

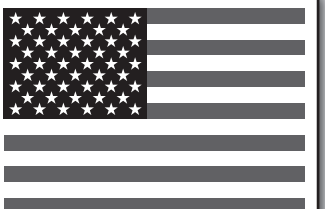


COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢
June 10, 2011
Volume 122, Number 91
Serving Thomas County
since 1888
10 pages

Friday

**Celebrate
Flag Day**



With a special flag
inside this edition
of the
Colby Free Press

Brought to you by local sponsors



MARRIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Fire smokes out 1930s Gem house

The Gem Fire Department was called to the home of Henry Elling about 8 p.m. Thursday to fight an electrical fire. The fire was inside the home, and firefighters removed windows and an attic vent to get water inside and check for hot spots. Units from the Colby Fire Department and the rescue squad also responded. No one was injured in the fire. The home was built in the 1930s.



Area to see effect of cuts to arts money

By Kevin Bottrell

*Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansas.com*

In a year filled with budget cuts, one that has gotten a lot of attention is Gov. Sam Brownback's veto of funding for the Kansas Arts Commission.

The commission acted as a pass-through entity for federal money from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mid-America Arts Alliance, awarding grants to arts programs around the state.

The governor removed all funding for the commission from the state budget, including the salaries of its five employees, who will be laid off today. Brownback also appointed a new chair for the commission, Linda Browning Weis of Manhattan. Weis told the Associated Press on Wednesday that

she is confident the commission can raise private money to keep a non-profit version of the commission alive. It remains to be seen, however, if the non-profit organization will still qualify for federal money.

In Thomas County, the impact is mainly on the Western Plains Art Association, an organization that holds concerts and theater shows around the nine-county area. In 2010, the association got \$4,284 for the Arts on Tour Program and \$6,474 for operational support.

Association Secretary Leona Dickman said all of the association's concerts are paid for in part by the arts commission. Faced with losing some or all of that money, Dickman said the association board has decided to hold

See "CUTS," Page 3

Spots still open in Relay for Life

It's time again, when cancer survivors, caregivers, family and friends get together at Relay for Life to raise money for cancer research.

The event will be held at Denen Field next Friday and Saturday, June 18, instead of Fike Park. It will begin with a survivors' barbecue from 6 to 7 p.m.

At 7 p.m. Dave Evert, principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School, will give a welcome. There will be a flag ceremony by Colby Boy Scouts and a performance of the National Anthem by the Sweet Adelines. Father Dana Clark of Sacred Heart Church will offer

an opening prayer, and the Relay for Life Committee will introduce members, sponsors, survivors and teams.

The relay itself will kick off after the welcome with the survivors' and caregivers' lap. Cancer survivors and caregivers can sign up to be in the lap by calling Margaret Kummer at 460-4877 or 460-8095.

The relay teams will take the next lap. The relay committee is still accepting teams until Thursday, but official T-shirts are no longer available. To register a

See "RELAY," Page 3

Slowing winds help firefighters combat western Arizona wildfire

**By Bob Christie
and Susan Montoya Bryan**
The Associated Press

SPRINGVILLE, Ariz. — For the first time in more than a week, crews made some headway in the fight against a major wildfire in Arizona's eastern mountains that destroyed dozens of buildings and kept thousands of evacuees away

from their homes.

Officials said the 603-square-mile blaze was 5 percent contained, after helicopters and a large air tanker dropped fire retardant and ground crews lit blazes to burn up combustible materials nearby. They said among the buildings destroyed so far were 22 homes in the resort community of Greer, and five others were dam-

aged.

Fire information officer Jim Whittington said unfortunately, losing homes to wildfires has become too common.

"If you've been with those folks when they go back in, it doesn't matter if they're rich or poor, if they live in a mansion or if they

See "WILDFIRE," Page 3

Secretary to name fraud task force

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach expects to name a task force later this month on a new state law requiring voters to show photo identification at the polls.

Kobach says he'll appoint at least a dozen county election officials. The group will help him draft detailed rules for putting the voter ID law into effect.

The voter ID requirement starts next year. In 2013, people registering to vote for the first time will have

to provide proof of their U.S. citizenship. Kobach championed both policies.

Kobach said the rules will flesh out the new requirements.

For example, he says, the law allows a person who doesn't have a birth certificate, passport or other proof of citizenship when registering to provide it later, but doesn't spell out the details.

Teaching the proper technique



COURTESY PHOTO

Forty-five scouts, leaders and volunteers from the Buffalo Bill District held a Cub Scout Day Camp at Ferguson Park on June 4. The scouts participated in BB Gun and Archery shooting, a wilderness walk, crafts and rocketeering.

Briefly

Center has prevention materials

The Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center has videos, brochures and other materials on subjects like parenting, substance abuse and neglect prevention available at its office at 140 W. Fourth St. The center is closing on Thursday, June 30, and is looking to give away its materials. For information, call the center at 460-8177.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a black and white 1-year-old female lab mix 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.

RC Flyers to have fun fly

The Colby RC Flyers will have a remote control

plane fun fly from daylight to dusk on Saturday and Sunday at the club's field seven miles north of Colby on K-25 and 1/8th mile east. There will be open flying and contests, along with a club trainer to fly. Admission is free for the public. For information, call Nick Nichols at (785) 460-6357 or Marvin Farmer at (785) 443-3593.

Oldest church celebrates birthday

First Christian Church, the first church established in Colby, will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a special worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday at the church 385 W. Third, followed by dinner and fellowship time. For information, call 460-2718.

Mingo church offers concert

The Echoes of Hope quartet from Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburg, Texas, will perform a gospel concert at 10:45 a.m. Sunday at Mingo Bible

Church. The four women accompany themselves with guitar and violin. Bob Kracht, their sponsor, will present a Bible message. The concert is open to the public. For information contact Pastor Tom Peyton at 462-2930.

Food sign up open now

Prairie Land Food sign up is open until Monday at State Farm Insurance, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be Saturday, June 25, at the Sacred Heart School Gym. For information, call Gene Griffon at 460-3579.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be

provided. For information, call 462-6342.

Hospital to hold diabetes class

The Citizens Medical Center will have a diabetes support class, "Journey for Control: On the Road to Better Managing Your Diabetes," from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the hospital conference room. The beginning of a four-class series, it is free but pre-registration is requested. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at 460-4850.



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