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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Sara and Cole Keiswetter of Hill City prepared to take their new daughter Brayli home from Citizens Medical Center this morning. Brayli was the first baby born in Thomas County this year.

## Hill City couple has New Year's first baby

Brayli Ann Keiswetter became the first baby born in Thomas County this year at 6:31 p.m. Monday at Citizens Medical Center.

Brayli weighed in at 8.13 pounds and measured 19 1/2 inches. His parents, Sara and Cole Keiswetter of Hill City, took her home today.

Sara said the birth took just 10 minutes, despite a hectic night that included several emergency calls for their doctor, Darren Matchell. Her original due date was Jan. 30.

"It was pretty easy," the new mother said.

The Keiswetters also have a boy, Koby, 20 months old. Sara said they weren't sure how Koby would react to his new sister.

"He likes other babies," she said. "Hopefully he'll like this one, too."

She said the Keiswetters have family living in Thomas County. Sara's sister, Brandi Niblock, who lives in Brewster is outreach coordinator at

Colby Community College. Sara said both she and Cole graduated from the college.

As the first baby of the new year, Brayli will receive a "WoodWick" candle from Inlow Interiors, a plush blanket from Gouloush, a three-piece baby set from Horlacher Jewelers, a 1-month membership to Jump Start Fitness Center, a \$20 gift card at City Limits Bar and Grill, a free family night out at Colby Bowl, \$25 towards a savings account at Farmers and Merchants Bank, a John Deere "one-sie" from Colby Implement, a \$20 gift certificate at Village Inn, \$10 from Kansas Country Store, a \$10 gift card at Gambino's Pizza, 50 percent off stain guard protection at MC Auto Outlet and a one-year subscription to *The Colby Free Press*.

The family also received a \$100 savings bond from the hospital's foundation and a scholarship from the college.

## County health nurse resigns from her post

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press  
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Connie Walden resigned her position as Thomas County health nurse last Wednesday, ending 11 years with the county Health Department.

At a commissioners' meeting on Dec. 21, four health department employees asked to meet with the commissioners in a closed-door session. After a phone call to the Kansas Attorney General to get approval to meet with that many workers in a single session, the commissioners spent 30 minutes with four employees: the department's administrative director, Kasiah Rothchild, registered nurse Amy Knipp, biller Andrea Jenkins and medical records clerk Kendra Glassman.

The commissioners took no action after the session. Walden, who

lives in Hoxie, was scheduled for a closed session with the commissioners at their end-of-year meeting on Thursday, but she resigned and turned her keys in to county clerk Shelly Harms' office at 5:15 p.m. the day before, Harms said.

Walden was not present for the meeting. The commissioners accepted the resignation.

Her resignation has left the department without a registered nurse since Amy Knipp is on maternity leave. The department has operated with two registered nurses for more than a year to avoid any gap in service.

At the commissioners' first meeting of the new year on Monday, they named Rothchild as the new department director.

They authorized her to begin the search for a nurse to work 36 hours a week, with salary to be negotiable.

"After you have sought out the

person you think is the right one, we expect you to come back to us for salary approval," said Commissioner Paul Steele.

Rothchild said she would like to continue to hand out questionnaires in the department, because she believes they are a good accountability tool.

She said that during the interim, with no registered nurse on duty, the department is trying to get the word out to nurses in the area that they need someone to come in and do immunizations. Nurse Practitioner Juanita Gatz is filling in with family planning duties, she said, and since most people know they are supposed to make appointments, the office is letting people know they will get them in to the clinic as soon as possible.

To make an appointment or for information, call (785) 460-4596.

## Retired area business owner looks back on successful life

By Aubrey Spencer

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Hard work, hardship and huge rewards are no stranger to long-time Colby resident Richard Cox.

His is a real rags to riches story; he was able to accomplish much with only a seventh grade education.

Cox said he was born in 1922 in McGregor, Texas, and his father was hard of hearing and couldn't get a job because of it. After finishing the seventh grade in 1938, and needing to help his family, Cox decided to join a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in White Rock, Texas, to earn money and gain skills for his future.

The corps was formed in April 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide men 18 to 25 with both work and the opportunity to learn a trade.

Cox served at the Dallas-area camp for two years. He made \$30 a month, but \$25 was sent home to his father, mother, and three younger brothers, so Cox came away each month with only five dollars in his pocket.

In 1943, Cox said, he was drafted into the Navy at the age of 20. After boot camp, he was sent with 25 other men to Diesel Engineering School at Iowa State University in Ames. The program lasted six months and the top five in the class were sent to advanced Diesel Engineering School at the University of California, Berkeley. Cox said he spent six months in the advanced program.

Cox then was sent overseas to the Philippines. After the war, he was brought back to the states and was discharged in February 1946 in Norman, Okla.

Looking for work and something to do, Cox said, he caught a ride to Colby that February. He



Cox Produce (above) was one of five businesses Richard Cox owned around Colby a brief four years after he came to town looking for a job. As a young man (right), Cox worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps, a "New Deal" program set up in the '30s to provide work, on-the-job training and public works



arrived on a Sunday and started work on Monday. Four short years of arriving here, Cox said, he owned five businesses.

He had an ice cream parlor, the Cox Produce store, a Phillips 66 station in Atwood, a produce house in Goodland, and he unloaded coal, lumber and cement for the three lumber yards in Colby: Hess, Foster and Hardman.

Cox said he owes much of his success to August Lauterbach at Farmers and Merchants Bank. He said the bank, with which he still does business, was kind enough to loan him the money to start the businesses. Cox said he sat down

with Mr. Lauterbach, told him what he needed and how much, and Mr. Lauterbach told him, "You look like a fellow that will work, and I'm going to give you the money."

Cox owned the five businesses for about four years, when he and his family fell on hard times. In 1951, he said, his wife died after spending six months in the hospital with leukemia. Cox was left with three children, ages 3, 2 and 1. Cox said the bills from the hospital and the funeral almost put him under, so he decided to sell

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## No-till conference registration open

By Kimberly Davis

The Oberlin Herald  
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Early registration is still open for the annual Cover Your Acres winter crop conference in Oberlin, but the deadline for money-saving early registration is Tuesday.

The conference, put together by Kansas State University Research and Extension and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance, will cover topics on no-till farming for area producers.

Cover Your Acres, said Brian Olson, K-State regional agronomist, is designed to provide infor-

mation on lots of different topics and give farmers a place to ask questions from experts in the industry and with the university.

"It also gives farmers a great place to talk with the guy who lives 60 miles away and get their

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## Briefly

### St. Jude's needs used cards

Don't throw your used Christmas cards away. The Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary has a drop-off box at the Pioneer Memorial Library for them. Cards will go to kids at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis for projects. For information, call Hazel Duffey at 462-3476.

### Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 1-year-old male beagle, a 1- to 2-year-old male black-and-tan dachshund mix and a 3- to 4-month-old female black lab mix available for adoption. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

### Test Thursday for Census jobs

The 2010 Census employment test will be given

at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The multiple-choice test is the first step in being hired as a Census taker. Anyone may take the free test. For information, call (866) 861-2010.

### Hospital plans birthing classes

Citizens Medical Center will hold a four-week series of childbirth education classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays beginning this week for women due to deliver before May. The partner who will be with the mother during labor should attend. The next classes will begin April 1. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown in the Education Department at (785) 460-4850.

### Dance team selling soup at game

The Colby High Dance Team will hold a soup supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Community Building prior to the basketball game against Hol-

comb. The supper will include soups, chili, cinnamon rolls, tea and lemonade. Donations will be accepted to help cover final expenses from the team's trip to perform in the Liberty Bowl halftime show Saturday. For information, call coach Denita Rodgers at 460-1325.

### Knights to hold sports contest

The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Free Throw Contest at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Elementary School gym. The contest is open to all boys and girls ages 10 to 14 as of Jan. 1. Proof of age, such as a copy of a birth certificate, is required. Doors will open at noon and the contest will begin at 1 p.m. For information, call 443-1548 or 460-2924.

### Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck din-

ner 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 by an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

### Conservation meeting Jan. 25

The annual meeting of the Thomas County Conservation District will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Make reservations by Friday, Jan. 15, with district manager Debbie Potter at 462-7482, extension 303.



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