



8 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Wednesday

June 17, 2009
Volume 120, Number 94
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Longtime member retires from board

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkans.com

After 16 years on the Colby Community College board, Cleona Flipse attended her last meeting at the college Monday evening.

"I've seen a lot of things happen, and I hope to see more things happen," said Flipse. "I will miss you all."

The board gave Flipse a plaque and a stuffed yellow duck. Everyone had cheesecake to celebrate her retirement.

Later, the board heard President Lynn Kreider report that architect Glen Strait of Strait and Associates is not ready to show a conceptual design for the wellness center to be built between the tennis court and the baseball diamond on campus.

The center will serve as a practice facility for the Trojans' wrestling program. It will feature an area where the public can do aerobic exercises and use free weights and machine weights, said Debbie Schwanke, public relations director for the college. A metal storage building now there will be moved.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Cleona Flipse, recently retired board member at Colby Community College, clutched a stuffed yellow duck as she chatted with Kenton Krehbiel (left), chairman of the board, and President Lynn Kreider after attending her final meeting on Monday evening.

"This will be a much better practice facility for the wrestlers," she said.

Schwanke said equipment in the weight and aerobics area known as the fitness lab in the practice gym on the northeast side of campus will be moved to the new center. Kreider said some trees near the tennis court would need to be cut down to make room for the center.

Contractor Mike Woofert will be working with Strait on the project, he added.

In other news, the board:

- Listened to Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs, discuss the 1.9-kilowatt wind turbine to be installed at the college in the spring. He said some people apparently

See "BOARD," Page 3

Work begins on I-70 in Gove County

A project to resurface a stretch of Interstate 70 in Gove County which started Monday may slow drivers a little through the 18-mile construction zone, where traffic will be down to one lane at times during work hours.

The project includes a mill and overlay on an 18-mile section of the freeway from one mile east of the east K-23 junction at Grainfield to the Trego County line, reports the Oakley construction office of the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The contractor will mill two inches off the driving lanes, replacing that with and "inlay" of two inches

of new asphalt. Then comes a one-inch overlay on the entire roadway, including the shoulders. Work should be complete, weather permitting, by Oct. 15.

APAC Shears Inc. is the prime contractor in charge of the \$11.6 million job. The department urges travelers to watch for warning signs and construction workers.

For more on project, contact Area 4 construction manager Roy Meier at (785) 672-3113 or rmeier@ksdot.org in Oakley, or Kristen Brands, northwest Kansas public affairs manager at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.

Storm produces funnel clouds, hail



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

This storm near Rexford on Monday, seen here from the Gem cemetery, produced hail, rain and two funnel clouds. While no tornado touchdowns were reported in Thomas County, some were reported in Ford, Butler and Edwards counties. The National Weather Service had reports of hail up to one and a quarter inches across near Goodland, Atwood, McDonald and Selden.

Getting ready to move



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Corey Siruta and Darrin Bell, both county road workers, were getting the solar building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds ready to move on Monday. The building was to be moved today to a concrete foundation workers have been preparing. It needed to be moved or torn down, county officials said, because the old foundation was crumbling and the building was sagging from the inside.

Township requests help with power lines

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkans.com

A township board grabbed the attention of the Thomas County commissioners Monday when the members asked the commissioners to intervene in a road dispute.

Officials of Rovohl Township, about three miles north of Colby, sent the commissioners a letter asking their help to determine if the power poles on a section of County Road Z, about seven miles north of Colby, are actually planted in the middle of where the road should be.

There has been some concern in the past regarding two landowners deciding where the property line was, officials said.

"It looks like the township board is wanting a little help in wanting us to find a way to settle the matter," said Chairman Ken Christiansen.

Todd Unruh of Midwest Energy, the rural electric cooperative serving the area, said in order to move the poles, they would need a request from the county.

"That's a three-phase line, and the poles are over

15 years old, and we'd have to put in all new poles to bring the line up to code," he said, adding that the cost would be about \$56,000 per mile.

Much of the discussion centered around who the easement belonged to when the poles were set many years ago.

"There is a possibility that it was a private or non-passable road at the time," Christiansen said. "However, state law says all roads are open unless declared closed. It probably started out as a section-line trail, and then when irrigation came to the area, the township started maintaining it as farm-to-market access."

"It could have been that neighbors had an agreement, and the placing of the poles benefited both, and that's where they decided the poles would be set," Unruh said.

In a telephone interview, Bob Amos, whose farm the line serves, said the poles had been there for the last 20 years or more. The Amos family has lived there since 1918, he said, and never had any fuss about where the poles were.

See "COUNTY," Page 3

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 weekly, 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.

Church school starts Monday

The Colby Wesleyan Church will hold Vacation Bible School from 9 to 11:30 a.m. from Monday to Friday next week, June 22-26. This year's theme is "Studio GO! Game Show – Where kids experience real teamwork, real service and real FUN!" Kids

will "meet" characters from the Bible who decided to team up with God and GO for it. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Monday. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.

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.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a nice fat female 2-year-old cat and three mixed-breed dogs – one male and two female – available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 8 3