



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## School takes bullying by the horns

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Dealing with bullying at Colby Grade School is serious business.

"This year the school has formed a committee and has spent time making staff and students aware of what bullying is and how it can be handled," said Principal Terrel Harrison.

Harrison knows the issue is not new.

"We all realize that bullying happens in school," she said. "Bullying has been getting a lot of attention lately. We take bullying very seriously."

The difference how, however, is the attitude many schools have toward bullying.

Harrison said at the grade school, staff has decided their goal is to create a positive environment where students know they're safe, accepted and valued.

Staff have been through activities on the subject and the children in all grades have been involved too. Much of school's material came from the book "Bully-Free Schools" and staff has used other materials available for teachers in the curriculum office.

"We really don't follow one program," Harrison said.

"We have different activities planned for each month."

One of the ideas from the committee was a contest to design two "bully boxes" that are in the school. The boxes will allow students to anonymously report bullying incidents.

"Many times children are not comfortable telling adults about a bullying situation," she said.

Harrison said the grade school's bullying problem is not severe, but it does exist.

The efforts this year are already having an effect.

"It has made a positive impact on children," Harrison said.

"The students know bullying will be dealt with when it happens, and the atmosphere at the school has also changed for the better."

Students are also more aware of what it actually is. She said children sometimes don't realize they are being bullies, and the committee's actions have helped educate students.

Harrison said the committee will continue educating students and staff to eliminate bullying.



**ABOVE:** Colby School fourth graders performed one of their recorder pieces during Thursday's concert.

**RIGHT:** Fourth grade students (standing) watched fifth grader Henry Schuette play his clarinet during the fifth grade band performance Thursday at the Colby High School auditorium. The fourth graders, who performed a recorder concert, were invited on stage to look at the different instruments.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

## Reception to honor retiring school staff

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

With the end of the school year looming, several activities are going on to say thank you to school staff.

The first event is a retirement reception for staff members Bob Mannebach, JoAnn Minchow and

Lois Unger.

The reception is 4 p.m. Monday at the district's Administration Building, 600 W. Third St.

Mannebach taught at Colby High School for 16 years, teaching business classes.

He was also the school's cross country coach.

Unger was Colby Grade School

counselor and has been with the district 12 years.

Minchow has been with the district 18 years and works at the district's copy center.

Next week is also Teacher Appreciation Week at the grade school. Principal Terrel Harrison said the school's Parent-Teacher Organization is planning a salad luncheon

Tuesday for the teachers.

The district will hold its end-of-year bash for staff 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 17, at the Colby High School commons, said Janel Andrews, assistant to the superintendent.

All food, drinks and service will be provided by the district, according to school officials.

## Charter school enjoys success

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Thomas County Academy is finishing its first full year and it has been a successful one.

The Colby School District's charter school has 15 students. Colby Middle School counselor Kyle Shively said 17 students started the year, and 15 stayed. The two that left were not comfortable with the school's setting.

"All 15 of them have made good gains in every area," Shively said. "Those gains have been both academic and social."

The charter school included students in grades five through eight. Students learn the same curriculum as in conventional classrooms, what differs is the way students learn.

Students in the charter school aren't tied to the same daily schedule. An achievement-based system allows them to spend as much time as they need on a subject or project. The students have also learned to communicate and work well to-

gether. Students have more freedom to decide how they spend their time, and what they do.

"The learning isn't different from a regular classroom, but the delivery is changed from a typical classroom," Shively said.

Students must also be at the same point at the end of the year as their classmates, because the same state-standards apply regardless of the learning situation.

"The good part is some have moved on more quickly," Shively said.

Students also supplement class work with the "A+" virtual curriculum. They must spend an hour online each day, which supplements regular math, reading, social studies and science.

Shively said they use the curriculum because if there are gaps in a student's work, they can tell immediately and work to get them up to speed.

"Another thing is it gives them extra practice," she said.

A typical lesson involves logging in, practicing, then taking a practice or mastery test. In order to move on, students must score at least 80 percent.

Lead teacher Kristin Eberle listened to a presentation by eighth grader Zach Harlow. His project was on the westward expansion of the U.S. The students give projects to show what they have learned.

Efforts are underway to get ready for the next school year.

The school won't be adding any additional grades as originally planned, but will expand enrollment to more students in fifth through eighth grades, said Eberle.

The academy is also holding an open house 6-8:30 p.m. Monday at the school, 210 N. Grant. Current students will show off their projects from the year and there will be an informational meeting for parents who may want to enroll their children this fall.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Thomas County Academy eighth grader Zach Harlow gave a presentation Thursday on the Louisiana Purchase and manifest destiny. Harlow is one of 15 students completing their first year in the Colby School District's charter school.

## New truck stop on tap

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

## Sounds of spring

Colby will soon be welcoming another truck and travel stop.

Nebraska-based Bosselman Company entered an agreement today with Curt Stephens, who owns land near exit 54 on Interstate 70 where Bosselman will build

Included in the proposal is a Wendy's Restaurant, four-bay Bosselman Truck Shop and future plans for a 54-room motel, said Charlie Bosselman, vice-president. The facilities will be located on a 20-acre site east of SuperWal-Mart and north of the interstate.

"We are pleased with the purchase of the property in Colby," Bosselman said, "and we are looking forward to being a successful member of the community."

Bosselman said the next step is completing plans with the hope of hiring a contractor by the end of this summer.

He estimates construction will take about six to eight months.

The project includes the Bosselman Contractor Services, Bosselman Tank and Trailer, Bosselman Energy, Bosselman Carriers and their 38-pump and pantry convenience stores.

"This will be our ninth Bosselman Truck Stop next to the travel center," he said. "The shop will feature a four-bay concept that emphasizes truck oil changes, tires, minor repairs, and will feature a large retail store offering truck parts and supplies."

Bosselman said the shop network is the fastest growing segment of the company and the Colby location is in the plans to build a nationwide shop network.

Currently, there are shops located in Kentucky, Iowa, New Mexico, South Dakota and Nebraska. Colby will be the second location in Kansas, the other in Salina.

Bosselman said with Colby, it will increase the Pilot network to 282 locations in 44 states.

"While this location will be owned, operated, managed and branded Bosselman's, it will carry the Pilot marketing brand which will allow the large customer base of the Pilot network to enjoy all the benefits of the Pilot network at this facility," he said.

That gives Bosselman's the ability to market diesel fuel, he said.

Bosselman's is a family-owned business with four-generations involved in the operation. The chairman of the board is Fred Bosselman, 89; with Fred Jr., wholesale director; Chuck, president of retail division; Charlie, vice president of retail; Brandi (Charlie's sister) legal advisor; and Jan (Charlie's mother), corporate secretary.