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Country time



ABOVE: Colby Grade School kindergartners performed their spring music program, "A Day in the Country," Thursday in the grade school auditorium. The children performed songs like "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," "This Old Man" and "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain." **RIGHT:** The kindergartners danced to "Skip to My Lou." The program was directed by Jennifer Koel and accompanied by Sharon Kriss.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Health clinic celebrates expansion

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

An open house and ribbon cutting on Thursday officially welcomed the public to the newly expanded Family Center for Health Care. Located at 310 East College Dr. in Colby, the clinic was originally built to house two doctors within its 3,650 square feet.



D. Matchell

Expanded to more than 11,000 square feet, the clinic is now the business home to two doctors, two nurse practitioners and 13 staff members.



T. Unger

The original building was built in the early 80,s and Family Center for Health Care will mark its 10th year in the building in July.

"Historically the clinic has had a strong obstetric and pediatric patient base," said Tama Unger director of fund development and community relations for Citizens Medical Center, Inc., Family Center for Health Care is part of, and managed by Citizens Medical Center, Inc.

Unger said the additional space, which includes a basement, is not only for the clinic, but for the hospital staff's use as well. She said an education room and physical capacity profile room will be used by hospital staff to detect physical impairment of new employees of area employers.

Space restraints at both the clinic and hospital prompted the building's expansion.

"Technology, and the addition of new specialties, is requiring more and more space that we just don't

"The programs that are available to us through the state have had a great impact on our ability to build capacity for the future."

Tama Unger, fund development

have," she said.

Accounts receivable coordinator Jolene Rush agreed with Unger.

"The new expansion and renovation has helped us to be more efficient and our patients are all excited to see the new things we have done," Rush said.

Unger said the growth in number of providers, patients, medical records and procedures performed caused the old clinic to "bust at the seams."

"A major factor that influenced many decisions regarding the new areas was customer satisfaction," Unger said referring to new procedure rooms and a larger waiting area with a special area for children.

Dr. Bruce Kellogg, Dr. Darren Matchell, along with nurse practitioners Jenny Niblock and Luetta Flanagan work along side clinic manger Scott Focke, receptionists Kelli Hankin, and Kasandra Blackheart and billing staff Jill Minchow and Rush in the now larger clinic.

Costing just over \$800,000, the project was paid for with loan assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture, a tax credit program with the Kansas Department of Commerce and local and area contributors.

"The programs that are available to us through the state have had a great impact on our ability to build capacity for the future," Unger said.

Colby School board hears update on activities, assessments

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

As the current school year winds down, administration and staff at Colby schools are also getting ready for the 2006-2007 school year at the same time.

The Colby School Board heard about how it's all progressing at its meeting Monday.

Colby High School Principal Rocky Robbins said they were ready for the final

day of state assessments Friday, April 21.

The school is also in the middle of the enrollment process.

Preparations are also underway for prom Saturday and graduation next month.

Robbins said he's setting up interviews to fill staff vacancies before the next school year.

Colby Grade School Principal Terrel Harrison said state assessments are complete at her school and gearing up for end-of-year activities. Those include the kinder-

garten music program at 7 p.m. today and a performance by the Soaring Singers Thursday, April 27.

Harrison said the schedule for the 2006-2007 school year is finished, and she hasn't heard any negative feedback from the teachers.

Middle school Principal Robb Ross said the school's final problem-solving day is next week, and fifth grade enrollment is on Monday. That isn't the only preparation for the next school year. He said the school is

switching to a seven-period day next year.

That will result in an extra 14 minutes of math each day, or seven additional weeks of math instruction over the course of the year.

The board also had a public hearing on the republishing of the 2005-2006 budget.

The republishing will result in \$41,719 for the district.

In other business, the board approved:

- Employment recommendations of Connie Penka, special education para;

Shawn Reinert, technology technician; Chris Gardner, middle school social studies; Greg Koenig, assistant track coach, seventh and eighth grade.

- Resignations of Scott Crisman, middle school social studies teacher; and three sponsor resignations. The following three will continue to teach in their respective areas, but resigned their extracurricular activities: Nancy Rundel, forensics coach; Kristin Eberle, cheerleading, and Rick Williams as student council sponsor.

Shooting spree foiled at Kansas school

RIVERTON (AP) — Law enforcement and school officials say they are convinced that five teenagers fully intended to go on a shooting spree at Riverton High School on Thursday, but were stopped after one of them discussed the plot on a popular Web site.

The five boys, ranging in age from 16 to 18, were arrested Thursday, just hours before they planned to shoot fellow students and employees at the school, officials said.

"What the resounding theme is: They were actually going to do this," Cherokee County Sheriff Steve Norman said Thursday after the arrests.

The five are scheduled to appear in court Friday, where charges and more details about the alleged plot are expected to be announced.

Deputies found guns, ammunition, knives and coded messages in

"What the resounding theme is: They were actually going to do this."

Steve Norman, Cherokee County Sheriff

the bedroom of one of the suspects, Norman said. In two of the suspects' school lockers, authorities found documents about firearms and references to Armageddon, he said.

Four suspects were arrested at their homes, two as early as 12:30 a.m. The fifth suspect was arrested at the school Thursday afternoon. The four juveniles were being held Thursday at a juvenile detention center in Girard. The 18-year-old was in the Cherokee County Jail.

Going up or going down?

Denton Schoen of Smith Center pumped gas Thursday at the Oasis Travel Center. He was traveling back from Burlington and said Colby's fuel prices weren't as high as the \$3.10 a gallon he'd seen on Interstate 70. Schoen was headed home to Smith Center.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press