



12 pages

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## Senators hold up appointees over Gitmo

By Kevin Bottrell

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Kansas Sens. Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts said Thursday that they have put holds on 10 presidential appointees until the Obama administration answers their questions about any plans to move prisoners from Guantanamo Bay to Kansas.

Brownback and Roberts said they would hold up senior appointments for the Department of Justice and the Department of Defense until the administration either guarantees that the U.S. Disciplinary Bar-

racks at Fort Leavenworth is off the table, or answers the Kansas congressional delegation's questions on safety and logistics of moving the prisoners here.

Roberts said these questions have been raised by the congressional delegation, by military commanders at Fort Leavenworth and at public meetings the senators held in the eastern Kansas town.

He said he would like a face-to-face meeting with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Attorney General Eric Holder or their representatives on the task force that has been in charge of closing the

Guantanamo Bay prison before releasing the hold. Roberts added that the time this meeting depends on the administration.

"We'll do this as long as we can," he added.

Brownback said the delegation has not had any direct contact with the administration on the issue so far, so they are reacting to media reports. The White House has not made any statement on where the prisoners will be housed.

Brownback and Roberts, along with Kansas Congress members and Gov. Mark Parkinson, have opposed relocating

the prisoners to Fort Leavenworth since the announcement came that the Guantanamo Bay prison was closing, saying many of the suspected terrorists are too dangerous to be housed on American soil.

"We don't need to build a replica of Guantanamo in Leavenworth and just change the name," Brownback said.

Another of the senators' concerns was the proximity of the Command and General Staff College, also located at Fort Leavenworth, and particularly the reaction of foreign armies who send their of-

ficers there.

When Leavenworth was first identified as a candidate for the relocation, Brownback said, three countries pulled their officer candidates out of the school.

Roberts said having the detainees at Leavenworth might damage relations with young officers from Muslim countries who attend the prestigious school.

"It is the intellectual center of the Army," Roberts said. "Why on earth would you want to move in the top 100 worst of the worst?"



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

## Woman's vehicle crashes on U.S. 24

Thomas County Sheriff Rod Taylor (left), Deputy Kraig Cersovsky and Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Cody Honas inspected the scene of a wreck on U.S. 24 about four miles east of Colby on Thursday. Taylor said Amanda Morgan, 27, Selden, told him she was driving her Chevy Trailblazer east just after 6 p.m. She sneezed and looked away from the road. When she looked back, there were two vehicles in front of her waiting to turn left. She swerved, hitting a mower attached to a tractor in the north ditch. The Trailblazer rolled, landing on its side facing west. Taylor said Morgan, who was wearing a seat belt, did not appear to be injured, but was taken to Citizens Medical Center for a checkup.



## Boy Scout troops to camp out on college campus

By Kevin Bottrell

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Boy Scouts from three states will assemble on the Colby Community College campus this weekend for the third annual High Plains Scout Powwow.

Scouts from about a dozen troops from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska will be camping out on the northeast corner of the campus,

said Dean of Facilities Barry Kaaz, one of the organizers of the event. Cub Scouts are also encouraged to attend with their older brethren, he said, and the college has set up activities for them on Saturday including archery, tracking, critter calling and swimming at the college pool. The older Boy Scouts will be able to go swimming or trap shooting Saturday, he said.

Much of the powwow will focus on merit badge classes, Kaaz said. Scout can earn badges in subjects including horsemanship, farm

mechanics, wilderness survival, astronomy or chemistry. The requirements to earn each badge vary, but can include written essays, field work or making presentations.

All of the Scouts who come to the powwow will receive a special patch for the event.

Registration and camping will be Friday, Kaaz said. Merit badge sessions will be Saturday during the morning and afternoon and a bonfire ceremony and retiring of the colors will be Saturday evening.

## Art association marks 40th year with opera star

By Vera Sloan

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Western Plains Arts Association is gearing up for its 40th season, featuring appearances by opera singer Sam Ramey, a Colby native, country singer-songwriter Suzy Bogguss and a big show from Branson, Mo., "#1 Hits of the 60's."

Western Plains got its beginning back in 1969, when Dr. Richard Mosier, then president of Colby

Community College, Jan Harkins and Jo Gatz set up the Colby Cultural Council.

After the bylaws were written, the focus was changed to include all of northwest Kansas, the name was changed to Western Plains Arts Council and in 1978, to lessen confusion with community arts councils, the last word was changed to association.

Board members say they give

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## Colby grad returns as clinic veterinarian

By Vera Sloan

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A Colby Community College grad, Dr. Laura Lawrenz, has returned to practice at the Swartz Veterinary Clinic, a small animal practice on West Fourth Street.

"I didn't always want to be a vet," Dr. Lawrenz said, "but my high school teachers kept telling me I should be, and I guess I made that decision when I was a senior in high school.

"I knew it had to be something related to agriculture, because my roots on the farm are deep."

She said she grew up in the farm house her grandfather was born in, and having no brothers, she was always following in the footsteps of her dad and grandpa.

She said her name is spelled differently than most people with that pronunciation, even though, during the second World War, many

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Boo-Boo, a cute little Chihuahua mix, didn't seem to mind Dr. Laura Lawrenz checking her heartbeat Thursday afternoon at the Swartz Veterinary Clinic.

## Briefly

### RC Club to hold Sunday races

The First Baptist Church RC Club will hold its first August races at 2 p.m. Sunday. Kids 10 or older and adults are welcome; the church can provide cars. For information, call 462-2867.

### Sacred Heart enrollment Monday

Sacred Heart School will hold enrollment for all students in preschool through fifth grade from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday at the school, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call the school at 460-2813.

### Team sells clothes for trip

The Colby High Dance Team will host a "Jockey Person to Person" fund raiser from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Meadow Lake Golf Club. The team will be selling Jockey brand clothing at 50 percent off to help with expenses on their trip to the Liberty Bowl

in January, where they will perform at half time. For information, call Karen Raymond at 460-3694.

### Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. The building is handicapped accessible with an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

### College offers crochet class

Colby Community College will offer a class, Introduction to Crafts - Crocheting, beginning Tuesday, Aug. 18. The one-credit-hour class will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Room 410 of Thomas Hall. Instructor for the nine-week course is Shelly

Rodenbeck. Students may enroll at the first class session. Cost is \$84. For information, call Rodenbeck at (785) 460-5439.

### Crew needs Eagles' T-shirts

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is looking for new and old Colby Eagles T-shirts for a fund raiser. Shirts can be dropped off at the ambulance building on South Franklin, near the hospital, or someone will come get them. For information or a pickup, call Dawnelle Umberger at 443-0176.

### Logo needed for 125th bash

The Prairie Museum of Art and History and the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a logo contest for Thomas County's 125th Anniversary. Entries should include the theme for the celebration: "The Spirit of the Prairie Lives on." They may be submitted on an 8 1/2-by-11 inch

sheet of paper to the museum or the Chamber office by mail or in person by Tuesday, Sept. 15. For information, call the museum at 460-4590 or the Chamber at 460-3401.

### Rexford enrollment next week

Golden Plains School District enrollment will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, and next Friday. Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students will register at the Selden School, while middle and high school students will register at the Rexford building. The first day of the school will be Wednesday, Aug. 26. For information, call Tammy Shaw at (785) 386-4560.



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