



# Hospital gives football team \$5,000



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Colby High Football Coach Chris Gardner (left), Kevan Trenkle, chief executive officer of Citizens Medical Center and Dr. Darren Matchell looked at the gift Gardner gave the hospital, a framed team photo signed by all of the players. The hospital donated \$5,000 to the team for new helmets.

By Kayla Cornett  
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The Colby High football program received a \$5,000 donation from Citizens Medical Center to buy the best helmets available to protect its players.

On Thursday, Coach Chris Gardner and Athletic Director Larry Gabel presented hospital Chief Executive Kevan Trenkle and Dr. Darren Matchell with a framed team photo signed by all of the players as a thank you.

Gabel said the new helmets were used all season. He said the money was enough to replace most of the team's helmets, but since helmets are so expensive, the school uses a rotation schedule for buying new ones.

He said they made sure that all

of the starters received the new helmets this year and they purchased the best available.

Gabel said the high school and middle school teams' helmets are tested each year by the company the schools buy them from to make sure the equipment is in top condition. He said they make sure the helmets have the seal of the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment. If there's any question about a helmet's condition, he said, it's sent back to the supplier. Outdated helmets are replaced right away.

Each helmet runs about \$260 each, Gabel said, and he plans to replace all of the helmets in a few years.

"We want to make sure every kid is outfitted with the top equipment," he said. "Safety comes first."

"We sure appreciate Dr. Matchell and Kevan Trenkle for taking a proactive approach and for helping us to get top-notch equipment ahead of time. I think that's awesome that the hospital and those people have taken that approach."

He said Dr. Matchell gives his time to attend home football games and be available on the sidelines.

Gabel said physician assistant Andy Rose and chiropractors Shane Franz and Lucas Tubbs also donated their time this past season.

"To have that kind of help on the sidelines is really awesome," he said.

The football team had only one concussion this year, Gabel said, and that happened because the player's helmet came off and another player fell on his head.

# 18 kids dead in Connecticut school shooting

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) — A gunman opened fire inside a Connecticut elementary school today in a shooting that left 27 people dead, including 18 children, an official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was still under way.

The shooting appeared to be the nation's second-deadliest school shooting, exceeded only by the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007.

Parents flooded to Sandy Hook Elementary School, about 60 miles northeast of New York City, looking for their children in the wake of the shooting. Students were told by police to close their eyes as they were led from the building.

A photo taken by *The Newtown Bee* newspaper showed a group of students — some crying, others looking visibly frightened — being escorted by adults through a parking lot in a line, hands on each

other's shoulders.

Students and staff were among the victims, state police Lt. Paul Vance said in a brief news conference. He said the gunman was dead inside the school, but he refused to say how people were killed.

Another official, again speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was still under way, said the killer apparently had two guns.

A law enforcement official in Washington said the attacker was a 20-year-old man with ties to the school and that one of the guns was a .223-caliber rifle. The official said that police were searching a location in New Jersey in connection with the shootings. He asked not to give his name because he was not authorized to speak on the record.

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# Cornerstone Ag shed gives out

By Sam Dieter  
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The wall near a side door of a flat grain shed belonging to Cornerstone Ag gave out Wednesday afternoon, blocking off Eighth Street just north of Fike Park.

Eric Sperber, general manager for Cornerstone, said part of a wall near a side door on the southwest side of the building gave out, allowing about five bushels of wheat to spill onto the ground through a crack by the door.

"We have a suspicion that one of the welds that held the wall to the braces in the floor, one of those gave loose," Sperber said.

Police were called to provide traffic control at 12:17 p.m. Wednesday. This morning, the street was still blocked along the north side of the park. Workers were pulling grain out of the building and loading it into a truck.

The street was originally blocked off for fear that more grain would fall out of the shed, Sperber said. Now it's closed to give the workers room and might be open for the weekend.

Sperber said no one has been into the part of the shed that collapsed to see what happened.

"It's kind of hard to tell (when)," he said. "I would guess late next week (before) some one could get in there."

# E-mail system at newspaper down

The *Colby Free Press*' e-mail system and website are down and there is no timeline for when they will be up and running again.

We apologize for the inconvenience and ask for your patience. If you have any news or informa-

tion you would like to send us, contact us by phone at 462-3963 or by fax at 462-7749.

The e-mail system has been down for about two days, so if you sent something during that time, call us and let us know.

Watch this space for updated information on the situation.

For information, call the office at 462-3963.



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Students and staff at Sacred Heart School held a banner Thursday morning that they received when the school won the silver award from the Healthier US School Challenge, sponsored by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Principal Laura Krejci said the ban-

ner will hang in the cafeteria. Holding the banner were (from left) Ryan Voss, Jon Ortner, Cathy Carney, the school's head nutritionist, Jaren Rush, Krejci and Brandon Brier. Beverly Stafford (far right), a child nutrition consultant with the Kansas Department of Education, presented the banner.

# Sacred Heart school recognized

By Sam Dieter  
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Sacred Heart Elementary School became the first in northwest Kansas to earn silver-level recognition Thursday from a national program for the quality of its food, physical activity and education about healthy eating.

"I just wanted them to try to learn to eat

healthier than some of us do," said Cathy Carney, head nutritionist at the school. "To receive (the award), I thought it was great."

The school received a Silver Award from the Healthier US School Challenge in a ceremony Thursday morning. Sacred Heart earned the award for efforts last year to teach kids about healthy living. The program is sponsored by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

which runs the school lunch program.

The whole school gathered in the gym Thursday morning to see a plaque signed by First Lady Michelle Obama and a banner to be hung in the lunchroom. Aprons were given to the lunch ladies. Carney said the school will keep the silver certification for four years, and get a \$1,000 grant to be used

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Sacred Heart School students and staff (above) did the "hokey-pokey" Thursday morning in the school gym to celebrate an award the school earned for healthier food. Also dancing were (from left) Hayden Bellamy, Anna Brown and Beverly Stafford of the state Department of Education. Alongside Principal Laura Krejci, Stafford presented aprons for the school lunch ladies (right).

