



28 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press



## Lake gets 250 lbs. of catfish

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks technician Brian Serpan and district fisheries biologist David Spalsbury put 250 pounds of catfish into Villa High Lake on Thursday. The department was stocking the pond for Colby Community College's Fishing Derby on Saturday. Spalsbury said the catfish average about two pounds each, but many in this bunch were larger. The derby begins at 9 a.m. Saturday.

## Crews have to wait for salary discussion

By Vera Sloan  
Colby Free Press  
vsloan@nwkansas.com

County road crews and landfill workers heard Monday they will have to wait until after budget time to learn whether they will get pay raises they asked commissioners for at the April 10 meeting.

Two of the workers who had been at the April meeting came back Monday to ask about the raises.

"I don't want to turn down the request, but I think we need to defer it until after budget figures are done," Commissioner Paul

Steele said. "After I get numbers on June 30, I'll have a pretty good idea about what the figures will be. It may be that we'll have to concentrate more on gravel roads and sealing and patching instead of building new ones."

"After six months of records go by, we'll feel better about figures for salaries. We're eroding our finances, and the way the budget works, we'll know a lot more after we have those six months of records."

Road Supervisor Clair Schrock said the men in his department could see what was going on in other departments where workers

got raises, and wondered if there was any way the county could put all the money from fees in one pot and divide it out.

County Clerk Shelly Harms noted that fees collected by the clerk's and treasurer's offices do go into the general fund.

Steele reminded the group that when the state assistant attorney general was in the county a little over a year ago, he told the commissioners that any drug money collected by the sheriff's department is under the control of the sheriff, and that the county had no

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## City may restrict campers

By Andy Heintz  
Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby City Council discussed whether to prohibit vehicle campers from staying overnight at city parks at a meeting Tuesday at City Hall, taking no action but agreeing generally that, except for special events, parks aren't meant for camping.

"I don't know if we should permit people to stay overnight," said Councilman Dave Voss.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong wondered whether tent camping might be OK.

Mayor Ken Bieber and Councilman Patrick Mallory both said they thought there should be an ordinance against people in campers staying overnight at the parks except during special events. Councilmen said some campers even hook up to the city's power outlets.

While the council didn't take action, Mallory said he thought the council would eventually vote for an ordinance that would prohibit campers from parking at the parks.

In other business, the council:

- Approved an agreement with Midwest Energy on firm and "nonfirm" rates for wholesale power. The contract raises the demand charge from \$8.23 a month to a little over \$10. Council member Patrick Mallory said the increase is due to new government regulations on power-producing companies. Armstrong said one new rule requires all power plants to have a catalytic converter on every engine. Colby has six engines on its power plant, Mallory said.

- Approved an order requiring Pete Stephens to remove old lawn mowers on his property at Copeland and Second Street by Sept. 30. Stephens already has removed batteries from his property, Armstrong said, adding that she would go to the planning commission to see if a lot Stephens owns on the west end of Zelfer Avenue meets light industrial regulations. The lot is full of old cars that Stephens sells as collectibles, she said. Stephens said what people think of as a collectible is pretty subjective.

Building inspector Rick Dickman said Stephens had done quite a bit of mowing around the vehicles.

"It looks more like a salvage yard than an industrial site," Dickman said.

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## Family reunion will bring hundreds to Thomas County

By Vera Sloan  
Colby Free Press  
vsloan@nwkansas.com

An outfit called Reunion Research estimates that 195,000 family reunions are held across the nation every year, with an average of 40 family members at each. So the Ostmeyer family reunion must rank as the granddaddy of all family reunions.

The first Ostmeyer reunion in 1974 attracted around 400 members of the clan, and family records show that as many as 600 have been together at one time to reminisce about their heritage. The family gets together every five years, and will do it again on Saturday, May 29, at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby.

"We always honor the first cousins," said Colleen Bixenman, a member of this year's reunion committee. "In 1989, there were 600 of us at the Colby American Legion and we had the meal catered. We moved to the Convention Center in 2000. It will comfortably hold about 500 people, and they prepare and serve the



COLLEEN BIXENMAN

Elke Hilterman, Ken Bixenman, Mark Ostmeyer and Gerhard Hilterman examined a genealogy list showing the Ostmeyer name as far back as the 1500s. The Hiltermans, from Germany, are just a few of the Ostmeyer relatives who were in town for the family's reunion.

food there."

She said between 250 and 300 family members have registered for this year's event so far.

Bixenman said the family traces its roots to German immigrants Fred and Anna Ostmeyer, who settled near Angelus in Sheridan County in 1887. Family records show that more than half of the

couple's descendants still live within a 100 mile radius.

Bixenman said Fred Ostmeyer was born in Bad Laer, Germany, in 1853 the youngest of five children. His father died when he was 9. In 1868, his brother George and sister Anna Maria emigrated to

See "REUNION," Page 3

## Unemployment rate dropped in April

TOPEKA (AP) - State labor officials say Kansas businesses added nearly 16,000 jobs in April, with construction showing the biggest gain.

The Kansas Department of Labor also reported that the state's unemployment rate fell to 6.3 percent last month, down from 6.9 percent in March.

The department issued its monthly employment report Friday. Officials said Kansas typically gains about 10,000 jobs from March to April, well below

this year's figure of 15,900.

Eight of 11 major industries reported job growth from March to April, with construction adding 6,100 jobs. The department says it's the first time since June 2008 that construction has gained jobs compared to the same month a year earlier.

Professional and business services added 4,200 jobs in April, with most of the gains in administrative and support services.

## Briefly

### High school teams selling supper

The Colby High School forensics and debate teams are selling tickets for their Celebrity Servers fund raiser Saturday at Montana Mike's. Tickets are \$15 for either a center-cut sirloin or grilled chicken dinner. Part of the ticket price and all tips will go to the teams for their trip to the National Championships next weekend. For information, call coach Nancy Rundel at 460-5300.

### Dance teams will wash your car

The Colby High School Dance Team will be washing cars to raise money for their dance camp from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Dillon's parking lot. For information, call coach Denita Rogers at 460-1325.

### Golf club plans couples event

A "one-couple" golf tournament - which has golfers in pairs rather than foursomes - to raise money

for Meadow Lake Golf Club will begin at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the course, 1085 E. Golf Club Drive in Colby. Registration will be at 10 a.m., with tee-off at 10:30. Cost is \$60 per couple. Cart rental is available, and lunch and snacks will be provided. Call the club at (785) 460-6443.

### Cemetery ready for cleanup

Sacred Heart Cemetery in Colby asks that people remove any decorations on the ground before Monday so the cemetery can be cleaned for Memorial Day. For information, call Jeannie Solko at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 462-2179.

### Moran's staff plans office hours

Staffers from Congressman Jerry Moran's will hold open office hours from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Courthouse. Chelsey Gillogly, a district representative for Mr. Moran, will be in the

commissioners' room to meet with area residents on their views on the federal government or any difficulties with Social Security, Medicare, Veterans Affairs or other programs. For information, call Gillogly or Rachel Robben at (785) 628-6401.

### Forensics team plans open house

The Colby High School forensics team will have an open house and performance night at the Pioneer Memorial Library beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. Team members will do selections from their season and answer questions about the program. Refreshments will be served. For information, call Nancy Rundel at 460-5300.

### Register for youth program now

Registration is open for students in fourth through eighth grades for a free Chautauqua Youth Camp from June 1 to 5 at the Prairie Museum. The camp,

led by Dr. Joyce Thierer and Dr. Ann Birney of "Ride into History," will offer kids a chance to research and then portray Thomas County personalities from the 1930s under the Chautauqua tent. Call the museum at 460-4590 for information.

### Remember book sale at library

It's time again for Pioneer Memorial Library's Memorable Book Sale, Thursday to Saturday, May 29, starting at 9 a.m. and closing at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 4:45 p.m. Friday and 3:45 p.m. Saturday. For information, call the library at 460-4470.



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**Weather Corner**



*National Weather Service*  
**Tonight:** Increasing clouds, low around 60. Breezy, south southeast wind between 20 and 25 mph, gusts up to 30 mph.  
**Saturday:** Partly sunny, then becoming sunny, with a high near 91. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.  
**Saturday Night:** Clear, with a low around 57. Windy, south wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.  
**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 84. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.  
**Sunday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy and breezy, low of 59.  
**Monday:** A chance of thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 85. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.  
**Monday Night:** A chance of thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.  
**Tuesday:** A chance of thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high near 81. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.  
**Tuesday Night:** A chance of thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Thursday: High, 63; Low 40  
 Precip: Thursday 0.01 inches  
 Month: 1.52 inches  
 Year: 7.17 inches  
 Normal: 7.24 inches  
 (K-State Experiment Station)

**Sunrise and Sunset**  
 Saturday 6:25 a.m. 8:57 p.m.  
 Sunday 6:24 a.m. 8:58 p.m.  
 Monday 6:23 a.m. 8:59 p.m.  
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

**Council may restrict campers**

From "CAMPERS," Page 1

trial lot," Armstrong said.  
 • Listened to a complaint from Stan Wancura, owner of NAPA Auto Parts, about people using three wheelers and four wheelers in town. He said he wanted the council to prohibit the use of the vehicles within city limits.  
 Police Chief Randy Jones said an existing ordinance bans them. He said all terrain-vehicles are prohibited within city limits unless authorized by the city. He said the city allows businesses to sell or service these vehicles on their own property.  
 Jones said the problem is some parents think their kids are allowed to operate all-terrain vehicles on private property without city permission. He said other people are using these vehicles on other people's property.

"It's an invitation for disaster," Jones said.  
 • Approved a communications contract with Thomas County for \$119,336 covering city and county departments. The dispatch office, in the Law Enforcement Center, is staffed by city workers. The cost is split 50-50 between the city and the county.  
 • Approve an ordinance annexing Lot 4 of the Bosselman addition, the location of the Hampton Inn.  
 • Approved paying Engineering America of Oakdale, Minn., \$23,545 for the standpipe project on East Willow Avenue near the east exit from Interstate 70.  
 • Approved specifications and authorize bids for roof repairs at City Hall and the storage area. Bids will be opened on Thursday, May 27, and the city will award a contract at a meeting on June 1.

**Family reunion will bring hundreds to Thomas County**

From "REUNION," Page 1

the United States, and a year later Fred followed.  
 In 1869, Fred crossed the Atlantic on the S.S. Main of the North German Lloyd Shipping Line. He is listed on the ship's manifest as boarding the ship in Bremen, Germany, when he was 16.  
 He was found in the U.S. Census in Lively Grove, Ill., in 1870, listed as a farm laborer.  
 Anna (Schumacher) Ostmeyer was born in Lively Grove, in 1860, and married Ostmeyer in 1879. In 1887, they moved west to Nebraska, but believing the price of land too high there, Fred headed on to western Kansas. He filed a claim on a homestead and built a dugout in the hill along the Saline River bank southwest of what is now Angelus. When his dugout was complete, he sent for his family.  
 The couple's infant was ill when Anna went to board the train for western Kansas, and while she was waiting for the train at the depot, the child died. The conductor wouldn't allow the body in the passenger section and told Anna he would have to be placed in the baggage car.  
 Family history records that Anna began to weep, and a kind woman heading to Colorado offered to rewrap the deceased baby in a blanket and pretend it was her sleeping child. The lady rode the train to Rexford with the dead baby in her arms, where Fred met his family. The infant was said to

be the first person to be buried in the Angelus cemetery.  
 The family was among the first members of the new community, founded in 1887, and they helped to build the first church there.  
 Fred worked in Menlo as a blacksmith, walking the 10 miles to work on Monday mornings. He stayed all week, returning home on Saturday evening, carrying the necessary staples needed for his family to survive the upcoming week.  
 The couple moved to Denver after a year so he could work for the railroad there, but moved back to Angelus later where he could farm and do blacksmith work.  
 The couple had 13 children, with 11 growing to adulthood. There were 61 grandchildren, and as far as family members can determine, there are eight generations of Ostmeyers so far.  
 Records at the Thomas County Courthouse show that Fred Ostmeyer purchased land northwest of Angelus from the state of Kansas and later bought land from the Union Pacific Land Co. Today, Grant and Maureen Ostmeyer live on the original farmstead.  
 Bixenman said relatives from Germany have attended reunions as recently as 2005, and other have come from as far away as Alaska.  
 She said the family could trace its member to over 1,000 by 1994, and the total could be as many as 1,500 to 2,000 living today.  
 She said one of Fred's sisters stayed in Germany and most of

her family still lives there. Fourteen of them came to Colby for the reunion in 2005, and all spoke perfect English.  
 Bixenman said that the oldest living first cousin is Mary Wessel, 100. She lives at the care center in Hoxie with her two sisters. All three sisters are registered for this year's reunion. Mary Wessell is the grandmother of Tina Harris of Tina Harris Physical Therapy in Colby.  
 Bixenman said when the families register for the reunion, they

**Crews have to wait for salary discussion**

From "SALARY," Page 1

say in it.  
 Commission Chairman Ken Christiansen said he didn't see any way they could do anything about it now, but that the continual salary discussions need to stop, because they can't spend every meeting discussing salaries.  
 "It's my thinking that when salaries are set at the beginning of the year, that is the way they should stay until the next bud-

get year," said Commissioner Byron Sowers.  
 Steele said he felt for the road workers, but feared the commissioners would have a line at the door every meeting if they keep the discussion going on salaries. He said that while he feels the requests have validity, he was not ready to vote on it.  
 The commissioners approved a motion to table the salary issue until after they get into the new budget in July and August

**LOCAL TV LISTINGS**  
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**Monday Evening May 24, 2010**

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Dancing With Stars		The Bachelorette				Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live	
KBSL/CBS	How I Met Rules		Two Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late	
KSNK/NBC	Chuck				Law & Order		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late	
KSAS/FOX	24						Local			

**Cable Channels**

A & E	Intervention	Intervention	Intervention	Intervention	Intervention
AMC	Grease			Sixteen Candles	Grease
ANIM	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters
BRAVO	Housewives/N.J.	Housewives/N.J.	Housewives/N.J.	Housewives/N.J.	Housewives/NYC
CMT	Extreme Makeover	Footloose			
CNN	Campbell Brown	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360		Larry King Live
COMEDY	RENO 911! RENO 911!	Futurama	Futurama	South Pk	DailyShow
DISC	MythBusters	Alien Solar Systems	Alien Moons	MythBusters	Alien Solar Systems
DISN	Ratatouille		Good Luck Hannah	Wizards	Deck
E!	Pretty Wild	Kendra	Kendra	True Hollywood Story	Chelsea
ESPN	NBA	NBA Basketball			SportsCenter
ESPN2	MLB Baseball			Baseball Tonight	SportsNation
FAM	10 Things	10 Things	The Pacifier		The 700 Club
FOOD	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	The Best	The Best	Diners
FX	Wild Hogs				The Family Stone
HGTV	Property	Property	House	My First	House
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	Pickers	Pickers	Pawn
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy	Spring Breakdown			UFO Files
MTV	True Life	True Life		True Life	True Life
NICK	Malcolm	Malcolm	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez
SCI	Ghost Whisperer	Ghost Whisperer		Ghost Whisperer	Monster
SPIKE	Kung Fu Hustle			Entourage	Entourage
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy
TCM	For Whom-Bell				The Old Man and the Sea
TLC	People	People	Best Food Ever	Cake Boss	Cake Boss
TNT	Bones	Bones		Saving Grace	The Closer
TOON	Adventure	Flapjack	Chowder	6TEEN	King-Hill
TRAV	Anthony Bourdain	Bizarre Foods	Bizarre Foods	Bizarre Foods	Tackles-Globe
TV LAND	Cosby	Cosby	Raymond	Raymond	The Fugitive
USA	NCIS	WWE Monday Night RAW			Burn Notice
VH1	Tough Love Couples	Tough Love Couples	Chilli	Basketbal	Tough Love Couples
WGN	GoldenEye			America's	Scrubs

**Premium Channels**

HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher	Lazarus	Land of the Lost		The Ricky Gervais Show
MAX	Collateral Damage			Drag Me to Hell	
SHOW	Trucker	The Tudors	Nurse	Tara	Nurse

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**RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER**

**RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730  
 (785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

**May 2010**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<i>Happy Mothers Day</i>						
2	3 Dr. Rubinowitz Oncology	4	5	6 Lighter Side Weight Loss Program 5:30 p.m. Brandi Ihrig Dietician	7 MRI's Cardiac Rehab	8
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic			
9	10	11	12 Dr. Frankum Surgery	13	14	15
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Bone Density Mammograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic		MRI's Cardiac Rehab	
16	17	18 Dr. Miller Cardiology	19 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	20 Dr. Saba Orthopedics	21 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	22
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic		MRI's Cardiac Rehab	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic		MRI's Cardiac Rehab	
30	31					
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab					

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director**