



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Department sees boost from billing

By Vera Sloan  
Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansan.com

Increasing the bottom line of the County Health Department from \$17,000 to \$100,000 was good news for the county, when the commissioners heard from health department director, Connie Walden, on Monday.

Walden was at the meeting to ask that college student Andrea Jenkins, entry data employee, be bumped to \$10 an hour when she takes over the job of biller.

"The biller is a crucial part of our department, and is the very reason for the increase in the bottom line," Walden said.

Kasih Rothchild, finance administrator, said the current biller, Lori Allen will be moving from the area, and the request is just to retain a position. They will fill the data entry position at a later date. The job is part time, with no benefits, Walden said. They approved

the request for the biller at \$10 an hour.

Office Complex Custodian Al Smith presented bids for the heating and air conditioning wall units for the health department. McClure's Plumbing bid was \$2,295, with 50 percent down, and the remainder due 10 days after final billing after completion. The bid from McKee's was \$2,400 with no money up front. The units have a 15 to 20 year life expectancy. After discussion about replacement, the commissioners general consensus was to replace old units on an as needed basis.

The commissioners chose the McKee bid because they are required to take the "lowest and best bid." They felt the McKee bid was the best, because a job the county had given to McClure's Plumbing 2 years ago concerning reducing a 4 inch water line to a 2 inch water line at the complex, which has not

See "COUNTY," Page 3



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

The Colby High School graduating class of 2009 held a graduation rehearsal on Wednesday at the community building. The students practiced walking in and out of the gymnasium, and were briefed on the procedure for Sunday's ceremony.

## '09 classes prepare for graduation

By Kevin Bottrell  
Colby Free Press  
kbottrell@nwkansan.com

Caps will be flying this weekend as the graduating classes of 2009 make the big leap into the real world.

The commencement ceremony for Colby High School will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday at the Community Building. Baccalaureate will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Community Building theater. Seniors should be at the theater at 2:30 if they are not attending Baccalaureate. Social studies teacher Rick Williams will be speaking. Williams was selected by class vote. Valedictorians Jeremy Harter and Lindsey Wilson and salutatorian Taylor Young will also be speaking.

The commencement ceremony for Heartland Christian School will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday in the Hank Regier Memorial Gym at the school. Doors will open at the school at 2 p.m. Speakers will be graduating se-

nior Abbie Reed and Pastor Jon Hansen. There will be three graduating seniors.

The commencement ceremony for Colby Community College will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Community Building. Graduating students should be in the basement at 1:30 to prepare. The speaker will be student of the year Katelyn Hall. There will be 305 graduating sophomores.

The commencement ceremony for Brewster High School will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday in the high school gym. Baccalaureate will be held at 2 p.m. at the Methodist Church. The speaker will be Mark Ziegler with an introduction by senior Melissa Krumrine.

The Commencement ceremony for Golden Plains High School will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the school. Baccalaureate will be held at the Rexford Community Church. Valedictorian Tanner Moss and salutatorian Tate Bruggeman will be speaking.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Sophomore Jordan Krzycki gave her Mom some flowers at senior recognition night on Monday in between a double-header between the Colby varsity softball team and Thomas More Prep-Marian. This was one of many small ceremonies for graduates involved in school activities held throughout the week.

## Cargill presents farm safety lecture

On Monday, May 4, Cargill put on a farm safety presentation for the elementary and middle school students at Golden Plains sponsored by McCarty Dairy.

The first topic that the presenter talked about was all-terrain vehicles. She said that when driving an all-terrain vehicle, you should have no passengers. If the passenger loses their grip, they could fall off and get run over. The next topic was lawn mowers. Running over an object could send it flying into the air.

The most important topic, tractors, was saved for last. First

of all, the presenter told the kids, if they are not working for family they have to have a special license. Anyone with long hair should have their hair pulled up and tucked in a hat while operating a tractor. This will prevent their hair getting caught somewhere. The presenter told the students that in most farm accidents, kids ages 3-5 were the ones that got injured. The students were shocked to learn that kids ages 12-14 were second.

After the presentation, the McCarty Dairy gave out little bags filled with goodies.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Police officers captured this dog Wednesday near the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The department had been receiving reports of this dog running at large for the past several days.

## More dogs at large expected in summer

By Andy Heintz  
Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansan.com

After three days of hearing reports about a dog on the loose in Colby, the city police department finally tracked down the animal on Tuesday afternoon and catching it was no easy task.

Once the police located the dog on Tuesday it took them about an hour and 30 minutes to catch him, said Chief of Police Randy Jones. The chase ended on the right side of the road on S. Franklin Avenue near the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The dog had hunkered down in the weeds by the road, while police officers attempted to get it controlled and into a police truck nearby.

"The dog was exhausted and didn't want to be touched," said Jones.

The dog was medium sized with a white coat and brown spots. Jones said he thought it was part basset hound.

Officers got to work pulling the weeds out

of the ground and trying get the dog on a couple of poles, long devices with an adjustable noose on one end which allow safe capture of the animal without harming it or the officers. Eventually they secured the dog on the poles and officer Jim Dible lifted him into a cage in the police truck.

Jones said they had been receiving reports of the dog going through trash and eating a dead squirrel that was lying on the road.

"The dog had no collar, so no one knows who it belongs to," Jones said.

Dogs, cats and birds are all included in the city code for at-large animals. According to the city code, it is unlawful for animal owners to permit those animals to run loose in the city. Animals that are outside need to be on leashes. The only exception are law enforcement K9 units.

The police department sees an increase in animals at large this time of year, Jones said, due to the improving weather. More people are out and about with their pets, especially kids. Many people let animals outside, which then

run away, or kids may leave gates unlatched while playing outside. Also, more reports come in of animals at large, Jones said, because more people are outside to see them.

Some animals at large come from traffic on I-70, Jones said. Many people travel through with pets and let them out when they stop, where some run away.

"They might not even know it until they are 100 miles down the road," Jones said.

Procedure in these cases is to track the animal and impound it. The animal is first taken to the Colby Animal Clinic to check for any diseases. If an owner can be identified, a citation and fine may be issued instead of impounding the animal. The fine can be up to \$1,000.

Jones advises Colby residents not to approach strange dogs, they can sometimes be unpredictable. If an owner is present, their permission should be asked before petting the animal.

If a dog or other animal is running at large, please contact the police department.

## Briefly

### Girls scouts to collect flags

Members of Troop 165 of the Colby Girl Scouts, led by Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeier, are collecting old U.S. flags to conduct an honorable disposal. People can put worn flags in a box in the lobby of the Pioneer Public Library now through next Wednesday. "Flags should be disposed of if they appear to be excessively dirty, faded, repaired to a point where they are no longer recognizable, or in general disrepair," she said. For information, call Ostmeier at 460-3298.

### May Chamber Coffee on Friday

The May Chamber Coffee is being held by the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau in conjunction with Tourism week and to celebrate the Visitor Centers Fifth Year Anniversary. Please join us at 10 a.m. Friday morning for refreshments at the Colby Visitor Center (Grain Bin) located at 2016 South

Range. For more information call the Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401.

### Retirement reception Friday

Colby Community College has announced a public reception honoring long-time employees Betty Kruse, Carolyn May, Dr. Phillip Shuman and Becky Vollertsen beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday, in the Student Union. For more information, contact Debbie Schwanke at 460-5411.

### Community Van off on Friday

The Thomas County Community Van will not be running on Friday and on May 18. The van's driver will be off those days. For questions, call the county clerk's office at 460-4500.

### Food sign up is Friday

Prairie Land food sign up will be open until Friday, at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth.

For information, call Gene Griffin, 460-3579.

### Relay team to hold bake sale

Citizens Medical Center Relay for Life Team is having a Bake Sale in front of Wal-Mart at 11 a.m. Saturday. Stars and luminaries will also be available. For information, contact Tracy Munk at 460-4814.

### Coaches to talk with players

A parent-player meeting for next year's Colby High football team will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, in the high school auditorium. Students interested in football who will be in grades nine through 12, and their parents, should attend. For information, contact coach Chris Gardner at 460-1390.

### District to hold retirement party

The Colby schools' board of education and administration are having a retirement reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday at the office at 600 W. Third

St. Two teachers are retiring, Nancy Baker and Sue Nielsen. Also retiring are custodian Richard Koel and food service assistant Betty Unruh. For information, see their ad in Wednesday's and Friday's papers, or call the office at 460-5000.

### Ball league sign-up due soon

Registration for adult softball is due by Friday, May 22, and swim lesson sign up is due by Wednesday, May 27. Girls basketball registration is due next Wednesday. Players and parents should check information on summer activities to get signed up on time. For questions, call the Colby Recreation Department at 460-4440.



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