



8 pages

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New manager welcomed at reception

Tyson McGreer (above), Colby's new city manager, got to meet Colby people during a reception Wednesday at the Law Enforcement Training Center. McGreer started work here Monday. He was hired in August from among six candidates interviewed by the City Council. Police Chief Randy Jones (right) sat down with his wife Mary Lou and talked with Recreation Director Stacy Jasper and her assistant, Mary McLaughlin (far right). Jones filled in as interim city manager when Carolyn Armstrong retired June 15 after 19 years.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



City, county officials attend landfill meeting

By Christina Beringer

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Fifteen city and county officials from around northwest Kansas gathered last Thursday at Colby Community College for the annual meeting of the Thomas County Landfill Advisory Board.

Landfill Supervisor Larry Jumper facilitated the session, going over materials that are accepted at the landfill, problems they are facing and impending equipment expenses, among other things.

Jumper said the landfill accepts "municipal solid waste," otherwise known as commercial and residential trash, and construction and demolition waste, which must be weighed separately to correctly calculate the tonnage reported to the state.

"We have to keep under the 20-ton-per-day maximum allowed by regulations for household waste," he explained. "Right now, we average about 16 tons. We don't throw out any red flags, but it'd be nice

to take in less. As a whole, people here throw more away, but with Lynette's help (referring to Lynette Koon, coordinator of the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization in Colby), household trash isn't increasing."

He reported the annual tonnage of waste through the years: 5,735 tons in 2007, 5,746 in 2008, 5,750 in 2009, 5,561 in 2010, 5,556 in 2011 and 4,201 so far in 2012. If the landfill takes in the monthly average for the remaining three months, 2012 will end with about 5,601 tons.

Jumper and Koon agreed that although many businesses here recycle, there is a big problem with high intake of cardboard and clothing at the landfill that could be reduced if more businesses took their waste to the recycling center instead of putting it in their garbage bins.

"It doesn't matter what condition the clothes are in," said Koon. "I've got someone who'll take it all."

See "LANDFILL," Page 2

Methodists celebrate 125 years

By Sam Dieter

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When the Colby Methodist Episcopal Church was founded July 5, 1886, its 50 members did not have a building to worship in.

They spent a year after their founding moving among a school house, the court house and many members' homes. It was 1887 when a church was built at Fifth Street and Grant Avenue, pastor

Jim Mardock said, so the Colby United Methodist Church will mark its 125th anniversary from that date Sunday.

The celebration will include videos shown at the services and old church memorabilia displayed at a potluck afterwards, about noon. The dinner will be followed by a pedal tractor pull with four tractors in honor of church member Tate Siruta. Tate, son of Duskin and Missy Siruta, was in second grade when he died in a car accident three years ago.

"Anyone would tell you Tate was real involved in pedal pull,"

Mardock said.

Tate used to enjoy driving the foot-powered tractors at the State Fair, and the event at the church will be known as the Tate Siruta Memorial Tractor Pull.

"I've challenged the 8:30 service against the 11 service," Mardock said, "I've threatened to get some of the larger members on some of the smaller tractors."

For his part, Mardock said, he's interested in the memorabilia, including a photo album of former ministers.

See "CHURCH," Page 2

State group explains health plan

By Sam Dieter

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With KanCare, the state's new managed-care package for Medicaid clients, going into effect Jan. 1, state officials came to Colby this week to explain the new program.

Speaking to about 50 people Monday night at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College, four officials explained the plan before taking written questions from the audience. They repeatedly assured people that eligibility requirements will not change and things covered will stay the same – from mental health services and prescription medicine to transportation to the doctor.

Some benefits will even be added, such as preventative dental

care for adults. And clients will no longer have to pay for part of their doctor's visits.

"It won't change the services you're eligible for," said Effie Swanson, from the state Department of Health and Environment. "It will just change who pays for it."

When the state implements KanCare on Jan. 1, the officials said Kansans receiving Medicaid and other state services will get them through one of three private companies: Amerigroup Kansas Inc., Sunflower State Health Plan or United Healthcare of the Midwest.

The state will mail information about KanCare to beneficiaries in November. Everyone will have from Tuesday, Jan. 1, to Thurs-

See "HEALTH," Page 2

Commissioner tells fans 'sorry'

By Rachel Cohen

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK – National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell is apologizing to fans for having to use replacement officials during a lockout of regular refs. The impasse led to three weeks of questionable calls – and one that cost the Green Bay Packers a win.

Goodell made his comments today during a conference call about 12 hours after the referees' union and league agreed on a tentative

deal that will allow the regular officials to return beginning with tonight's Browns-Ravens game.

Goodell says: "Something like this, it's painful for everybody. Most importantly, it's painful for fans. We're sorry to have to put fans through that."

"Sometimes you have to go through something like that in the short term for the right agreement for the long term."

The deal was struck two days after Seattle's chaotic last-second win over Green Bay in which the replacements missed a call.

Homecoming spirit



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Some students at Colby High School appeared to be dressed for colder weather while walking to class Wednesday morning. Students have been wearing offbeat clothes in the last couple days for Spirit Week and Wednesday was "weird weather day."

