



SHARON FRIEDLANDER/Colby Free Press City Manager Carolyn Armstrong worked at her desk today at City Hall. She plans to retire on June 15.

# City manager to retire

By Kayla Cornett

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## Long term comes to end

After 19 1/2 years as city manager of Colby, Carolyn Armstrong is retiring.

Armstrong said she turns 65 this year and thought it was a good time to retire. Her last day will be June 15.

"It's time," she said. "I want to go spend time with my grandkids, I want to travel. I don't want to leave Colby and I will keep my home here."

Armstrong said it's a good time because the city is in great shape. She said she had told City Council members she plans to retire, and it could come up at the meeting Tuesday.

"That's the other thing about leaving now, the city is in good fiscal condition and has good employees," she said. "Colby has a good reputation across the state;

it's seen as a progressive city.

"I think it's time to have someone new and fresh to lead the city."

The first step for finding her replacement, she said, will be for the council to meet with representatives of the League of Kansas Municipalities. The league, an association of all the cities in the state, will take care of advertising, screening candidates, background checks and the like, she said. The league will present a short list to the council, and it will decide whom to hire.

Still, Armstrong said it won't be easy to leave the job.

"I'm going to really miss it," she said. "I'm going to miss the interaction with the public, I'm gonna miss the employees."

Mayor Gary Adrian echoed the

sentiment.

"We're certainly gonna miss her expertise and her experience," he said, "but there comes a time for all of us when we need to retire."

"I'm happy for her. She's earned it and she's been really great for Colby. I want to thank her for 19 1/2 years of service."

Armstrong said she has been working for 47 years, with the last 33 in city government.

Before Colby, the only other city she worked for was Ogallala, Neb. She started out in the city clerk's office and moved up to city manager, where she remained for five years.

"I've enjoyed it," Armstrong said. "It's been a very enjoyable career."

However, she said, she has many plans. She said she has the sched-

ules for her grandchildren's volleyball, softball and T-ball games, and she's excited to be able see them in action as much as she can, since they live in Omaha.

She also has personal activities in mind.

"I plan to stay active in the community and do some other activities," the manager said. "I used to love to play bridge — and maybe yoga and other daytime activities that I wasn't able to do before."

In fact, she said, she doesn't think she'll lack for things to do, even though it will be a change.

"To wake up and not have anything to do is going to be different," Armstrong said, "but I'm excited because this is the time in my life where I can do the things I wanted to but couldn't while I was working."

"It's been a fun career, and Colby's been a very nice community to work in."

# Schools begin search for high school principal

By Steve Haynes

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School district officials started sifting through applications for the job of Colby High principal today with an eye for starting interviews with the finalists sometime in the next few weeks.

Superintendent Terril Harrison said the district had 11 to 12 applications as of Thursday, but a few more could come in before the dead-

line Saturday.

Once they've been screened, she said, they'll be turned over to an interview team, which could include district administrators, teachers, school board members and possibly members of the public. Interviews will be scheduled when they can be worked out.

"It depends on the applicants," she said, adding that each interview usually takes half a day.

"We show them around town, show them the schools, let them meet as many teachers as they

can," she said.

The team probably will interview four or five applicants, Harrison added, but it depends on the pool.

"We need someone who teachers can work with," she said. "We need someone who enjoys being around high-school-aged children."

Harrison said the school board agreed at its February meeting to start looking for a principal. The high school has been run by a trio of administrators since the departure of the former

principal two years ago.

Since then, Larry Gabel, the school's activities director and assistant principal, has held the title of principal with district Curriculum Director Diana Wieland and Middle School Principal Robb Ross as assistant principals. That's worked OK, but all three still had their own jobs to do.

"We agreed we'd try this for a couple of years," Harrison said.

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Larry Gabel

## Top team in benefit gets credit



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

Orvella Romine, director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County, presented a floating trophy to Taco John's owner Jeff Krzycki on Thursday. Krzycki was captain of the team that raised the most money for this year's Bowl for Kids' Sake

benefit event. He and his team, Preston Krzycki, Manny Sumaya, Nathan Quagliano, Michael Yergey and Chris Crocker, raised \$500. The event as a whole raised about \$20,000 for the organization, Romine said.

# Heartland kids plan to present play on Easter

*Production done with help of many of area churches*

By Christina Beringer

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Heartland Christian School is putting on a dramatic musical production for Easter with the help of members of area churches.

The play, "Three Days," will be put on in the school's gym at 1995 W. Fourth St. at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 12 and 13, and 4 p.m. Saturday, April 14.

Donations are encouraged to help cover production expenses. Deena Bandy, school secretary,

said the production was such a hit last year that they couldn't resist doing it again. She said about 800 people attended three showings last year.

"This Easter production vividly captures the 72 hours our Lord spent from the cross to His resurrection," she said. "It is the same production as last year, but we have added a new Last Supper scene, song and a few new elements."

Bandy said about 60 cast members have volunteered to take part. She said students from the school will be involved as well as adults from the surrounding area.

"It seemed to go really well last year," she said. "I hope people will come out and see it again. The kids have been working hard to get it ready."

# Spike in rabies prompts state to issue warning

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas health officials say a sharp increase in rabies cases in the state since Jan. 1 shows the need to keep animals vaccinated.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment says four skunks, two bats, two horses, two cows, one cat, one coyote and one raccoon have tested positive for rabies this year.

The 13 cases compare with just

four at the same point last year. State veterinarian Ingrid Garrison says Kansas has had an average of 68 rabies cases a year since 2007.

Skunks are the animals most likely to have rabies, and they can pass the virus on to other animals like dogs, cats and livestock.

Garrison encourages animal owners to vaccinate horses and valuable breeding stock and show animals.

# Art fake who duped 50 museums gets his own one-man show

By Lisa Cornwell

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Fool me once, the saying goes. But 50 times? That's what a convincing art forger did for nearly three decades when he donated his copies of Picassos and other works of art to unsuspecting museums in 20 states.

Mark A. Landis, who has dressed as a Jesuit priest and posed as a wealthy donor driving up in a red Cadillac, apparently never took money for his forgeries and has never been arrested.

Now his "works" have been collected into their own tongue-in-cheek exhibit, called "Faux Real," opening on April Fools' Day at the University of Cincin-

nati.

Educating people about forgery and letting people know about Landis "is the only way to stop him," said Mark Tullos, director of the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum in Lafayette, La., which was duped in 2010 with a donation of a painting supposedly by American Charles Courtney Curran.

Landis creates works in oil, watercolor, pastels, chalk, ink and pencil, making most of his copies from museum or auction catalogs that provide dimensions and information on the originals.

He sometimes bestows gifts under different names, such as the Father Arthur Scott alias used at Hilliard. In that case, he told officials that his dead mother had

left works including Curran's oil-on-wood painting "Three Women" and that he was donating it in her memory.

Tullos said museum employees be-

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