



10 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Lions on their way to Detroit zoo

By Andy Heintz

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The three lions that have been living near the Free Breakfast Inn, a motel on U.S. 83 near the north Oakley exit off of Interstate 70, are headed to a new home. The lions were loaded up in large crates

and put into big rental trucks before leaving for the Detroit Zoo on Tuesday afternoon, said Thomas County Sheriff Rod Taylor. The operation lasted from noon until about 3:30 p.m., said Taylor.

He said the lions had to be sedated before they were loaded into the crates. Oakley veterinarian Kristy Booker assisted Detroit Zoo workers, the sheriff said.

The costs to the county for this project stands at \$1,500, said Taylor, adding that the bill will rise after Booker is paid. The costs so far reflects paying Booker for sedating the lions, drawing blood from all five animals, sending blood specimens to a lab and the fee for blood tests.

The two tigers that remain captive near the motel will be moved from the area

Monday, April 13, through Wednesday, April 15. They will go to the Carnivore Preservation Trust in Pittsboro, N.C.

Booker will helping workers remove the tigers also, Taylor said.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an animal rights group known as PETA, has agreed to help with some of the expenses, said Taylor.

County Clerk Shelly Harms asked at the commissioners' meeting Tuesday if there was anyway to make Jeffrey Harsh, owner of the motel, pay the costs for moving the big cats.

Taylor said making Harsh pay would be difficult because none of the property near the hotel, where the animals have been kept, is under his name.

## Firemen hose down chicken coop



Volunteer firefighter Zach Golemboski sprayed an old chicken house owned by Damon Andrews at 1898 County Road 21 on Tuesday while volunteer Lynn Marker helped hold the hose

and another firefighter inspected the scene. The fire started when a dog knocked down a heat lamp, setting fire to the building, said shift firefighter Ross Carney.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

## Closet's contents bury moms in prom gowns

By Vera Sloan

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Keeping your daughters' prom gowns in the closet until those daughters have produced daughters of their own is a pretty common problem, nearly every mother of girls will agree.

A Colby woman decided to clean her closets and help with a worthy project, and wound up with an idea for recycling those old prom dresses, too.

Sue Draper, human resources coordinator at Citizens Medical Center, said she gave what seemed like mountains of clothes to the Kansas Women's Leadership Conference's "gently used" clothing and accessories drive last month. The project gathered clothing from women's organizations across the state for two agencies that help women, Dress for Success of Wichita and the Family Crisis Services of Garden City.

But when Draper came to what she thought was the end of the project, she opened one last closet door, and there, hanging in bags from the cleaners, were no less than 20 formal gowns her two daughters had worn only one time each.

"My stars," Draper said she exclaimed,

"I've got to do something."

Of her daughters, Tanya (Chad) Douthitt lives in Brandon, S.D., and is executive director of the Rape and Domestic Abuse Center in Sioux Falls. Shanda, who lives in Colby, is a social worker for Hospice Services and coach of the college equestrian team.

Draper said she got on the phone with other moms and friends of her daughters, and together they came up with a pile of dresses — and an idea that sounded pretty good. They would have a sale of "gently used" formal gowns, with some of the proceeds going to Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank. A date was set, and anyone seeking a beautiful and fun prom gown will be able to buy one for only \$20 when they go on sale from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday in the First Presbyterian Church basement.

"When word got around that there would be an outlet for the gowns," Draper said, "we've had a tremendous response. We have over 50 gowns, with some shoes dyed to match."

She said they have gowns of many sizes, colors and styles, with beads, sequins, tulle and fringes. Come take a look and try on the dresses, she said. At only \$20 each, you might even want to buy two.

For information, call Draper at 460-6332.

## Six candidates handle queries

By Andy Heintz

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Six candidates running for the Colby Community College board answered questions and shared their views on issues Tuesday night in a candidate forum that was one of their last chances to pick up votes before Tuesday's election.

The six are battling for three open spots on the board; The three who get the most votes will fill the three positions.

The candidates are Cindy Black, Kenton K. Krehbiel, Shad Metcalf,

Robert Renner, Bill Shields and Vernon Wranosky. Kreibel and Black are running for re-election. The other open spot on the board was held by Cleona Flipse, who decided not to run for re-election.

Here are some of the views expressed by the candidates at the forum:

**Cindy Black**, owner of High Plains Printing, defended the board's decisions to add new dorms on campus and to recruit international students when posed by a question that implied that

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## Top band Little Texas coming here next week

Area music fans will be treated to the music of Little Texas, one of country music's perennial favorite groups, at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Community Building.

In 20 years of performances, Little Texas has won both Academy of County Music and Country Music Association awards. Original members still with the

group are Porter Howell, Del Gray, Duane Propes and Dwayne O'Brien.

Tickets are \$25 at the door, or \$10 with discount coupons from sponsoring businesses. The concert is sponsored by Rocking M Radio, which includes KXXX and KRQD in Colby, and KWGB in Goodland.

## Forum to focus on city, schools

A public forum for Colby City Council and Colby School Board candidates will begin at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Frahm Theater in the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center.

Six candidates are running for the three slots on the school board: J.C. Carter, Janice Frahm, Gerald Fulwider, Susan McClemore, Tracy Rogers and Dale Vap. Frahm, Fulwider and Black are all running for re-election.

The City Council has four candidates, one for each of four positions, including a write-in candidate: Tim Hutfles, Ward III; Mark Beringer, Ward IV; David G. Voss, Ward II; and write-in candidate Omar Weber, Ward I.

Hutfles and Beringer are both running for re-election. Colby citizens may vote only for the councilmen in their respective wards, said Kristi Mann, assistant deputy county clerk.

The event was being sponsored by the college Endowment Foundation, Colby Rotary Club and the *Colby Free Press*. Steve Ziegelmeier from Colby Rotary will be moderator for the evening.

Each race could last about an hour, said Rotary President Relda Galli said, though a few candidates had previous commitments.

Candidates will answer questions written in advance by Rotary members or submitted in writing from the audience before the forum, she said. No questions will be taken from the audience during the forum. Each candidate will be given time to summarize at the end of their session, said Galli.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Buried under layers of frill, Sue Draper and daughter Shanda had a good time reminiscing about all the different events Shanda and sister Tanya attended in their beautiful gowns.

## Briefly

### Come to library for lunch, talks

The Pioneer Memorial Library plans book reviews, talks by authors and lunch at noon each day for National Library Week, April 13-17. The library plans book reviews each day, with authors for three and two by local reviewers. A free lunch (really!) will be served at noon. (Participants can give a donation if they wish.) Book reviews begin at 12:15.

### Hospital offers childbirth class

Citizens Medical Center plans a four-week series of childbirth education classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays starting this week. Mothers who expect to deliver before August should attend with their labor support partner. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at (785) 460-4850.

### High School 'WhoDunit' set

Come help solve them mystery of "The Great High

School WhoDunit" at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Colby High School auditorium. The forensics team will have a donation soup supper before the show from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the commons area and a dessert buffet during intermission. During the break, there'll be a clue hunt. Tickets are available at the door, from cast members or at the high school office at \$4 for adults and \$2 for students.

### Free tax help offered at library

Free tax help will be available for low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays through mid-April at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The program is sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons. Call 460-2645 for information.

### School looking for students

Heartland Christian School plans a kindergarten

and preschool open house Friday for parents and students ready for fall classes. A short meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the school, 1995 W. Fourth St. in Colby. For information, call (785) 460-6419.

### College plans wind seminar

Colby Community College will hold a seminar on wind energy for rural landowners from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. Lunch will be provided. Topics will include lease arrangements, agricultural implications and community wind development. Landowners around Mingo, where a large wind farm is planned, may want to attend. Cost is \$10. To register, contact Kathy Cayton at (785) 460-5413 or go to the college website at [www.colbycc.edu](http://www.colbycc.edu).

### Church plans big auction

Colby Berean Church will have an auction at 9

a.m. Saturday at the TNT-Jones auction house, 200 N. Franklin. Items include antiques, tools, vehicle, furniture and household. Berean Youth will have a food stand. Auction items can be previewed from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday and after 8 a.m. the day of auction. For information call (785) 443-3433 or 462-6664.

### Kiwanis egg hunt Saturday

The annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Colby Kiwanis Club will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Fike Park. Kids will be divided into groups for age 3 and younger, at 10 a.m.; 4-6 at 10:10 and 7-9 at 10:30. In case of bad weather, listen to KQLS or KXXX radio. For information, call Scott Haas at 460-3922.



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