



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Colby: Place to party Dec. 31

By John Van Nostrand  
Colby Free Press

J&R Marketing is back for more Dec. 31 and they are making plans for more area youth to be back too.

Led by J&R Marketing's Judy and Rich Epp, a lengthy list of area volunteers are preparing for Rappin' and Rockin' New Year's Eve in Colby. For the second year in a row, youth from across the region are invited to Colby Dec. 31 to hear some music, eat pizza and play games all night in safe, comfortable surroundings.

"We feel like we are doing something positive for our area kids," said Judy Epp. "New Year's Eve can be a dangerous night with people out at parties and some having too much to drink."

"We want to do something for kids where the kids won't have to face those kind of problems."

Something to do is right. Last year, more than 600 kids showed up those things.

This year's event starts at 9 p.m. with two concerts.

Three Cords Wonder, a Christian band from Denver, Colo., and Christian-rap artist John Reuben will play at the Colby Community Building.

After the final song, those kids will then have a variety of selections throughout the night. Using several venues across Colby, those kids can play basketball, dodge ball, go bowling, watch movies or try their own musical talent with a battle of the bands.

Colby's Berean Church has acquired the movie "Facing the Giants" for the night. The movie, released earlier this year but still in the theaters, is about a struggling high school football team and how they respond to losing on and off the field.

The movie is scheduled to be released on DVD next month.

What the Berean Church has done is just an example of the involvement of people helping plan the party.

"We felt last year was a tremendous success," said Brian Moore, a pastor from Yorba Linda, Calif., who will speak at the event and help, just like he did last year.

Moore was contacted by the Epps to help with last year's party. The Epps learned of how Moore and his wife Shannon connected with youth speaking at various events across the country.

Brian has found about 30 students from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo., to volunteer with the event. Prior to California, Moore was a minister at the college.

"I could have got more students," Moore said.

Judy is appreciative of the help and purpose from Moore and those students.

"Kids need a good role model and some good advice," Judy said. "Brian and Shannon will do just that for those kids who come."

Only 1,000 tickets are available for the event. Tickets are available at the His Shop and Farmers and Merchants Bank's Dillons branch in Colby.

J&R Marketing has ticket distributors across northwest Kansas. In Goodland, contact Ben Coats at Calvary Gospel Church; St. Francis, Kary Zweygardt; Oberlin, Doug Mason; Norton, Trent Richmond and Oakley, Jason Schmidt at the Christian Church; Justin Banks in Scott City; Rick Dewees in Sharon Springs; Greg Woolf in Quinter and Hill City and Tim Morehart at Colby Wesleyan Church.

For information, call J&R Marketing at (785) 443-1994.



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

**ABOVE:** Mike McCarty looks at a line of about 200 cows standing in the milking parlor of the family owned McCarty dairy which is southwest of Rexford. The family will open a second dairy in Cheyenne County in August. **RIGHT:** Leonardo Ortega prepares a cow for milking at the McCarty dairy near Rexford. Ortega is one of the 16 employees at the dairy which generates 13,000 gallons of milk each day.



## Rexford's dairy operation continues to grow

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

When Tom and Judy McCarty moved their dairy operation to Rexford from Pennsylvania in 1999, they brought holiday traditions with them they share with family and staff members.

"We had no inkling of the impact we'd have on the school and economics of this area," Tom McCarty said. "We're working with 14 families and about 30 children, but not all of them are in school."

The McCartys have just finished Christmas shopping for the families and children.

"To me, it's a big deal and we always try to do something for them at Christmas," Tom McCarty said. "We want to show them respect for their respect for

us." Respect, determination and hard work are the elements paying off for the McCartys, who, in August 2007 will open a second dairy four miles east of Bird City in Cheyenne County.

"With three boys here, we definitely can do more than we are now," McCarty said.

"We are in a position to have more management skills used and have the ability to expand the boys, horizons."

"That's our biggest goal."

Referring to Mike, Clay and Ken, McCarty said a fourth son, David, who manages a dairy near Syracuse may one day join his brothers in northwest Kansas. As far as the facility opening in Cheyenne County, Mike will manage it.

Mike said the biggest impact the new dairy will have will be moving yet again. He moved to Rexford

from Wyalusing, Penn., in 1999. He said he and his wife, Amy, and their two sons, will continue the fourth generation dairy business.

He said while the move and opening a new dairy will be challenging, he is excited about meeting new people and hiring new employees.

"The people we've met are great," he said. "But it's hiring new employees and going from zero cows to 1,800 cows in 45 days that will be pretty stressful."

At the dairy located five miles southwest of Rexford on U.S. Highway 83, the McCartys, 16 employees generate about 13,000 gallons of milk each day.

Milking 22 of 24 hours each day, the dairy is operated in three shifts which rotate each month. Mike McCarty said the rotation schedule was suggested by the employees themselves so time with their fam-

ily could vary throughout the day.

The day shift leader is Leonardo Ortega.

He said he enjoys working at the dairy because although he earned an accounting degree in Mexico, he was only able to make \$80 per week at his former job.

"I like working here because I work every day and had no pay in Mexico," Ortega said.

Tom McCarty said while talk of Congressional changes for immigrant workers was a hot topic earlier this year, things have seemed to settle down.

"Things are stable," he said.

McCarty attributes hard work and good workers to the success of the 1,900 head dairy.

Seed money secured from the Century II Foundation, a nonprofit foundation in Bird City, is helping the McCartys prepare for the expan-

sion. "The Century II Foundation has been great to work with," Tom McCarty said.

Century II director Cathy Domsch was unavailable for comment. Carol Redding, Cheyenne County Development Director, said she is excited about the new business for her county.

"We know the dairy is going to benefit the county and school," she said. "I'm all for it. Whatever it takes and whoever can help, that's wonderful."

Redding said she would like to see the McCartys take their new dairy "one step further," and install a digester and generate energy from cattle waste.

"But digesters are very expensive," she said. "But either way, the dairy will be a good thing for Cheyenne County."

## Dairy's growth reflects Golden Plains changes

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

While Bird City residents are closely eyeing the success of the McCarty Dairy in Thomas County, it is Rexford that has benefited from it the past six years.

Soon to be built east of Bird City on U.S. Highway 36, a second McCarty Dairy is scheduled to open in August.

Another entity which has grown from the current dairy is the

Golden Plains school district.

"In the summer of 2000, after the McCarty Dairy was operational, the district employed Velma "Chachi" Ochoa as its first bilingual interpreter," Superintendent Roger Baskerville said.

Chachi's husband, Lionel, was employed by the McCartys. He later became the operation's foreman.

Baskerville said during the 2000-2001 school year, four of Golden Plains' elementary teachers began

### Students numbers increasing

Golden Plains English as a second language growth:  
1999-2000 — 7    2000-2001 — 12    2001-2002 — 26  
2002-2003 — 21    2003-2004 — 15    2004-2005 — 17  
2005-2006 — 28

work on their English as a Second Language endorsement. Those teachers are Lisa Weimer, kindergarten; Teena Johnston, first grade; Lori Miller, second grade; and Deb

Miles, fifth grade.

Baskerville said as the Hispanic population increased in the school district, so did Chachi's responsibilities.

"Bilingual textbooks, materials and supplies were ordered," Baskerville said. "The Golden Plains' minority population was invited to participate in the school system's activities, and an ESL advisory committee, consisting of a minority representative, Chachi and elementary, middle school and high school faculty members was formed."

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## Colby clinic welcomes new physician assistant

By Patty Decker  
Free Press Editor

Brewster native Amanda Reid, 25, recently joined the staff at Colby Medical and Surgical Center. As its newest physician assistant, Reid will be working with Dr. LaDonna Regier.

Among her responsibilities, Reid is able to evaluate patients and/or follow their acute and chronic medical conditions, perform minor surgical procedures, prescribe medicine, treat broken bones and more.

A 2000 graduate of Brewster High School, Reid attended Colby Community College and Fort Hays State University before completing her physician assistant degree at Wichita State University.

For many years, Reid said she wanted to do something in the healthcare field, but it wasn't until

her sophomore year in college that she made the decision to become a physician assistant.

"I took part in the University of Kansas mentoring program in 2002," she said, "and after working with Dr. Regier, Physician Assistant Brian Unruh, and the other nurse practitioners here at the clinic, I knew I wanted to do what Brian did."

As a physician assistant, Reid said her emphasis is in family practice and children. She started seeing patients in November and spoke about the job and being home.

"It's great to be back," Reid said, "and everyone at here (Colby Medical and Surgical Center) is so helpful."

Reid and her husband, Jordan, have one son, Blayne. Her parents are Keith and Chris Hoyt of Brewster and Brad Robben of Sharon Springs.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Amanda Reid, left, reviews a file with Julia Jennings, registered nurse, at Colby Medical and Surgical Center. Reid is a new physician assistant.