



# Graduation 2013 Section Inside

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10 pages

### Dog park brought to council

By Sam Dieter  
Colby Free Press  
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The City Council debated setting up a new place for people to walk their dogs at its meeting Tuesday night.

Chris and Emily Keen came to the meeting with several friends to suggest setting up a dog park at the old landfill by the corner of Smith Drive and Fifth, on the north side of town near Heartland Christian School. The group went to another council meeting last fall with their proposal. They said they could set up a volunteer committee to turn the area into a park.

"It's kind of down in a crater," Emily Keen said, adding that people nearby would not be able

to see dogs running around inside the park, and City Manager Tyson McGreer pointed out that the city already mows most of the grass there.

She said she and her husband have taken their dog there before, and seen other people visit the area as well.

"So people are more or less using this as a default dog park," Chris Keen said.

Only a few improvements would be needed to turn the area into a park, the Keens added, such as a dumpster and a fence around the edge. They added that the committee could organize the creation of the park and raise the money, and that they have plenty

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### Texas launches criminal probe

By Angela K. Brown  
and Ramit Plushnick-Masti  
Associated Press

WACO, Texas (AP) — Texas law enforcement officials today launched a criminal investigation into the massive fertilizer plant explosion that killed 14 people last month, after weeks of largely treating the blast as an industrial accident.

The announcement came the same day a paramedic who helped to evacuate residents the night of the explosion was arrested on a charge of possessing a destructive device, though it is not clear whether the charge is related to the April 17 blast at West Fertilizer Co.

The Texas Department of Public Safety said in a statement that the agency had instructed the Texas Rangers and the McLennan County Sheriff's Department to conduct a criminal probe.

"This disaster has severely impacted the community of West,

and we want to ensure that no stone goes unturned and that all the facts related to this incident are uncovered," department Director Steven McCraw said.

McLennan County Sheriff Parnell McNamara said residents "must have confidence that this incident has been looked at from every angle and professionally handled..."

The statement did not detail any further reasons for the criminal investigation.

Paramedic Bryce Reed, meanwhile, was in federal custody following his arrest on the charge of possessing a destructive device. Reed was booked into the McLennan County Jail at 2:40 a.m. and released before 8 a.m. to agents from the Bureau of Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, according to McLennan County Jail booking clerk Brandy Gann.

Reed made an initial court appearance in federal court in Waco today, but did not enter a plea.



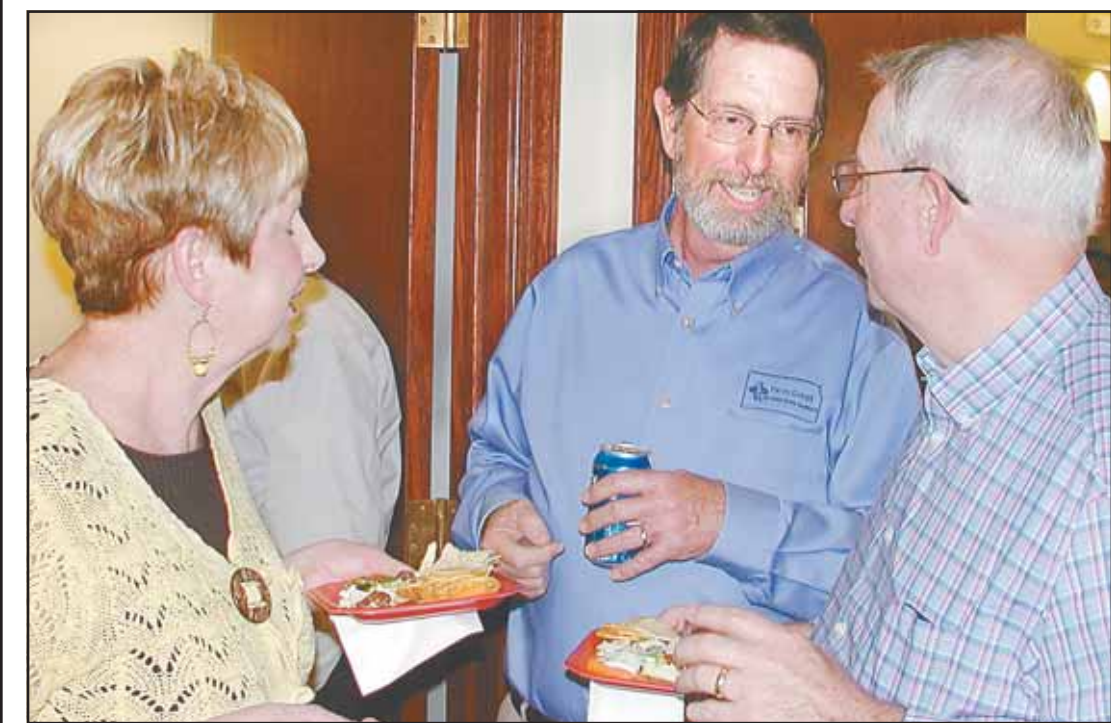
### Ohhhhhh, ewwwww!

McKenzie Carmichael (above) marveled at the beetles, grasshoppers and cicadas stuck in the box when Lynette Koon, who teaches 4-H kids about entomology, showed third graders her bug collection (right) Monday afternoon at the Colby Grade School's after school program. Carson Torrance (below) was also impressed by a bug-catching net.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



### Enjoying a fond farewell



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Larry Maxwell greeted well-wishers at his retirement party, which was combined with Business After 5 Thursday at Farm Credit.

### IRS apologizes for targeting

By Stephen Ohlemacher  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service inappropriately flagged conservative political groups for additional reviews during the 2012 election to see if they were violating their tax-exempt status, a top IRS official said today.

Organizations were singled out because they included the words "tea party" or "patriot" in their applications for tax-exempt status, said Lois Lerner, who heads the IRS division that oversees tax-exempt groups.

In some cases, groups were asked for their list of donors, which violates IRS policy in most cases, she said.

"That was wrong. That was absolutely incorrect, it was insensitive and it was inappropriate. That's not how we go about selecting cases for further review," Lerner said at a conference sponsored by the American Bar Association.

"The IRS would like to apologize for that," she added.

Lerner said the practice was initiated by low-level workers in Cincinnati and was not motivated by political bias. After her talk, she told The AP that no high level IRS officials knew about the practice.

Agency officials found out about the practice last

year and moved to correct it, the IRS said in a statement. The statement did not specify when officials found out.

About 75 groups were inappropriately targeted. None had their tax-exempt status revoked, Lerner said.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky called on the White House to investigate.

"Today's acknowledgement by the Obama administration that the IRS did in fact target conservative groups in the heat of last year's national election is not enough," McConnell said. "I call on the White House to conduct a transparent, government-wide review aimed at assuring the American people that these thuggish practices are not under way at the IRS or elsewhere in the administration against anyone, regardless of their political views."

Many conservative groups complained during the election that they were being harassed by the IRS. They accused the agency of frustrating their attempts to become tax exempt by sending them lengthy, intrusive questionnaires.

The forms, which the groups made available at the

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