



COLBY FREE PRESS

14 pages

Dog has two legal angels

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Christmas came early this week for a four-legged resident of Thomas County.

A dog recuperating at Colby Animal Clinic has two guardian angels from Colorado to thank for her new lease on life.

Dottie, as she's being called, a Border collie/Springer spaniel mix, is in need of a new home.

Lee Sternal and Bob Adams of Pueblo West, Colo. were driving on Highway 24 early on Sunday, Dec. 14 on their way to go pheasant hunting.

Sternal said it was about sunrise when they spotted the dog standing in the snow at mile marker 68. "As we drove by, I thought the dog didn't look quite right," he said.

The animal was white with black spots and black ears. Sternal said she was spattered with blood and two of her legs were injured.

"There was just something about her expression that grabbed me," he said. "She seems to be a little on the timid side."

When they stopped, she laid down under his truck. They two men called 911 and later took the dog to Colby Animal Clinic, where she was treated for a broken right femur by Dr. Russell Bowers.

Sternal said the dog had been hit by a car sometime before they found her.

Bowers said Thursday Dottie is eating fine and could use a couple of extra pounds. He had to do surgery on the dog to pin the bone so it will heal and it will take



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Sara Waldman, a veterinary technology student at Colby Animal Clinic, holds Dottie, a 4- or 5-year-old Border collie/Springer spaniel mix. The dog is recovering from a broken leg and needs a home.

about six weeks for the bone to knit properly.

He said the dog is between 4- to 5-years-old and is in good shape, despite the broken leg.

"We want to give this dog another chance," Sternal said. "We're going

to stick with it until it's well."

The two lawyers are footing the \$500-600 vet bill.

Sara Waldman, a vet tech student at the clinic, said they think the dog is spayed. She said Dottie would do well with a family with kids or an

older couple. Dottie also gets on well with other dogs so other pets wouldn't be a problem.

Anyone interested in adopting Dottie can contact the clinic at 460-8621 or drop by at 810 E. Fourth.

Grand prize giveaway on Saturday

Bring your *Christmas on Us!* shopping tickets to the Colby Community Building on Saturday and you could go home with \$1,000, or \$500 or \$50.

The final event in the Christmas retail promotion, sponsored by 14 Colby businesses and the *Colby Free Press*, begins at 11 a.m., said Tom Dreiling, publisher.

The top prize this year, he said, is \$1,000 (in scrip money) and the runner-up prize is \$500. "There will also be a couple of \$50 instant winners awarded," he said.

This is the fifth annual *Christmas on Us!* promotion undertaken by the newspaper and "it has become a very popular attraction for Colby

and area shoppers," Dreiling said.

As in the past, there are literally thousands of tickets in the container from which the winners on Saturday will be drawn, Dreiling said. "We estimate we have somewhere in the neighborhood of 40,000+ tickets this year."

Merchants sponsoring the promotion this year are: Tubbs & Sons Ford Sales, Beringer Hardware, Colby Ag Center, The Sports Shoppe, Colby True Value, Someplace Special, Dillons, Great Western Tire, Stan's Automotive, City Limits, Office Works, Dougherty Implement, Golden Hardware, Colby Implement and the *Colby Free Press*.

More than \$119,000 missing from agency

TOPEKA (AP) — A former executive director of the Kansas Press Association misappropriated about \$119,500 of the group's funds during his tenure of nearly three years, the organization's president said.

In a letter to newspaper publishers dated Wednesday, KPA President John D. Montgomery provided details about a review of the organization's records, conducted after Jeff Burkhead agreed to resign on Sept. 17. Montgomery, who also is editor and publisher of the Hays Daily News, said the information had been forwarded to law enforce-

ment authorities. Burkhead was not available at his Emporia home and did not return a telephone message left there.

Montgomery said the review of records discovered about \$95,000 in personal charges on KPA credit cards, \$13,000 worth of checks on KPA accounts for personal use, and about \$11,500 in unauthorized expenditures. Burkhead reimbursed the KPA for about \$26,500 through paycheck deductions, Montgomery said. Also, before he left the organization, he executed a promissory note for an additional \$33,595.

Colby's administration building will be ready soon

By TISHA COX

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The new digs are ready and waiting.

The Colby school district's administrative staff should be moved into its new building by the beginning of the year.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said earlier expectations of the first of November were wishful thinking.

"Things go along and eventually get done," he said.

"We're intending over Christmas break we're going to move. We should be functional out there by Jan. 1 or soon after."

The 6,000 square-foot building will house the district's administration staff, technology and curriculum directors, the district copy center and the school board meeting room.

It will have a total of eight rooms, a kitchenette area and restrooms.

The building cost approximately

\$400,000 and the money came from capital outlay.

The biggest hurdle, besides construction, is moving all the items in storage at the old building, Nielsen said.

"We've been moving it out since last summer," he said. "We've got most of it out of there."

Old desks and other items are still there but he expects them to be moved eventually.

Nielsen said the Booster Club

will have a rummage sale sometime in the next several months to help get rid of the old stuff.

The school district will keep the money from the sale but the club will get to decide how it's spent.

It's taken approximately six months to complete construction. He said the combination of lower utility bills coupled with no storage will make the new building a nice change.

"We'll be close to the school and

right in the middle of it all," Nielsen said.

The district's administration offices were located in the old building on Range for about 22 years, Nielsen said.

Before that, they used the building now occupied by Dr. Karen Thummel's dentistry practice.

After the move, landscaping will be the only thing left undone. Nielsen said it will be completed in the spring.

Fight continues over Missouri River between farmers, scientists

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government biologists on Thursday affirmed the need for a spring rise and more shallow summer waters in the Missouri River to ensure the survival of the endangered pallid sturgeon.

But conservationists said the remedy proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service isn't enough to save the fish from extinction. And they castigated the service for asserting that two endangered and threatened bird species can survive without changing river operations.

The attempt to revise operations of the nation's longest river has dragged on for nearly 15 years, caught up in a mighty tug-of-war between economic and political interests. All sides of the issue were disappointed in the biological opinion released by the service, which is part of the Interior Department. Downriver farmers, shippers and upriver recreation industry advocates all said the recommendations were unacceptable and inadequate.

The agency called for flows to be reduced beginning next July to

25,000 cubic feet per second or less from the Gavins Point Dam on the South Dakota-Nebraska border.

The number is higher than the agency's 2000 recommendation, which said releases should be decreased even more, to 21,000 cubic feet per second or less.

"The service today basically said we will forego immediately creating hundreds of acres of shallow water habitat that juvenile sturgeon need to survive to adulthood," said Scott Faber, a spokesman for the conservation group Environmental

Defense. "That would be more shallow water habitat than the corps has created through artificial means in the last two decades. It's a stunning reversal," Faber said.

If the corps moves quickly to create more shallow water habitat in the most critical area, between the Gavins Point Dam and the mouth of the Platte River south of Omaha, Neb., then the service would allow higher releases. The service said the fish has lost 98 percent of its habitat in those reaches since the river was dammed and channelized from

the 1940s to the 1960s.

In 2000, the agency said the sturgeon as well as two bird species, the endangered interior least tern and the threatened piping plover, could survive only if the river's flow was changed to mimic conditions before the Missouri river was dammed.

The new biological opinion said the spring rise should actually be two "pulses," one in March to mimic snow melt from the plains and one later in the spring when snow melts in the Rocky Mountains.

Briefly

School vocal concert next week

The Colby High School and Middle School Winter Vocal Concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the high school auditorium. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Community choir performs Saturday

The Thomas County Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring a program featuring the community choir at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, in the Colby High School auditorium. The event will feature more than 30 singers from the area.

'Thank You' concert Sunday

As a "thank you" to the community for its support of Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival, the McLemore Family and Larry Booth will present a seasonal concert for the public on Sunday at Fairview Estates. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the dining hall.

Fairview Estates is located just east of Dillons. Everyone

in the community is invited and admission is free; however, canned food donations will be accepted for Thomas County Genesis.

Christmas piano recital set

Piano students of Pat Ziegelmeier will perform in a Christmas recital on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of Colby United Methodist Church. The program will be a combination of solos and ensembles. Everyone is invited.

Students' recital is Saturday

Piano students of Sharon Kriss are having a recital on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Colby United Methodist Church. They will be playing songs interwoven with "The Christmas Story" and "Twas the Night Before Christmas." The public is encouraged and welcome to come.

Free barbecue on agenda next year

The Thomas County Fair Board will be accepting bids from

anyone interested in handling the free barbecue for the 2004 county fair, said Audrey Hines, secretary. Those interested may either send bids to the fair board at P.O. Box 260, Colby, Kan. 67701 or come to the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15.

Quilt giveaway rescheduled

The Cooperating Collection Site RC&D quilt giveaway that was to have taken place on Monday, Dec. 15 has been rescheduled for 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22 due to the weather earlier this week. The event will take place at Pioneer Memorial Library.

Holiday hours set for landfill

The Thomas County Landfill will close at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and will not reopen until Saturday, Dec. 27. The landfill will be open regular hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the 27th and 1 to 4 p.m. on the 28th. The landfill will be closed Thursday, Jan. 1 for the New Year's Day holiday



Warm Saturday

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie
forecast

Tonight... Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. West winds 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday... Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday night... Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Sunday... Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs around 50. North winds 5 to 15 mph.
Sunday night... Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. A 20 percent chance of rain in the evening. Breezy. Lows in the mid 20s.
Monday... Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Breezy...Cooler. Highs in the upper 30s.
Monday night and Tuesday... Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Lows 20.

By the numbers:

Thursday's high, 50
Low this morning, 16
Records for Dec. 19, 71 in 1979 and -18 in 1989
Year ago today, 45 and 18
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 0.09
Month's snowfall, 3 inches
Year's precipitation to date, 14.53
2002's precipitation to date, 12.60
Soil temperature, 34

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

