

Student News

Colby Public Schools

Activities: Monday: Football starts practice without pads. High school practice starts for cross-country, girls' tennis, girls' golf, volleyball and debate. Middle school practice starts for football. Colby Community College registration and new student orientation. 7 p.m. school board, administration building. **Tuesday:** college classes start. **Wednesday:** 6:30 p.m. seventh and eighth grade volleyball meeting, middle school cafeteria. **Thursday:** Football practice starts with pads. 2:30-4:30 p.m. eighth grade volleyball; 4:30-6:30 p.m. seventh grade volleyball, elementary gym. **Friday:** New staff orientation.

Heartland

Activities: Monday: 7 p.m. board meeting.

Golden Plains

Activities: Monday: 7:30 p.m. board of education meeting at Selden. **Thursday:** Teacher inservice. **Friday:** Teacher inservice.

Brewster

Activities: Beta Club and Brewster School appreciate everyone who saved General Mills boxtops, Campbell brand product labels and aluminum pull tabs and hope you will continue to save these items. Boxtops, labels and tabs can be dropped off at the grocery store, Senior Center and the school office. **Monday:** 7:30-10 a.m. football practice, Brewster. 7 p.m. board of education meeting. Teacher inservice. **Tuesday:** teacher work day; 7:30 - 10 a.m. football practice, Winona. **Wednesday:** first day of school; football practice, afternoon, Winona. **Thursday:** football practice, afternoon, Brewster. **Friday:** football practice, afternoon, Winona.

Colby Community College

Activities: Monday: Student orientation, faculty workday. **Tuesday:** Classes start.

Send us your calendar and menus. E-mail colby.society@nwkansas.com or mail Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Senior Progress Center

Wednesday the Senior Progress Center will have homemade ice cream.

Activities for the week: Monday: 10:30 a.m. Skip Bo. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise, donation day, paper items. **Wednesday:** 11 a.m. homemade ice cream. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise, 10:30 a.m. pinocle. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise, 10:30 pool game.

Menus for the week: Monday: baked spaghetti, broccoli, peaches, garlic bread, pudding. **Tuesday:** cook's choice entree, Italian blend vegetables, applesauce, fruit crisp. **Wednesday:** Polish sausage

First day of school



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Dr. Steve Vacik talked with new employees on Thursday morning during New Employee Orientation. Twenty-six new employees met with Vice President of Business Affairs Alan Waites, Dean of Academics Joyce Washburn, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Keegan Nichols and several department directors. Several faculty members spent the afternoon in a learning management system training seminar. The system is the platform used by the college to offer classes online. There was an in-service session for all faculty and staff today. Classes begin on Tuesday.

Ag research underappreciated

Bikram Gill understands that in the current economic climate, difficult funding choices have to be made. But he also believes that in order to feed the projected nine billion people expected to inhabit the world by 2050, the relatively small amount of money spent on agricultural research should be a priority.

As director of the Wheat Genetic and Genomic Resource Center at Kansas State University, which maintains a gene bank that holds thousands of germplasm sources of wheat and its wild relatives, the K-State distinguished professor of plant pathology has been featured in numerous media outlets. One of the latest is *Voice of America News*, which published the article

"U.S. Budget Fight Threatens World Food Security" online July 27 at: <http://t.co/Xl6bLiG>. The article focuses on how the ongoing U.S. budget woes are affecting agricultural research.

Federal funding for the K-State Center was cut earlier this year.

The Center's missions to assure future advances in wheat breeding, include:

- collect, conserve, and utilize germplasm in crop improvement for sustainable production by broadening the crop genetic base;
- create and promote the free exchange of materials, technology, and new knowledge in genetics and biotechnology among the world's public and private organizations; and
- sponsor graduate and post-graduate students and visiting scientists for academic training and advanced research in the resource center laboratories.

The genomic resource center maintains a gene bank on 2,500

wheat species strains, said Gill, who added that it also houses 2,200 cytogenetic stocks, the genetic "treasures" produced by a lifetime of work by wheat scientists. The collection is growing constantly and recent additions include tens of thousands of mapping and mutant populations crucial for wheat genome mapping and gene discovery.

Using these materials, scientists study the genetic basis of physiological, quality and yield traits. The Center has established a national and international network to conduct and coordinate genetic studies in wheat. Researchers' work for the center involves identifying genes for host-plant resistance to viral, bacterial, fungal and insect pests and abiotic stresses and transferring them to useful breeding lines. In that way, better wheat varieties able to withstand stresses from insects, weeds and environmental challenges such as drought, are developed.

Lemonade stand squeezed out

MIDWAY, Ga. (AP) — Police in Georgia have shut down a lemonade stand run by three girls trying to save up for a trip to a water park, saying they didn't have a business license or the required permits.

Midway Police Chief Kelly Morningstar says police also didn't know how the lemonade

was made, who made it or what was in it.

The girls had been operating for one day when Morningstar and another officer cruised by.

The girls needed a business license, peddler's permit and food permit to operate, even on residential property. The permits cost \$50 a day or \$180 per year.

Vet school ahead for K-State student

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press

colby.society@nwkansas.com

The local American Association of University Women chapter has recently awarded a scholarship to 2008 Colby High School graduate Logan Wark.

The \$500 scholarship was awarded to benefit Wark's 2011 school year, and she is eligible to receive an additional \$500 for 2012. Wark is a senior pre-veterinary student at Kansas State University majoring in biology.

"I'm studying for my graduate record exam that I'll take in Lawrence on Aug. 20," said Wark. "It's used to compare me with other graduate school applicants."

"That was an awfully grueling day, as I recall," said association member Naomi Ward, "and we are confident you'll do well."

Wark competed against seven other applicants for the scholarship, including a Bible translator, an English major and two psychology majors. She was selected based on her grade average, responses from references and her personal experiences.

Association member Sharon Steele said the decision to choose a scholarship recipient was especially difficult.

"We selected Wark because she has motivation to go after her career plans, and she even has an alternate plan since getting admitted into veterinary school is so difficult," explained Steele. "We looked at her outlook and were impressed with the fact that she

has work experience in her field of study. She knows what she's getting herself into."

Wark has worked at the Swartz Veterinary Hospital in Colby for four years setting up lab work and checking in patients, to name a few duties.

"Logan's goals were a main factor in our decision," added Ward. "And her presentation of the application was excellent."

Other requirements include being a Thomas County resident, receiving schooling in the county and having exceptional grades in her area of study.

Wark said she is appreciative of the scholarship because she is paying for college on her own.

"I've also received a research scholarship for \$3,400 and a Dane G. Hansen Educational Scholarship for \$2,000," she said. "I'm not sure how much graduate school is going to cost, I looked, but it was shocking. I know it will be more than twice the amount as undergrad tuition."

In addition to her scholarships, Wark also helps conduct research at Kansas State University to help pay for school. "I am currently studying antioxidants in dietary wolfberry, a Chinese fruit," she said. "We are hoping it will help strengthen blood vessels in the eye to prevent diabetic retinopathy."

Wark said that after she takes the records exam later in August she will be preparing her application for veterinary school that is due in October, with interviews scheduled for December.

'Writers of the Prairie' seeks stories for competition

Have you ever wanted to follow in the footsteps of writer Ernest Hemingway? Or F. Scott Fitzgerald? Or perhaps you just want to tell the story of a special family member. Everybody has a story in them.

Here's your chance to tell us your story.

The Ellsworth Area Arts Council is sponsoring its first writing contest, "Writers of the Prairie." Cash prizes will be awarded.

Age divisions will be: adult - 18 and older and youth - 17 and younger. Youth must submit their ages. Categories will be short stories and poetry with no requirement on subject matter.

Authors may enter as many

times as they wish by paying a \$3-per-entry fee.

Entries should be mailed to the EAAC Writing Contest, 223 N. Douglas Ave., Ellsworth, Kan., 67439. Entries must be post-marked by Thursday, Sept. 15.

Further rules, entry forms and other information are available at eaac.writingcontest@gmail.com or by calling (785) 472-5658 between 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Or call (785) 472-5682 and leave a message.

Co-sponsors of "Writers of the Prairie" are the *Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter* and the Smoky Hills Charitable Foundation.

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