



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## H1N1 virus infecting east Kansas

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There have now been 79 reported cases of the 2009 H1N1 influenza, otherwise known as the swine flu, in Kansas according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The department is reporting 46 children and 33 adults infected in 11 counties, mostly in eastern Kansas. The counties with confirmed cases are Dickinson, Ford, Geary, Gove, Johnson, Ottawa, Reno, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick and Wyandotte Counties. Geary, Reno, Riley, Saline and Sedgwick Counties had new cases identified this week. The county with the most people infected is Riley County with 23 cases.

Across the country, 7,297 cases of H1N1 have been reported and 11 people have died. According to the World Health Organization 53 countries have reported 15,510 cases of swine flu and 99 people have died.

Department of Health and Environment Director Jason Eberhart-Phillips said the confirmed case count underestimates the number of people who have been infected. He said some people who have not been infected seek care and not

everyone who seeks care is providing a specimen for testing.

The department, in a release Thursday, said it would no longer be testing for H1N1 virus in Kansas counties that have already had positive cases.

"Capacity for testing at the state public health laboratory is limited and has to be restricted primarily to identifying cases in counties not currently known to have widespread viral transmission," Eberhart-Phillips said in the release. "At this point, we shouldn't focus so much on the number of confirmed cases, but on the counties where the virus is being transmitted."

The department is encouraging local healthcare providers to treat a suspected case the same as they would a confirmed case and should continue to report them to the state.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it is uncertain how severe this virus will be compared to other influenza viruses. The organization reported that ways for people to stay healthy include staying informed and taking everyday actions to stay healthy such as covering the nose or

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## Summer fun for area kids at day camp

Austin Bear (above photo), son of Debra and Steven Bear successfully crawled out from under the parachute before it "trapped" him at County Play Day in Fike Park on Thursday. The day of fun was sponsored by the Thomas County Research and Extension Office. Luke O'Brien (right photo), son of Dan and Lois O'Brien, pulled back hard to launch his water balloon at County Play Day on Thursday in Fike Park. About 30 kids attended the annual play day. Junior and Senior 4-H leaders helped with the event.

VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press



## Special ed money put on hold as state faces deficit

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas' budget director says the state will delay payments to public schools to avoid a budget deficit.

Budget Director Duane Goossen said Friday that state officials expect tax collections in May to fall about \$100 million short of expectations. That would leave the state with a deficit when its current fiscal year ends June 30.

Goossen said \$130 million in payments to schools, to finance

their special education programs, are due Monday. They will be delayed several weeks.

Goossen said state also could delay \$52 million in other payments to school districts in June.

The delays are designed to buy the state time. Gov. Mark Parkinson said Thursday night that he expects to impose cuts in the budget approved for the fiscal year beginning July 1.



Students at Brewster Elementary School sang "Don't Worry, Be Happy," as part of their Spring Concert. The students performed many fun songs from previous decades as part of their "Timeless" theme.

## District to hold teaching seminar

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Next week, The Colby School District will play host to teachers from around Kansas as part of a conference on preparing students for the next grade level.

Part I of the iConnect/iLearn Too, will begin with registration at 8 a.m. next Thursday and Friday at the Colby High School, 1890 South Franklin Avenue.

Educators from all over the state will explore project-based learning, strategies to maximize learning,

and new educational software.

"The conference will bring educators together, to focus on meeting student learning needs," said Teresa Morgan, of Colby Charter School. "The conference will be helpful for all teachers, including teachers in a home school setting."

"Its purpose is to share ideas about what middle schoolers need to know to be prepared for high school, and what high schoolers need to know to be prepared for post education, and life time careers, and will focus on starting early to prepare all students for

life in the business world."

The afternoon session is open to the public, parents and teachers, for a question and answer time.

The cost is \$50 per day, or \$100 per site two days with an on-site cost of \$125, or \$150 for all 4 days.

Part II will take place at 8 a.m. June 8 and 9, in Hutchinson Mall at 1500 E. 11th Street, Suite 200. Teachers are invited and encouraged to attend all four days, or two great days in either Colby or Hutchinson.

One graduate credit for each

site will be offered through Baker University, and one to three undergraduate credits will be offered through Colby Community College.

For information on the Colby workshop, call Diana Wieland, at (785) 460-5505, Theresa Morgan at (785) 460-5075, or Megan Pope at (785) 460-5004. For information on the Hutchinson workshop, contact Pam Misunas at (620) 663-9566, or online at pamm@essdack.org. Registration is available online at iconnectilearn.ning.com

## Brewster musicians clean up in Kansas and Colorado music contests

The Brewster High School Band students traveled to Denver on May 9 to compete at the "Music in the Parks" festival. Under the direction of Melanie Biel, the students performed two selections that were judged on a variety of standards. They received the highest rating of superior and were ranked second among all of the 1A bands that competed. The students have a great worth ethic, Biel said, and are looking forward to next year.

Brewster also had four students attend the 1A State Music Festival in Wichita. The students performed in five events and brought home two I's and three II's, the two highest ratings given.

Emily Klemm received a I for her vocal solo. Jessica Klemm received a II on her vocal solo and a I on her percussion solo. Whitney Schultz received a II on her percussion solo and Kasey Hoyt received a II on her vocal solo. Biel said the students have not competed at the state festival for a few years but enjoyed the experience and look forward to participating and improving next year.

The Brewster music program held a Spring Concert on May 4. The theme for the evening was "Timeless." The students prepared selections from every decade from the 1950's through today. They took the audience through the musical timeline and gave some fun his-

tory of each decade in between the musical numbers.

Each student from kindergarten to high school also selected a decade and wore the fashion from that era. Students were decked out in everything from poodle skirts to punk rocker ensembles. Biel said it was fun for the students to see what the trends were in both style and music.

Some fun songs of the evening included "Rock Around the Clock," "Yellow Submarine," "Total Eclipse of the Heart," "Time of Your Life," and a Johnny Cash medley.

## Briefly

### College to hold fishing derby

Colby Community College and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will hold a free "Kids Fishing Derby" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at Villa High Park in Colby. The lake will be stocked with channel catfish and bluegill. The Colby Community College radio station KCJC plans to broadcast live. Wildlife experts will talk to kids about fishing, and there will be a food vendor and face painting. For information, call Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs, at (785) 460-5429. The park is on the east side of Range Avenue south of the KXXX Radio building.

### Church offers financial classes

The Colby Church of Christ will sponsor an introductory class for Financial Peace University, a money management course, at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. For information, call

Josh and Ronda Faber at 460-6548 or Jared Spencer at 443-2403.

### Candidate to stop in Colby

State Senator Tim Huelskamp, R-Meade, who is running for the United States Senate, will be holding a meet and greet campaign stop open to the public at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Fireside Lounge in the Colby Community College Student Union. Huelskamp will be joined by State Senator Ralph Ostermeyer. For information, call Rich Epp at 443-1994.

### District accepting applications

Thomas County Conservation District is accepting applications for State Cost Share Funding on water resource and non-point source pollution projects. Some of the practices eligible include terraces, diversions, livestock pipelines, water wells and septic systems. Cost share rate is at least 60 percent. The

landowner limit will not exceed \$7500 per project. Applications may be picked up at the office at 915 E Walnut or printed from our website at theconservation.com. Deadline is June 5, 2009. For information, call Debbie Potter at 462-7482 extension 303.

### Church offers Bible school

Hop on board the Boomerang Express with the Colby Berean Church Vacation Bible School, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. The school, for children age 4 through sixth grade, will feature an Australian theme. For information, call Suzanne Murdoch at 462-7997 or go to www.colbyberean.com.

### Picnic in Park Wednesday

Plans are underway for Picnic in the Park again this year, sponsored by the Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press. The first lunchtime

concert in Fike Park will be next Wednesday, with events each Wednesday through July 29. In case of bad weather, listen to KXXX/KRDQ Radio. For information, call the Chamber office at 460-3401.

### Bible School coming to Rexford

The Rexford Community Church will have Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon Monday to Friday, for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The theme will be "Amazon Expedition." A program for family, friends and community members will be at 7 p.m. Friday, June 5, with refreshments following. For information, call (785) 687-3305.

