



# Churches, acrobats offer holiday events

Halloween is almost here, and there are a number of events around town this weekend, Halloween related and otherwise.

On Saturday, the American Legion will serve biscuits and gravy for breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m. at the Legion Post, 1850 W. Fourth St. The Legion will be accepting donations to help with improvements to the post.

On Sunday, the Golden Dragon Acrobats will perform at 3 p.m. in the Colby High School Auditorium. The event, sponsored by the Western Plains Art Association, will cost \$15 for adults and \$7 for students from kindergarten to high school.

Heartland Christian School's fall festival will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the school. There will be games from 4 to 7 p.m., a soup supper from 4 to

6:30 p.m. and a volleyball scrimmage from 7 to 8 p.m. The Colby Church of Christ will hold a "Trunk and Treat" party from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the church parking lot.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Thomas County will hold a Halloween Bash for area youth 13 and under from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the 4-H building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The organization is asking everyone to bring one food item for the Genesis-Thomas County food bank.

Safe Kids Kansas, a non-profit coalition, has tips for a safe and fun Halloween. Children should trick-or-treat in groups with adult supervision. Keep to well-lit sidewalks and paths and carry flashlights.

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# Colby High School senior gets first-hand experience

By Vera Sloan

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When Colby High School senior Kim Gerstner was notified she needed to fill out an application to try for a spot in the University of Kansas Medical Center program, "Woman in Healthcare: The Next Generation," she had only one evening to prepare her application which also called for an essay as to why she wanted to attend.

"The Career Center at the high school got a call to say no one had applied from northwest Kansas, and if anyone was interested, they needed the application as soon as possible," Gerstner said. "So I filled out the application and wrote my essay that night at home and we faxed the application."

The hands-on workshop centered around young women who wanted a role in health care. There were eight chosen from across the state. The selection process included essays, teacher recommendations and the student's commitment to a health care career.

Gerstner, 17, who has been looking at options for a career in the medical field, says she had dreams of becoming a pediatric anesthesiologist. She said she loved the KU program because she's always been interested in a medical career. She added that one of the outstanding highlights was cardiology and that she even got to see a little bit of heart surgery.

"I liked it-a lot!" she said. "There's a lot to see and learn when you're doing hospital rota-



Kim Gerstner, a Colby High School senior, tried her hand in a research lab at the center working with the DNA of an ovarian cancer cell from a mouse.

tions. When we were in the lab doing research we were working on ovarian cancer and turning the DNA into mRNA and changing it back to RNA.

"I even brought home a little vial with a tiny speck of an ovarian cancer cell, from the project

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U.S. ARMY  
Army Staff Sgt. Robert Brogan of Colby surveyed a construction site in Afghanistan. Brogan works with Afghan contractors, overseeing construction projects for the country's army and police.

# Colby combat engineer helps to rebuild Afghanistan

By Kevin Bottrell

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Violence and carnage are all too often the only aspects of the war in Afghanistan seen by the American people, but there are also thousands of support troops working to rebuild the country and provide its own security forces with the tools they need to take over.

One such soldier is Army Staff Sgt. Robert Brogan, a combat engineer and Colby native. Brogan is stationed at Camp Shaheen in Mazar-i-Sharif, the fourth largest city in Afghanistan. Mazar-i-Sharif is located in the northern province of Balkh, not far from the Uzbekistan border.

Brogan, a 14-year combat engineer, is currently working as a construction officer representative. He facilitates building projects for the Afghan Na-

tional Army and the Afghan National Police, including forward operating bases, improvements to training centers and police outposts. Brogan makes sure Afghan contractors get to the right place and complete projects on schedule. He also checks to make sure the work is being done well.

"I make sure the Afghan government is getting a quality product," he said. "For the most part they (the contractors) do a pretty good job."

It's not an easy job. Some of the projects can be in very remote areas. Brogan said he has been involved with construction of several Afghan National Police outposts in the mountains, which can climb as high as 4,000 feet above sea level. Brogan also coordinates with bosses and site foremen who often speak a variety of languages such as Dari or Pashtun.

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# Attorney general's race heats up as election cycle winds down

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA – Kansas election officials cast doubt Thursday on Republican Kris Kobach's claim to have evidence of possible voter fraud, and the candidate for secretary of state faced an ethics complaint filed by a Democratic Party staffer.

Kobach, a Kansas City-area law professor and former state GOP chairman, has made election fraud his biggest issue in trying to oust Democratic incumbent



Chris Biggs, who says Kobach exaggerates the potential threat.

"It's clear that the Biggs campaign is trying to distract people away from the

real issue of voter fraud," Kobach said.

During a news conference Thursday, Kobach said his campaign had discovered a possible example of a vote being cast in the name of a dead man in Sedgewick County during the August primary. Kobach also cited a report by KSBH-TV in Kansas City that covered a potentially similar case in Johnson County.

But officials in those two counties said both ballots were cast by living voters who were properly registered.

Kobach said the state's voter registra-

tion rolls include hundreds of dead people. He cited a report this week by KSHB-TV that almost 2,000 names on Kansas' rolls matched a list of deaths compiled by the federal Social Security Administration.

Biggs' office confirmed that a comparison of the federal deaths list with voter rolls produced almost 2,000 possible matches, out of more 1.7 million registrations. But Biggs spokesman Tyler Longpine said a quick review showed at least two-thirds of the potential matches were "false positives," something the TV re-

port acknowledged.

As Kobach wrapped up his news conference, the Democratic Party announced a complaint against him over 20 contributions to his campaign. Executive Director Kenny Johnston, filed it Thursday with the state Governmental Ethics Commission.

The complaint alleges five contributions to Kobach exceeding the \$2,000 maximum allowed by law, including

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## Briefly

### Help group to meet Sundays

Overeaters Anonymous meets at 12:30 p.m. every Sunday in the Wesleyan Church library, 320 W. Pine St. The meetings are free and open to anyone who struggles with overeating. For information, call Selina Lee at 462-3432 or visit [www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org).

### Women's group to sell greenery

The Colby Presbyterian Women are selling fresh Christmas greenery to raise money for mission projects. Items include wreaths, swags, garlands, holly, table decorations and more. Order by Sunday for delivery the first week of December. Call the church at 462-6342, Mary Smith at 462-3387 or JoAnne Sunderman at 460-2476.

### College to talk about animals

The Colby Community College Farm Bureau

Chapter will hold a talk on animal welfare at 6:30 p.m. Monday in Thomas Hall, room 407. Dr. Dan Thomson, director of Kansas State University's Beef Cattle Institute, will speak. There will be a student session at 1 p.m. Monday and the public session at 6:30 p.m. For information, call Shanda Mattix at 460-5464.

### Hospital plans diabetes class

Citizens Medical Center will be holding a class for individuals with diabetes, "Journey for Control: Let's Talk about Diabetes and Healthy Eating" from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday in the new conference room at Citizens Medical Center, 100 E. College Drive. This class will focus in on the importance of nutrition, the relationships among blood glucose, insulin, and food, how food affects your blood glucose, and strategies for healthy eating. Courtney McCarty and Jeanene Brown are teaching, and class size is limited.

Register by calling Brown at (785) 460-4850.

### Red Cross collecting blood twice

The American Red Cross will have two blood drives from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Colby Community Building and 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday in the student union at Colby Community College. Schedule an appointment online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call Trudy Wildeman in the college Health Science Building at (785) 460-4797. Walk-ins are welcome.

### Brewster church to serve turkey

The Brewster United Methodist Church will hold its annual turkey supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the church, 202 Nebraska Ave. Donations will be accepted for the church's mission projects. For information, call the church at (785) 694-2463.

### Driver's license office to close

The Driver's License Exam office in Colby will close for an in-service training session Thursday. All license offices will close for the training session, with offices in the eastern half of the state closing Wednesday and those in the western half closing Thursday. For information, call (785) 296-3041.

### Heartland banquet is Friday

Heartland Christian School will hold its "Partners for the Future" endowment banquet at 6:30 p.m. next Friday at the school. Tickets are \$15 from the school office. The guest speaker will be Sandra Aldrich. For information, call the office at 460-6419.

