

Family

What will you resolve?

To resolve or not to resolve, that is the question: whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous promises or to take arms against a sea of troubles, and by resolving, end them.

To commit, to keep — no more — and by keep, to say we end the heartache and the thousand natural shocks that bad habits are heir to — 'tis a consummation devoutly to be wished. Or maybe not.

With apologies to William Shakespeare, I wax a tad poetic about New Year's resolutions and whether to make them — or not. When I was younger, making New Year's resolutions was just what we did. When we returned to school after vacation, we all exchanged information about the loot we had received for Christmas or Hanukkah, then went on to share our resolutions for the new year.

Of course, nothing profound was ever revealed. Wanting to lose a few pounds, study harder or let up teasing a younger sibling were as deep as we got. And all promises were broken by Valentine's Day anyway. So by the time I got to college, I was making only one resolution each year, and that was not to make any New Year's Resolutions. And I have been pretty good about keeping that one from year to year.

New Year's resolutions seem to be a good way to commit to some kind of self-improvement project, and for some, these commitments really work. Pounds are shed, cigarettes are tossed, savings accounts grow, families spend more time together, odd jobs and house



Carol Rahn

• From the Pulpit

cleaning get done. Positive steps are taken and good things happen.

But for others, these resolutions become just one more way of promising something that we know, deep down, probably won't happen. And at least we're being honest with ourselves. But as honest as we might be, we still don't change. We're the same person on Jan. 1 as we were on Dec. 31.

How different this is from what Paul writes to the church in Corinth: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Cor. 5:17, NRSV)

The joy of this promise is that we don't have to do anything. We don't have to make resolutions, kept or forgotten. God, in Christ, does all the work for us. We become new creations through Christ's grace, and his grace alone. No amount of New Year's resolutions can change us so profoundly, nor so permanently, as the new life we receive in Christ.

The hard part is believing and accepting such a gracious gift. Our rational, human self tells us we have to work hard, struggle, earn everything — and here God is, giving us this hope of being a new creation in Christ for nothing.

We certainly don't deserve it,

but God still gives it to us. We keep breaking all our well-intended resolutions, yet in Christ we remain new. Not very logical, but whoever said God was confined to human logic anyway?

We are a new creation in Christ. This is the great gift of Christmas. We have just finished celebrating the birth of Jesus, giving thanks for Emmanuel, God with us.

Through Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection we are made new. He is God's Christmas present/presence for us.

It seems to me that the best thing we can do as we prepare to enter a New Year is to accept this gift and invite and allow the present/presence of Jesus to work in our lives, to let the Holy Spirit lead us into living more fully as the new creatures God has made us in Christ.

How you accept this gift is up to you. Go to church more — or start going — pray, read scripture, live as if you truly were the new creation Christ has already gifted you to be. Feel the freedom of being liberated from your sins, give thanks in all things, love God, others and even yourselves with a bit more abandonment and joy.

God has already resolved that in Christ we are new creations. Now that's a resolution worth keeping. May you know God's blessings in 2010. The joy, love and peace of being new creations in Christ be with you in this new year.

Carol Rahn is pastor of Colby's First Presbyterian Church.

Babies

Cristian Gabriel Garcia

Cristian Gabriel Garcia, son of Manuel and Mina Garcia of Rexford, was born Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center. He weighed 7 pounds and measured 19 inches.

Siblings Maribel, Raquel, Jesus, and Miguel welcomed the baby home.

Grandmother is Maria Vallez of Mexico.



Cristian G.

Katharine Anthony

Katharine Elizabeth Anthony, daughter of Michael and Hanna Anthony of New Albany, Ind., was born Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2009, at Norton Hospital in Louisville, Ky. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 22 inches.

She is the granddaughter of Fred and Karen Gatlin of Topeka, and great-granddaughter of Jerry and Lorraine Downing of Colby.



Katharine A.

Tanner Daniel Lankas

Tanner Daniel Lankas, son of Mike and Kimberly Lankas of Atwood, was born Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 19.5 inches.

Sister Paige Katherin Lankas welcomed the baby home.

Grandparents are Daniel and Sally Lankas of Atwood and Wesley and Jose Dreyer of Dixon, Tenn.



Tanner L.

No free ride at 911

OLDSMAR, Fla. (AP) — Authorities say a Florida man who called 911 claiming he'd been beaten and shot at was hoping the tale would get him a ride to a bar.

Instead, 37-year-old Gregory J. Oras is facing charges of misusing the 911 system and battery of a law enforcement officer.

An arrest report says Oras called 911 three times before his arrest early Tuesday in Oldsmar, northwest of Tampa. He told the dis-

patcher he had a broken nose and bleeding ears, and claimed people were shooting at him.

Authorities say he was actually looking for a ride to another bar.

The report also says Oras kicked a Pinellas County sheriff's deputy in the knees and a Taser was used to subdue him.

Online records show he is being held at the Pinellas County Jail but don't indicate whether he has an attorney.

Senior Center

There will be a board meeting following lunch at the Senior Progress Center on Tuesday.

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 10:30 a.m., shuffle board. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m., exercise; board meeting. **Wednesday:** popcorn day. **Thursday:** 10 a.m., exercise; 10:30 a.m., pinocle game. **Friday:** 10 a.m., exercise; 10:30 a.m., Wii game.

Menus for the week: **Monday:** smothered steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, choice fruit. **Tuesday:** salmon loaf or patties, winter mix vegetables, jello with carrots/pineapple, fruit crisp. **Wednesday:** cheeseburger upside down pizza, corn, mandarin oranges, pudding. **Thursday:** ham, sweet potatoes, cole slaw, applesauce. **Friday:** chicken and noodles, peas, strawberries and bananas, dinner roll, brownie.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service. A contribution of \$2.75 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$5 for others.

Make reservations at (784) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.28
Corn (bushel)	\$3.56
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.71
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.26

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.com

Corrections

The story "Businesses, office close for New Year's" on Page 1 of the Wednesday, Dec. 30, Colby Free Press incorrectly stated that the fuel pumps at Dillon's would be closed on Friday. The fuel pumps will be open regular hours.

This was a writing error. **☆☆☆☆**
The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 785-460-2656; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

Schedule of church services

- GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.
- COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
- ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.
- COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday Nite Life at The Rock 5-6 p.m.. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.
- BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic.
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: Sundays at 7 p.m. RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.
- COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's.
- PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
- WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)
- TO become a sponsor, call Heather or Jasmine today at 462-3963.**
- MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.
- SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
- WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 785-460-2656; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.
- REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.
- COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Interpretation for the deaf, Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.
- OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Don White and Rev. Tim Llewellyn, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.; Services, 11:00 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.
- LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.
- BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
- THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.
- REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
- BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

American Profile
HOMETOWN RECIPES FOR THE Holidays

Give the gift of good taste... and smell, fun and good memories

American Profile — yep, the magazine that comes in the local paper and always has a great recipe — now has a great cookbook. Get 120 recipes categorized by holiday for yourself or as a gift. Just \$18.95 plus tax. Available at:

COLBY FREE PRESS
155 W. 5th, Colby 785-462-3963

2010

Come join us New Years Eve!

Enjoy our delicious Prime Rib and drink specials.

Fabulous party favors and complimentary Champagne Toast at midnight!

Open 5 p.m. - 2 a.m.

CITY LIMITS BAR & GRILL

Located next to Comfort Inn in Colby
785-462-6565

Southwind Realty 1085 Taylor Ave. Colby, KS 785-460-3721

COLBY LUMBER Bud Van Horn and Staff 1760 W. 4th 462-2181

COLBY FREE PRESS 155 W. 5th • Colby ~ 462-3963