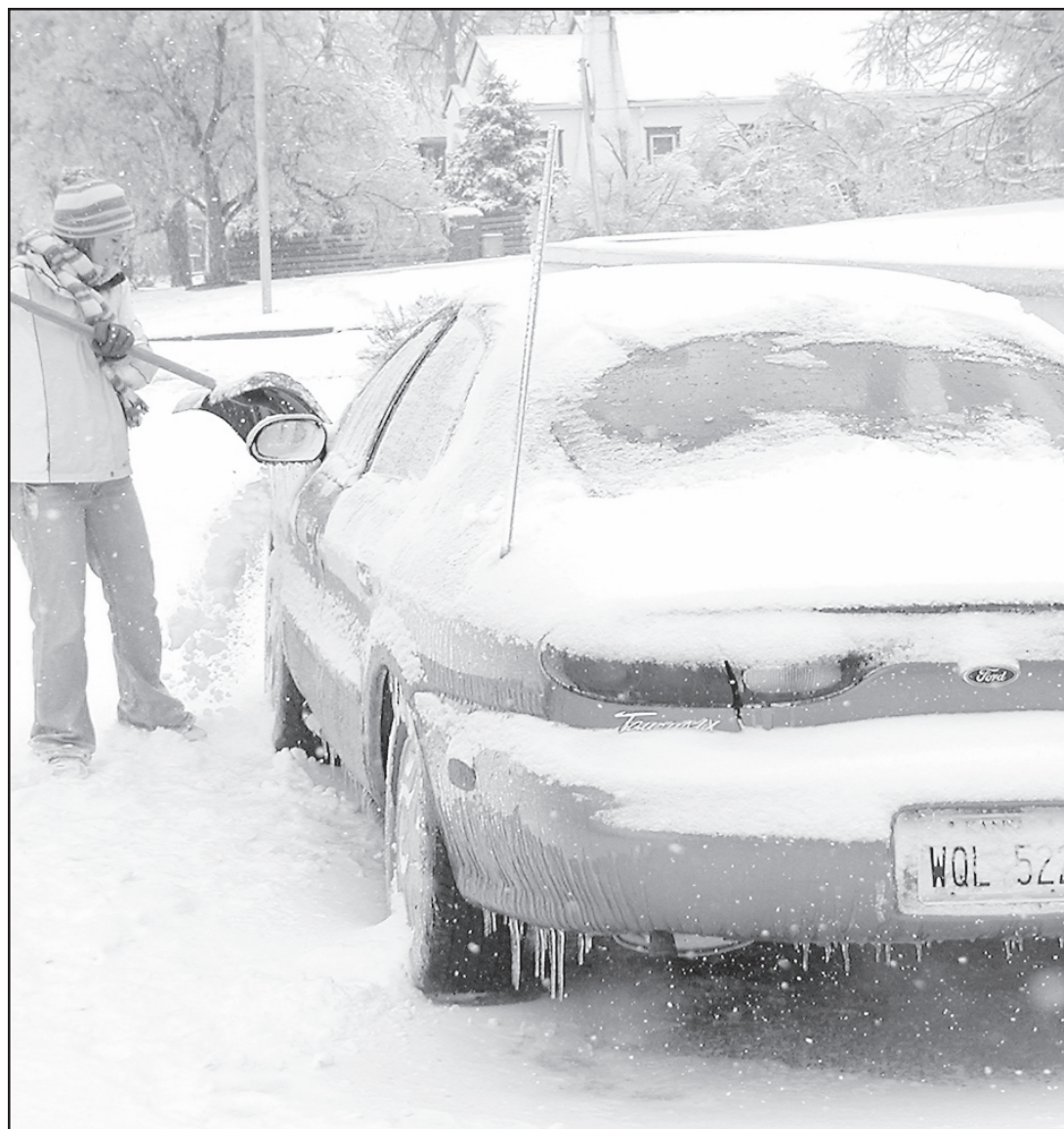




COLBY FREE PRESS

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Clear snow, repeat if necessary



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Angela Rasmussen removed snow from her car after last week's storm. More snow is expected starting Thursday, and the area is under a winter storm watch. The storm is forecast to produce heavy snowfall starting Thursday afternoon. The storm is expected to begin as a mixture of rain and freezing rain before turning into all snow Thursday night. In addition to the snow, winds up to 35 mph and gusts up to 45 mph are expected Friday. Snowfall amounts by Saturday morning are expected to be between 11 and 16 inches with larger amounts from McCook, Neb., to Hill City.

College athletic director dies

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press Publisher

Although he was not always formally dressed like other college athletic directors, Colby Community College's Carl Adams was still doing the work of an athletic director.

Adams, 53, died Friday at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

"He was not out there wearing a suit and tie," said Colby Community College President Dr. Lynn Kreider. "But he was doing things not a lot of ADs do. He was doing what needed to be done."

A 1971 graduate of Hoxie High School, Adams played baseball at Colby Community College from 1971-1973.

After college, he raised hogs with his father but returned to Colby college in 1984.

In 1999, Adams was named athletic director. Duties include scheduling games, working with coaches, the Jayhawk conference and the National Junior College Athletic Association, plus other responsibilities.

"We have people working on those things and reviewing grades. But what are we going to do for an interim?" Kreider said. "It leaves a big hole."

Before Adams was named athletic director, he directed the softball team to success.

In 1985 he was an assistant women's basketball coach and softball coach. Colby softball began play in 1985. He was named head coach in 1987.

According to college archives, during Adams' first year the Trojan softball team went 17-19 and finished third in the region tournament. In Adams' first five seasons, the Trojans posted an overall record of 131-102. Two players received All-American honors, Dana Reep and Cara Brown.

In 1992 the Trojans were ranked in the top 10 all season in the NJCAA poll before being upset in the Region 6 tournament. They finished the year 35-15 losses.

During the 1995 season, Coach Adams recorded his 200th win at Colby. Over the next five years, the Trojans went 142-115.

In 1997 Colby Community College joined the Jayhawk West Conference. During their first year in the Jayhawk West, the Trojan softball team won the conference with a record of 39-13. Last season, Adams was named Jayhawk West coach of the year. More than 60 of his players continued playing at



Adams

four-year schools.

Entering his 20th season, Adams had a record of 552-467.

Other than softball, the Trojans had plenty of success among its programs under Adams' direction. Last season, the women's basketball team competed at the national tournament for the first time in school history.

The Trojan wrestling team has sent many individuals to the national tournament. Colby wrestling won nationals in 1999.

In November, Trojan women cross country runner Betty Rotich crossed the finish line first at the national meet.

Adams was involved in the college's Backer Club and Ambassador Club, both of which serve as public relation groups for the college.

"The Backers meet weekly," Kreider said. "Carl made sure everyone was at that meeting. He tried to make the coaches more vocal."

One of Kreider's first positions at the college was a coordinator for one of the school's dormitories. He lived on campus. He was also involved in the city of Colby's recreation department. He served as president at one time.

Funeral services were 10:30 a.m. today at Colby United Methodist Church. Burial followed at Hoxie Cemetery.

Man appeals dog ruling

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A Hoxie man is challenging a municipal court ruling in an effort to keep his three dogs the city is calling pit bulls.

Mark Karnes, 27, filed a notice of appeal Friday in Sheridan County District Court appealing Judge Tony Haffner's Dec. 13 ruling about his dogs. Karnes, who is defending himself, had until Friday to file an appeal.

Karnes said, for the past 10 days he has tried to get information about appealing the ruling saying he can't keep his dogs within Hoxie city limits. Claiming he got "nothing but mixed information" from the judge, the city's municipal clerk, as well as several attorneys from Hoxie to Wichita, Karnes decided to represent himself.

"Judge Haffner told me I couldn't file the appeal without having an attorney do it," Mark Karnes said. "Now, on my last day, I finally got something filed. Nobody's giving me straight answers."

Karnes said the city wants to force him out of town.

He said he has kept his dogs which are Labrador retriever and Shar-Pei mix inside his home or in a locked and fenced area of his backyard for the past five years without incident.

"I don't know why they are going after me like this," Mark Karnes said. "Basically, they are trying to make me move."

Karnes said his attempts to register his dogs have failed, being told he could not register them unless he could provide proof of the breed.

Despite Karnes' claim he does not own pit bull dogs, Hoxie's ordinance states dogs which are pit bulls, or have the appearance or characteristics of pit bulls, can be in the city as long as they are registered; leashed or muzzled; confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel; have signs posted to their presence; be covered by liability insurance; identified by photograph; and reported to the city of its whereabouts and health conditions, sale or transfer of ownership.

Karnes said the city contacted him about his dogs in July, after Hoxie Chief of Police John Bieker took a photograph of his dogs while they were in a locked kennel outside his home.

He said Bieker took the photo to City Attorney Ken Eland, who filed



Karnes

a complaint against him. After contacted by the city, Karnes said he took measures to make sure he complied with the city's ordinance, including trying to register the dogs.

In June, Mayor Lori Horesky and City Commissioners Jim Erwin and Troy Dewey decided if a dog's breed is under question, the local veterinarian will make the call about its breed.

Records on file at Dr. Mark Poell's office list Karnes' dogs as a mixed breed.

Karnes said during his Dec. 13 hearing about the dogs, instead of having Poell look at them and review his files, Haffner went to his home and looked at the dogs.

Karnes said the city violated its own ordinance by not letting him register the dogs. And he said the city violated its own policy by not having a local veterinarian determine the breed of the dogs.

Haffner, who will not comment about his ruling, ordered Karnes to pay \$600 in fines, plus court costs and dog registration fees.

Karnes, mother, Loretta Karnes is helping her son in his effort.

"We have tons of information from working on this, Loretta Karnes said, "But getting Judge Haffner to listen to us was a joke. He basically told us that he worked for a guy that used to breed pit bulls, but

New owner of ServiceMaster not new to work, customers

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

ServiceMaster of Northwest Kansas' customers probably can't see any difference with its new owner.

This fall, Robert Rinehart purchased the business at 335 N. Franklin Ave. in Colby, from Tom Bethel. Rinehart worked for Bethel for 11 years. Bethel owned the business 23 years.

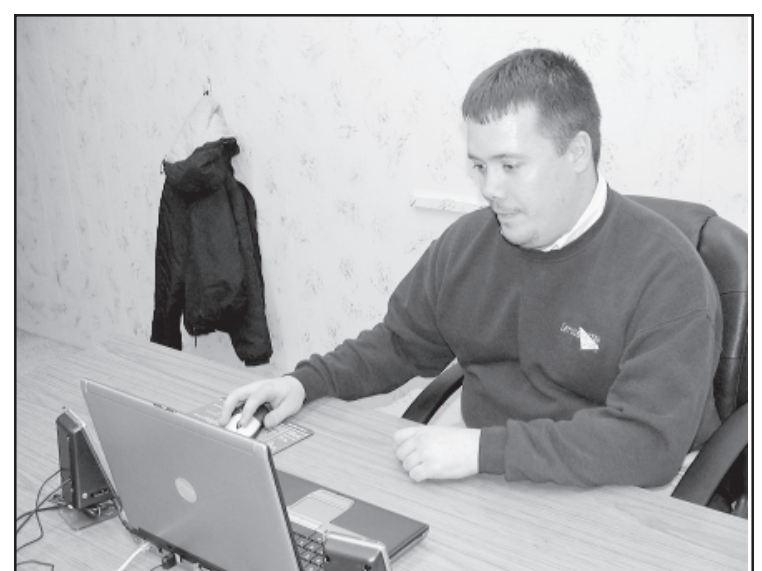
He said Bethel did a good job in past years building up a clientele.

"He made it what it is and hopefully I can carry on what he's done," Rinehart said.

ServiceMaster does fire and water damage cleanup and restoration and cleans carpets, upholstery and duct work.

"You name it, we'll clean it," Rinehart said. "At least we'll try."

For example, if someone's basement floods, Rinehart and staff will clean and dry the carpet and walls and return it to its original form. He said the sooner the better when it comes to cleaning and repairing damage. The longer the wait, secondary dam-



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Robert Rinehart, the new owner of ServiceMaster of Northwest Kansas, purchased the business after working there for 11 years.

age can occur, such as mold.

"We have to be on top of things," Rinehart said.

Rinehart and head technician Matt Schmidtberger and a small custodial staff are the employees.

Colby's ServiceMaster is the only one serving northwest Kansas. But work spreads into other regions.

Currently, they are working on a fire cleanup in Sharon Springs.

Other projects have been in Collyer, Maxwell, Neb., and Limon, Colo.

"We try to stay as busy as possible," Rinehart said.

Rinehart and his wife Carrie have been married 10 years. They have three children, 7-year old Leighton and 4-year-old twins Lydia and Landon.

Kansas government hiring still outpaces private job growth

TOPEKA (AP) — Government remains the biggest job-producing part of the state economy over the past year, a trend still generating worries despite Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' optimism about the future.

A report from the state Department of Labor showed that government agencies, including local ones, had 6,000 more employees in November than they did in November 2005. That meant government payrolls grew by 2.3 percent to more than 266,000.

Absent that growth, the state

would have seen total nonfarm employment slip by 2,400 jobs over the last year. That has led business and anti-tax groups and some legislators, particularly conservative Republicans, to suggest the economy is softer than it is portrayed.

"We've been sluggish for so long, it really started adding up over time," Alan Cobb, the director of the Kansas chapter of Americans for Prosperity, said Tuesday. "It should be a major concern, and frankly we don't hear much about it."

The department's latest jobs report also said unemployment re-

mained constant at 4.2 percent in November, compared with October. And the rate was significantly better than the 5 percent seen in November 2005.

And Labor Secretary Jim Garner said job growth continues across the economy, including slight growth in manufacturing, and across the state.

"Low unemployment and continued job growth reflect the overall improvement in the Kansas economy," he said.

The Department of Labor's latest report, issued last week, estimated

that more than 1.42 million Kansans held jobs in November and fewer than 62,000 were unemployed. Those figures were slightly better than October's and somewhat better than figures for November 2005.

When it comes to nonfarm jobs — figures that exclude people who work only a few hours a week or have part-time home businesses — Kansas also has seen overall job growth of about 3,600, or 0.3 percent, when November is compared with November 2005.

Sebelius said in a recent inter-

view that Kansas starts 2007 "in better economic shape than we've been in, in years."

"A lot of positive news is on the horizon," she said.

Cobb disagreed, noting federal figures that showed Kansas next to last among states in private-sector job growth from November 2005 to November 2006. If Kansas' private-sector job growth had mirrored the national average, he said, the state would have 16,000 additional jobs.

From November 2005 to November 2006, while manufacturing

companies added 200 jobs — employment growth of one-tenth of 1 percent — construction and mining companies shed 1,600 jobs. Some services industries also lost jobs.

Americans for Prosperity contends legislators should consider broad tax cuts to stimulate the economy, as well as rein in spending.

Labor statistics: <http://laborstats.dol.ks.gov>
Americans for Prosperity: <http://www.americansforprosperity.org/index.php?state=ks>