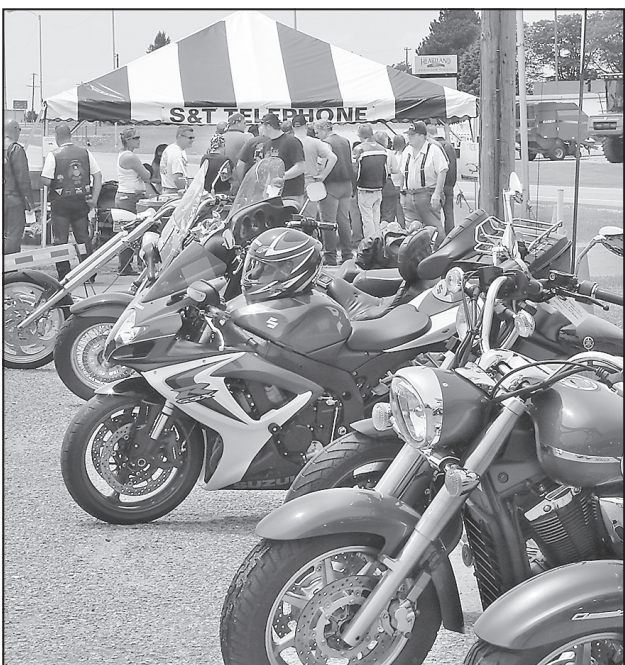
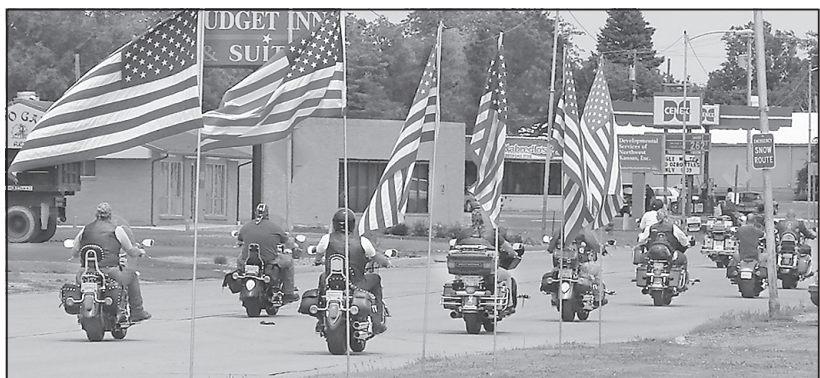
Monday

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Locals turn out for Legion

C.D. Hopper of Selden, chaplain for the Colby Legion Riders, relaxed on his motorcycle during the group's fund raiser Saturday (above). The riders and other area residents brought out their bikes for display at the Legion Post (right) for public judging before heading out down Fourth Street for a poker run (below) through Atwood, Bird City and Goodland. The day also included a pancakes-and-sausage feed, a barbecue and a dance.



AUBREY SPENCER/Colby Free Press

Foundation sponsors donation clubs

The Thomas County Community Foundation offers a way for friends or families to have fun and help the community at the same time with 4321 Clubs, which stands for "four friends, three years, \$200 a quarter, \$100 at beginning or end."

These clubs meet four times a year to enjoy the activities they love, such as crafting or volunteering, with the ultimate purpose of raising money for a cause they are passionate about, said Executive Director Melinda Olson.

At these meetings, those involved make do-

nations to their 4321 Club Fund at the Thomas County Community Foundation. The goal is to reach \$10,000 in an endowment for their cause, with a minimum endowment of \$2,500 within three years of the fund's start. The interest from the fund will be granted out to the club's designated charity or field of interest each year, once the fund is fully endowed.

Two clubs have started so far, Olson said. The Foster Friends 4321 Club meets quarterly to scrapbook. Donations go to the St. Francis Community Services Fund, which helps foster

children in this area. To join this group, call foundation office at 460-9152.

The second club is the Colby High School Alumni 4321 Club, which will meet once every five years at the Colby High Alumni Reunion. This club hopes to raise by the next reunion in 2010 to help with the cost of future reunions. Colby High School graduates are encouraged to make a one-time donation to this fund by sending a tax-deductible check to the foundation with "CHS Alumni Fund" written in the memo section.

Small budget cuts hit home for Kansans

By Carl Manning
The Associated Press

TOPEKA — While most talk about reducing Kansas government spending has been about millions of dollars for big programs, smaller, yet noticeable cuts will affect the public.

Some district court clerks will have reduced hours, grass cutting at some state parks will be less frequent and there won't be as much money to help bury poor

people. State health officials will even forego their annual presence at the Kansas State Fair.

When legislators worked through the \$13 billion state budget for the year starting July 1, most focus was on a 3.6 percent cut from the current budget year — and that still may not be enough. Gov. Mark Parkinson says he may have to make additional cuts if revenues continue to be below projections.

Senate Ways and Means Chair

Jay Emler said no agency was spared as legislators tried to balance the ledger.

"We hit absolutely everybody," said the Lindsborg Republican. "At some point in time, the public is going to notice these cuts in all the agencies, both the big cuts and small cuts."

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kevin Yoder said he believes people will understand the need for cutbacks, large and small.

"Most Kansans will understand such inconvenience are expected in the economic climate we're in. As government tightens its belt, we all will be asked to experience some inconveniences," the Overland Park Republican said.

For instance, the Kansas Supreme Court wants to save \$800,000 by eliminating money for dozens of part-time employees who work mainly in district

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Strategic plan shows critical housing need

By Kevin Bottrell

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Last week, the Thomas County commissioners approved the Economic Development Alliance's new strategic plan, one of the final steps in submitting the plan to the state.

The plan is a three-year outlook on the economy of the county, said Director Rick Patrick, who joined the alliance in April.

The report has to include results from a community forum, which was held in May, statistics on population and demographics, budget data on local governments and business, a comparison with the previous plan and conclusions, Patrick said. The plan needs to be done and submitted to the state every three years, he added, and must be done according to state guidelines. Patrick, who came to Colby from Hays, said the state has particular things it looks for when evaluating the plans.

"The thing they want to see — and us, too — is that we show a healthy growth pattern on the private side," he said.

Showing growth in the public sector is also good, he said, but a lack of private growth can indicate a stagnating economy. The plan outlines new businesses that have opened up in the past several years, including Colby Implement and Subway in Colby and Manchester Pro Shop in Brewster.

The plan, if approved by the state, will allow Thomas County to remain an enterprise zone, Patrick said, which allows employers to get more tax credits.

Statistics Patrick put together for the plan show that Thomas County has some hurdles to jump when it comes to local economy. For one thing, it shows an 11 percent drop in population since the last strategic plan. Patrick said the last plan, approved in 2005, used

2000 Census numbers, whereas he used updated estimates from Kansas State University.

However, median age decreased by one year and median income increased by \$7,000, making it only \$3,000 less than the state average. Sales tax revenue increased by 29 percent, amounting for \$779,836 in 2007.

"Statistically, this should keep us in good standing with the state," Patrick said.

The plan outlines several key areas that need to be addressed, including work force housing and "living wage" jobs, salaried positions above minimum wage.

The conclusion says the alliance will be keeping housing as a top priority, and will form a steering committee and is planing a "housing summit" to discuss the issue. Available housing for workers is often a factor in recruiting or expanding businesses, Patrick said.

Patrick said he will also be working to help businesses apply for extra money, such as Department of Agriculture grants or U.S. Small Business Administration loans.

"The money is out there," he added.

He said he is looking to help area people get into new businesses. One business he said he has been researching is Americlean. This is a company that will set up a dry-cleaning business for a new owner, including installing the equipment and training employees. The company offers several packages, with the simplest costing about \$208,000 to buy in. Patrick said the equipment is fully approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"We have a definite need for a dry cleaner in town," he said.

Patrick said anyone interested in these programs should contact him at the alliance's office on Range Avenue, 460-4511.

Colby High junior attends Boys State

Colby High School Junior Nathan Reed participated in the American Legion Boys State on the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan from May 31 to June 6.

About 500 boys attended the week-long government and leadership program, which teaches high school junior the value of democracy and civic duty. The program consisted of the boys participating in mock governments and campaigning for positions on the city, county and state level. Once elections concluded, the students participated in situations similar to those facing regular government officials. Reed was an official in the city of Harris during the week.

Reed got to listen to several state officials during the week, including Rep. Raj Goyle, Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh, Kansas Court of Appeals Judge G. Joseph Pierron Jr., Johnson County District Court Judge Thomas Sutherland and 54th District state Rep. Scott Seel. Dustin Galyon, a motivational speaker and former delegate, was the keynote speaker.

The Boys State program was founded by the American Legion in 1935 in Illinois. It has spread to 49 states in 73 years. The first session of the Kansas Boys State was held at Wichita University, now Wichita State University, in 1937.

Briefly

High school to hold workshop

All students entering grades six to nine are invited to a free 21st Century Learner Workshop at Colby High School on Thursday and Friday. The workshop will cover tech topics such as web applications, safe learning and having fun with technology. Bring a sack lunch for both days. Enrollment is limited to the first 60 registrants. For information or to register, call Megan Pope at 460-5004.

Library offers cool retreat

The Pioneer Memorial Library is inviting families to Cool Off From Summer at 7 p.m. Thursday in the library basement. Nancy LePell will be talking about her travels through the South Pacific on a sailboat. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

City to spray for mosquitoes

The City of Colby will fog for mosquitoes week-

ly, beginning this week. On Mondays or Tuesdays, crews will fog from Webster Street south. On Thursdays or Fridays, they will work from Webster Street north. Please check your yards and empty anything that holds stagnant water — such as cans, swimming pools, tires and the like — to help keep the mosquito population down. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Care Center to honor fathers

The Colby Care Center invites everyone to a Father's Day celebration at 5:30 p.m. Friday at the center. The staff will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers, so bring a side dish to share. For information, call Amanda Hillis at 462-6721.

Pilots plan miniature air show

The Colby RC Flyers invite everyone to a free air show from sunrise to sunset Saturday and Sunday, seven miles north of Colby on K-25 and one-eighth

of a mile east. Visitors can try the club's remote-control trainer and a public drawing will be held at noon. There will be flying contests and open flying each day. Lunch and drinks will be available. For information, call Nick Nichols at 460-6357.

Nursing home plans dog show

The Colby Care Center will hold a doggie fashion show at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 11. Dress up your dogs and bring them by, along with a \$5 donation for the Residents Activity Fund. Veterinarian Tammy Swarts will judge the entries and award prizes, along with giving some advice for dog owners. For information, call Amanda Hillis at 462-6721.

Camp set for Tuesdays

The Colby Wesleyan Church is offering "Tuesdays @ 10," a free summer day camp for children 4 to 12. Kids are invited to participate in the food, fun, games

and God's love from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday through July 28. This year's "Son Rock Camp" will include nature hikes and outdoor activities with lunch. To register, or for information, call the church office at 462-8391.

Church holding Bible study

The Colby Wesleyan Church will offer a 12-week Beth Moore Bible study, "Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy," from at 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Aug. 19 at the Pioneer Memorial Library's community room. No homework is required and discussion will focus around the videos. For information, call the church at 462-8391.



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