



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Ambulance service looking for a home

### City rules out fire station; plans search for alternatives

By Andy Heintz

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While nothing was approved, the most heated topic at the city council meeting on Tuesday involved whether the city was willing to let Thomas County lease space

for two county ambulances at the Colby Fire Station.

County Commissioner Paul Steele attended the meeting to ask for the city's help. The county currently leases space for the ambulance from Citizens Medical Center, but the hospital wants the service to leave and the county has nowhere else

to house it. Although the hospital administration wants them out, Steele said it had been courteous in doing so.

Steele said they had paid the hospital \$8,000 a year to house two ambulances and provide office space and a place to do training. Steele said the hospital had not set a time for the ambulances to be out of the building.

Assistant Fire Chief Sean Hankin said this is not something new, adding that the ambulances have been looking for another place to stay for the last five to seven years.

Steele said the county would also need

office space and a place for training at the fire station. He said he would rather not have to build a new ambulance barn.

"Separate, but equal is an expensive way to go," said Steele.

Councilman Patrick Mallory said if the fire department doesn't want the ambulance in there they need to say why. Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore said he had done some research and the only way the ambulances would fit would be if some fire equipment was taken out. McLemore added that the ambulance and the fire department both respond to accidents. He said the two groups get along and cooper-

ate all the time.

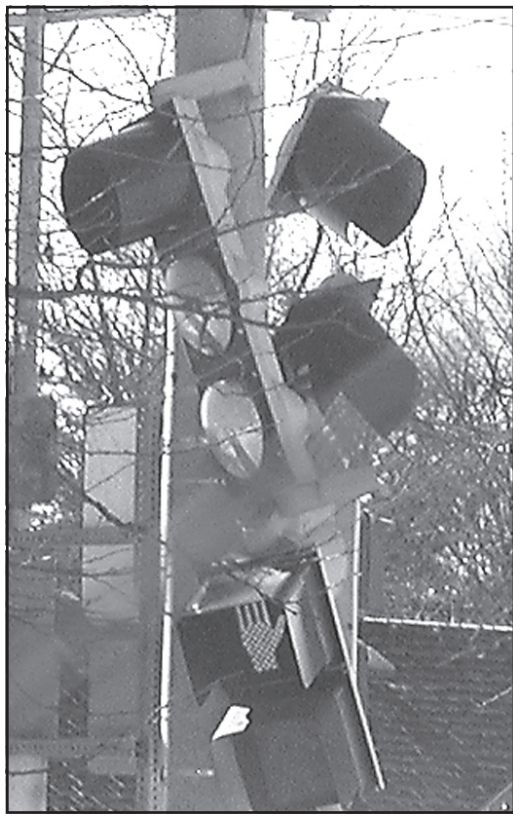
"It's not like we're butting heads," he said.

Councilmen Mark Beringer said Steele was dancing around everything and asked him to explain what he wanted. Steele said everything was on the table.

Earlier in the meeting Steele had floated the idea that the county would hire a third person from the fire department who would work with the two full-time county ambulance workers. The firefighter would be subsidized by the county. Hankin's

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### Light damage



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

A semi-trailer rig damaged this traffic light at Fourth Street and Range Avenue on Wednesday. City crews have already taken the light down.

## Board plans interview for Friday

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Colby Community College board will interview the third of four candidates for president Friday morning.

Dr. Stephen M. Vacik, vice president of instruction at East Mississippi Community College in Mayhew, Miss., will go before the board from 7 to 9 a.m. and then be available to the public from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. in the multipurpose room of the student union. The fourth candidate will be interviewed Monday.

Vacik has been at East Mississippi Community College since 2004, first as the Dean of Academics at the college's Golden Triangle Campus in Mayhew. The college has another campus in Scooba, Miss., and several outreach programs. He was promoted to vice president of instruction in January, 2008.

From 1996 to 2004, Vacik worked at Beville State Community College in Fayette, Ala., first as a history teacher and student support services coordinator. In 1998, he was promoted to director of student support

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TINA GOODWIN/Goodland Regional Medical Center

Nurse Practitioner Jackie Jorgensen practiced her technique on a colleague at Goodland Family Health Center.

## Brewster native receives state nurse practitioner award

By Vera Sloan

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Brewster native Jackie Jorgensen, a board certified advanced registered nurse practitioner has recently been awarded the Kansas 2011 Nurse Practitioner Award for Excellence.

Jorgensen said she was nominated for the award by Michelle Knowles, Hays, past president of the Great Plains Nurse Practitioner Society and currently the society's local state representative to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Jorgensen said Dr. Jensen, a long time Colby physician, was the doctor who delivered her in the old Thomas County Hospital that now sits abandoned on Range Avenue in Colby. She grew up on the family farm in Rawlins County and graduated from Brewster High School. After high school she attended St. Luke's School of Nursing in Denver where she received her nursing diploma.

She said she started her career as a night nurse at the Goodland hospital, advanced to supervisor and then was director of nursing for 12 years. While working at the hospital, she continued to work on attaining her Bachelor of Nursing degree.

"I had been procrastinating getting my bachelor's degree," she said, "because I was afraid I'd flunk the test. Well, I took it and passed, and received my BSN in 1993.

At that time, she said, Sharon Springs and St. Francis each had one doctor, both whom retired.

"Goodland had two doctors and one of them had a heart attack," she said, "I was thinking, my goodness, how are we going to care for all these people, as it was difficult to recruit physicians."

That's when Dr. Martha Sanders, a professor at the school of nursing at Fort Hays State University, encouraged her to go for her master's degree so that she could become an advanced registered

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## College art department plans Art Walk for late April

Fans of fine art will have the chance to be out and active while viewing artwork from area students and professionals at an evening Art Walk from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 22.

The Colby Community College art department, the college art club, the college business department, the Thomas County Coalition and the Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the event. Art Instructor Rebel Jay said there will be artwork at three places around town. College student artwork will be up on campus in the Bedker Building and at the Cultural Arts Center.

Colby High School will display paintings, drawings and sculptures from area K-12 students. Jay said Heartland Christian and Sacred Heart schools have been invited to send in artwork as well.

Twelve downtown businesses will display artwork from professional artists from around the area. Jay said she has invited several of these artists to come and teach workshops on Saturday at Pioneer Memorial Library and the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Sign-ups will be available as it gets closer to the event.

Jay said the idea is for people to walk or ride bikes between exhib-

its. The Thomas County Coalition will provide snacks and water. People can pick up a map of the downtown exhibits.

Art club members will be at each business to stamp the maps, and completed maps can be turned in to the coalition for a prize drawing.

The Pioneer Memorial Library will have activities for kids in its downstairs room. Jay said she may also have part of downtown blocked off to have games balloon animals and activities for kids. Smoffee's coffee shop will have live music.

## Intense cold follows snowstorm

TOPEKA - They said it once, and then again in case anyone missed the message: It is so cold in Kansas that emergency management personnel want people to think carefully about going outside.

With overnight lows expected in the single digits in many places, the National Weather Service issued wind chill advisories for all 105 Kansas counties extending into mid-morning today. In north-central Kansas, that meant a possible wind chill of 25 below zero.

State officials said those conditions could lead to frostbite within minutes.

"That is biggest risk that we see," Maj. Gen. Lee Tafaneli, director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, said Wednesday.

The arctic chill settled over Kansas as the major snowstorm that blasted mostly eastern sections moved out Wednesday.

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## Briefly

### Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a six-to seven-month-old neutered male white Lhasa Apso available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

### Pick up cemetery decorations

Christmas grave decorations at Beulah Cemetery must be picked up by Friday. Decorations still in place after Friday will be disposed of. For information, call secretary Relda Galli at 462-6714.

### Food sign-up open now

Prairie Land Food sign-up is open until Monday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be Saturday, Feb. 19, at the Sacred

Heart School gym. For more information, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

### Dance Saturday at clubhouse

There will be a singles and couples dance from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Course clubhouse. Craig Stevens will provide the music. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

### Show school spirit, get in free

The Colby Community College Athletic Department is encouraging area students to show their school pride during the Trojan basketball games on Saturday. All students from any school, wearing something identifying that school, will get in free. Parents who go with their student will get in half-price. The women's game will begin at 6 p.m.

followed by the men about 8 p.m. The Trojan Pep Band will be performing and several college t-shirts will be given away. For information, contact Debbie Schwanke at 460-5411 or Ryan Sturdy at 460-5548.

### Youth group plans dinner, auction

The Colby Middle School Methodist Youth Fellowship will hold a Valentines pasta dinner and community service work auction from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Colby United Methodist Church. The auction will begin at 12:35 p.m. Fellowship members will be auctioned off to complete community service projects. Money raised will go to the fellowship's mission projects. For information, call the church at 460-2761.

### Baseball sign-up is Sunday

American Legion Baseball will have a sign-up day

at 3 p.m. Sunday upstairs at the Colby Community Building for eligible players aged 16 to 19. Coach Jeff Krzycki said all interested players must sign up at the meeting. For information, call Krzycki at 443-2542.

### Senior group offering tax help

The American Association of Retired Persons will offer tax preparation help for low and middle income taxpayers - with preference to those 60 or older - by appointment from early February to April 15. For information or to set up an appointment, call Earle Rice at 462-2990.



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