



# COLBY FREE PRESS

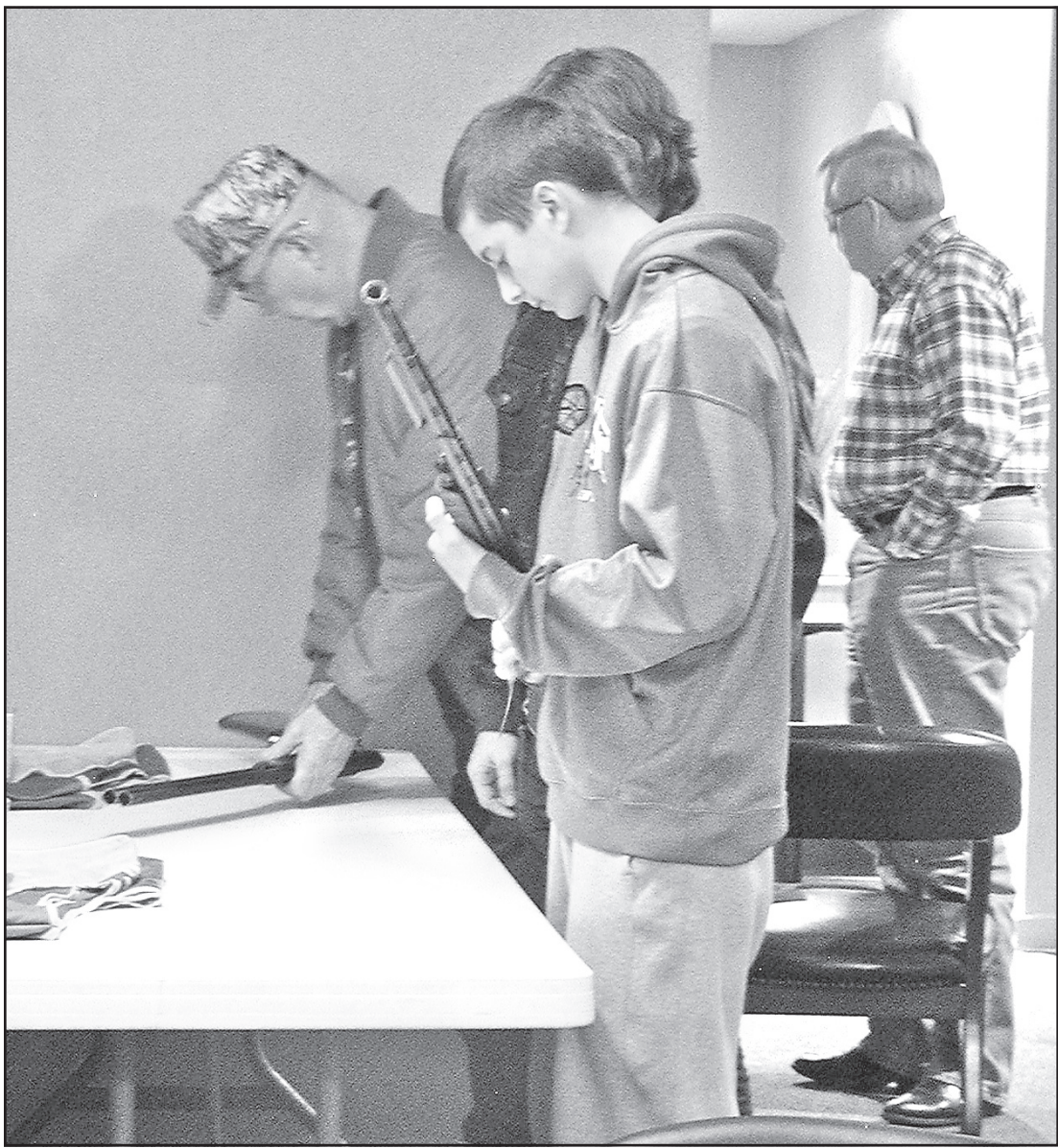
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## Dinner held for hunters

Hunters took a look at shotguns and rifles which were raffled off at the American Legion (above) and Meadow Lake Country Club (below), where dinners were held Friday night to mark the start of the pheasant season. It runs until Jan. 13.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



## Council approves stop signs

By Sam Dieter

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The Colby City Council finalized a plan to place stop signs along Garfield Avenue during a short meeting Tuesday.

The meeting lasted only about half an hour, with all council members except Stan Schmidt present. The vote to approve an ordinance posting the stop signs came after two past meetings during which residents Dennis and Sandy Deiderich asked to have the signs placed along the street following several accidents.

The council earlier agreed to put stop signs on eastbound and westbound streets crossing Garfield between Webster Street and Villa High Park, but didn't approve the ordinance until Tuesday's meeting.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a motion to establish a new fee list for city facilities and equipment to replace one in place since Oct. 7, 2009. Changes to the city fee list were made to the utility department to add two pieces of equipment, for map fees and to reduce the size of maps being printed and for the Community Building to match regulations from the state fire marshal, although fees for the building will not be changed.

- Tabled a motion to increase hangar lease fees at the airport. McGreer said the city's Airport Board had met Tuesday morning and suggested an annual 3 percent increase on fees. Airport manager Mark Ostmeyer said later the fees are currently \$1,273 for the two city owned hangars and range from \$132 to \$335 a year for the 21 privately owned hangars.

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## Colby museum lunch series starts Thursday

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will begin its "Food for Thought" series at noon Thursday with a free talk on the history of the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center by Dr. Freddie Lamm. A light lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome.

What was then known as the Colby Branch Experiment Station was authorized by the Kansas Legislature in 1913 and established the following year. Like the other branch stations in Kansas, the objective of the Colby Station

has been to research agricultural practices best suited to the particular soil and climate conditions of its region. In 1987, the station merged with the Northwest Area Extension Office and took the name it uses today.

Lamm grew up on a farm in central Missouri. A research irrigation engineer, he has worked at the center since 1979.

The museum is at 1905 S. Franklin Ave. For information, call 460-4590.

## Colby treated to premiere of farming documentary

By Sam Dieter

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Colby residents had a rare treat Thursday night, the chance to see themselves featured in a new documentary – and the chance to attend a premiere right here in town.

"The people who stayed (to farm out here), it's a testament to spirit," director Jay Kriss said after the screening. "You could put a lot of different names up here."

An audience of about 400 people came to the premiere of "Harvesting on the High Plains," a documentary about wheat farming during the Dust Bowl years, at Colby Community College's Frahm Theater.

The program tells the story of Kriss' grandfather, John Kriss, who ran a wheat farm in Thomas County for Wichita banker Ray Garvey during the "Dirty '30s," when the wind blew away dust in such large quantity that it blotted out the sun and the drought ruined crops year after year.

It was presented by Smoky Hills Public Television, where it will be broadcast. The film is narrated by Mike Rowe from the Discovery Channel show "Dirty Jobs," and features a number of familiar places and people. Colby Assistant Fire Chief Sean Hankin plays the senior Kriss. Several locals donated period vehicles, which can be seen driving up and down Second Street in front of the courthouse in part of the film.

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## Fatality case moves toward trial

By Sam Dieter

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A vehicular manslaughter case stemming from an incident in Brewster earlier this year moved a step closer to trial on Tuesday.

James House of Brewster pleaded not guilty at his arraignment in Thomas County District Court in the death of Val Gallentine, Goodland. Judge Glenn Schiffner pre-

sided over the hearing.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that a car driven by House struck Gallentine as it was pulling out of a parking stall near Main Street and Kansas Avenue in Brewster the night of Saturday, March 10. Gallentine was taken to Citizens Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

House was arrested for involuntary manslaughter, driving under the influence and endangering a child under the age of 14 on June 25. He had a preliminary hearing on Oct. 15. Officials would not

comment on where the child endangerment charge came from.

"Sometimes crimes are reported and take place, and it takes some time to assemble the case," County Attorney Kevin Berens said, "especially if it's a charge like involuntary manslaughter."

A four-day trial is scheduled to start April 29, Berens said. The charge of manslaughter carries a mandatory prison sentence of between three years and two months, and 14 years and three months. The

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## Rasure's after 5



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

A crowd of about 20 people shared beverages and stories Wednesday night at Rasure Lumber for November's Business After 5, a monthly chance for business leaders to get together.



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