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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## County OKs raises for 26 employees

By Heather Alwin  
Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwks.com

The Thomas County commissioners approved pay increases ranging from 2.7 to 13.6 percent for 26 county employees at their meeting Monday. These raises are in addition to the 2 percent raise given to all county employees earlier this year. Commissioner Mike Baughn suggested

raising wages about 11 percent. "The public is not going to be real happy with 11 percent," Baughn said, adding that he believes county pay is too low compared to similar positions at the City of Colby and around the area. Commissioner Paul Steele said the county could face the loss of key employees if it's not competitive, so the commissioners settled on a compromise of increases for a few key employees.

The county does not keep information on the number of employees who leave because of low pay, Baughn said. The current increases had been delayed to allow the commissioners to do some research before making a decision. Department heads had asked for increases of 2.5 percent to 14.9 percent for their workers, though some had not requested any raises. Though Register of Deeds Lora Volk

had not sought a raise, the commissioners approved an increase in her salary from \$37,409 to \$40,800 per year. Her deputy, Karla Sullivan, also received an unsolicited increase from \$12.13 to \$13.46 per hour. Baughn said the raises were needed to bring wages up to the level of similar departments. In the county treasurer's office, Melanie Barton's pay was increased from

\$11.22 to \$11.50 per hour. Treasurer-elect Layn Bruggeman received an increase from \$14.79 to \$16.50 per hour. Jessica Jones received a raise from \$10.20 to \$11.32 per hour. Treasurer Donita Applebury said she requested these raises because these staff members had obtained additional training and were responsible for more work.

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## Snow storm blows through

Light snowfall and a driving wind last night closed Interstate 70 between Goodland and Burlington and forced some schools to delay the start of classes today, but for the most part, business went on as usual and the snow wasn't expected to hang around long. Snow started falling late Tuesday night, and a total of 2 1/2 inches had been reported here by morning. There is a slight chance of snow tonight, and skies should be partially cloudy but clear for the rest of the week. Temperatures dipped to 27 degrees in Colby overnight, and were about the same at 9 a.m. this morning. They were expected to top 56 on Friday.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported no accidents in Thomas or nearby counties overnight, but high winds and blowing snow prompted the Kansas Department of Transportation to close Interstate 70 from Goodland to Burlington from 9:15 p.m. Tuesday to 9 a.m. this morning in conjunction with road closures in Colorado. During the morning, however, blowing snow made some areas slick and several minor accidents were reported on the freeway east of Oakley. In one, a car was impaled on a guard rail. A semi-trailer rig jackknifed just east of Rexford, partly blocking the road. Most of the Kansas part of that section, about 12 miles from Caruso to the state line, has two-way traffic one the westbound pavement while workers replace the eastbound lanes with new concrete this summer.

School districts around Colby, including Brewster, Golden Plains and Oakley, started class at 10 a.m. to allow buses time to make their rounds safely. Colby Public Schools, Sacred Heart School, Heartland Christian School and Colby Community College all started on time.

## City swears in new members

By Sam Dieter  
Colby Free Press  
sdieter@nwks.com

Four newly elected members were sworn in to the Colby City Council at a meeting Tuesday night at City Hall, then got a lesson on their duties and some legal pitfalls to avoid from the city attorney.

Lance Bolyard, Bill Mariman, Peg Tole and Francis Britton all sat down at the table in the council chambers for the first time after their election April 2. Bolyard took Phil DeYoung's seat for Ward 1, Mariman took Dave Voss's place in Ward 2, Tole has Tim Hufle's seat in Ward 3 and Britton took Mark Beringer's seat for Ward 4.

"Get up there," Beringer told the four new members as he got out of his seat for the last time. "You have to elect a new council president." He, Voss and DeYoung took seats among the city employees long enough to receive plaques of appreciation for their service. One was given to Hutfles, who was absent.

The new members' first order of business was to help elect Councilman Fred Taylor president, and for everyone to find their seats around the table.

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## Cub Scouts camp in Ferguson Park

Kids from Cub Scout Pack 140 and their parents set up camp Friday afternoon in Ferguson Park, north of town along Range Avenue, for their winter campout. Jason Smith (above) helped set up one of the tents. Jeff Mettlen and his son Beaux (left) went to a fishing derby with the rest of the pack Saturday morning at the Villa High pond. Other than some small fry, Smith reported that Ethan Zerr had caught a perch by the end of the derby, and someone caught a trout. He and his son Isaac were at the derby (below) with Dave Spalsbury (below right), a fish biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, who told the boys what kind of fish they could expect to catch.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



## Talking about 'Little Ike'



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Roy Bird was at the Pioneer Memorial Library at noon Tuesday to talk about the book "Little Ike," which told of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's childhood in Kansas and the work ethic he developed in his early years. He talked to a crowd that packed the library basement as part of the Booked for Lunch event going on all week at the library.

## School board receives new iPads

By Sam Dieter  
Colby Free Press  
sdieter@nwks.com

Members of the Colby School Board got a special present at their board meeting Monday night: new iPads to use for board business.

Technology coordinator Phil DeYoung passed out seven of the notebook computers, one to each member, showing them the features, such as the ability to check e-mail, and accessories that go with each one.

The iPads will be used for software called Board Docs, which allow members to look at documents online instead of using paper during meetings. The board voted to purchase the iPads at its January meeting. They cost \$499 apiece, DeYoung said later,

or roughly \$3,500 for all seven.

Each iPad, he said, comes with the software known as SIRI that allows you to "talk" with the iPad.

"You just talk into the microphone and it will hopefully decipher what you're trying to do," he said.

The people using the iPads can add more applications to them, he said.

"Just keep in mind these are very user-centric," DeYoung said. "They're designed for one person; they don't share as well as computers."

Board members stayed after the meeting to practice working with the iPads. DeYoung reminded them that the iPads are school property, to be careful what they put on them, and to not leave them lying

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## Congressman to hold office hours

Members of Congressman Tim Huelskamp's Kansas staff will hold office hours from 10 to 11 a.m. next Thursday in the Fireside Lounge at the Colby Community College student union.

Staff will listen to constituents' concerns and opinions and provide in-person advice for people who need help cutting through red

tape involving federal agencies or programs, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service, Medicare and Social Security.

Constituents seeking help should bring any relevant paperwork regarding claims and benefits with them. For information, call Huelskamp's Dodge City of-

office at (620) 225-0172.

Congressman Huelskamp represents the 1st District of Kansas. He serves on the House Small Business and Veterans' Affairs committees. He is a member of the Republican Study Committee.

