

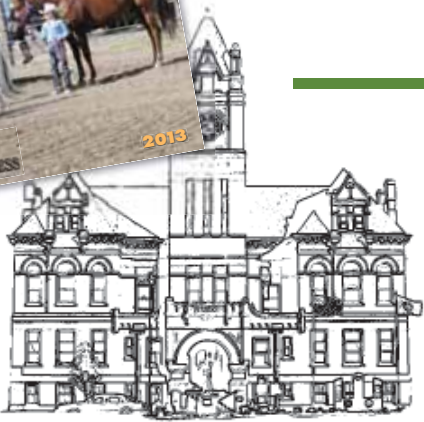


FAIR SECTION INSIDE!

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Budget proposed for schools

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The Colby School board approved a proposed budget for next year at its monthly meeting Monday night.

There will be a public hearing on the proposed \$11,466,156 budget at the Monday, Aug. 19, board meeting, which starts at 5:30 p.m. The district will publish the budget in the *Colby Free Press*, starting on Monday. The school district plans to tax \$3,344,954 this year, and levy 47.743 mills.

Last year's budget was \$10,842,965, of which \$3,063,156 came out of taxes. The district ended up spending \$10,824,620 and taxing \$3,093,827. The district budgeted 47.594 mills last year, and only actually taxed 46.882.

The district rearranged some of its expenses this year after the board voted itself the authority to raise the levy for the capital outlay fund to eight mills to pay for energy-saving upgrades to the school district buildings.

The last payment on the bond for the Colby High School building will be made in September, District Business Manager Jo DeYoung told the board. For next year, bond and interest fund will drop from 5.748 to nothing. But the capital outlay will rise from 1.742 mills to seven mills to pay for the upgrades.

DeYoung said the school is hoping to get more money from the state next year, too, for increased enrollment. The state will fund the district based on the unusual 6.4 percent spike in enrollment

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Emergency registers begin

Thomas County Emergency Management is asking county residents to help launch two new registry programs that may help families in case of emergency.

The Personal Storm Shelter Registry will help first responders in search and rescue efforts after a natural disaster by helping them locate those in need of assistance.

The Special Needs Registry can help first responders and health-care workers assist vulnerable residents with their special needs in an emergency. Registrants can share what needs they have and what supplies they can keep on hand.

Information in each registry will be maintained by the Thomas County Emergency Management department.

The department plans to use the storm shelter data to map all storm shelter locations, but the information will be kept private and will not be shared for any reason other than assisting emergency responders.

The special needs data may be shared with the hospital, health department and Emergency Medical Services department to help them with planning.

Both programs are voluntary. Autumn Arasmith, director of the Thomas County Emergency Management department, encourages residents to try to be as prepared as possible on their own by getting a disaster kit, making disaster plans and staying informed. To register, go to ks-thomas.manatron.com or pick up a form

Guilty plea entered in Ohio kidnap case

Andrew Welsh-Huggins
AP Legal Affairs Writer

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland man who imprisoned three women in his home, subjecting them to a decade of rapes and beatings, pleaded guilty today to 937 counts in a deal to avoid the death penalty.

Ariel Castro told the judge he was addicted pornography, had a "sexual problem" and had been a sexual abuse victim himself long ago.

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors recommended Castro be sentenced to life without parole plus 1,000 years.

Castro, 53, said he understood that he would never get out of prison, saying he expected he was "going to get the book thrown at me." He later added, "I knew that when I first spoke to the FBI agent when I first got arrested."

Castro, wearing glasses for the first time in court, was far more interactive than in previous court appearances when he mostly kept his head down and eyes closed. He answered the judge's questions in a clear, intelligible voice, saying he understood the proceedings and that he would never be released from prison.

Castro, who was born in Puerto Rico, said he could read and understand English well but had trouble with comprehension.

"My addiction to pornography and my sexual problem has really taken a toll on my mind." He later said he had been a sexual abuse victim as a child, but the judge cut him off.

Near the end of the 2 1/2-hour hearing, the judge accepted the pleas and declared Castro guilty. Sentencing was set for Thursday.

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SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
Karla Haggard (above left) and Kathi Wright, judged Madison Zimmerman and Karssa Singer's painting, on the windows of Colby Furniture, Wednesday afternoon. The contestants worked on their paintings last week (right), including (from right) Caitlyn Tinkham, Grace Oard and Courtney Tinkham. They were helping Vickie Oard (Grace's mom, the Tinkhams' aunt) with her painting on the windows of Leroy's Printing on July 17. Ashlee, Levi and Mac Haines's first-place work graces the window of Self Service Laundromat.



Windows have winner

The winner for this year's window painting contest has been decided.

Ashlee, Levi and Mac Haines won first place in the contest for their picture of a pig — dreaming of winning first place in a fair — that they painted on the window of the Self Service Laundromat at 860 S. Franklin Ave. Fair Board members Karla Haggard, Kathi Wright and Nancy Rundel judged the paintings Tuesday afternoon and came up with their picks the next morning.

They judged a total of nine window paint-

ings that centered on the subject of the parade for the county fair this year: "Blue Jeans and Country Dreams." The paintings were made downtown in the past few weeks, by both kids and adults.

Grace Oard and Courtney and Caitlin Tinkham took home second for their painting a blue jean pocket on the ServiceMaster window, and the Solomon Valley 4-H Club got third after painting of 4-Hers dreaming about competing in the fair at the Stramel Law Firm.

Other entries included: Rebel, Ethan and Corbin Jay, who decorated both the main branch of Farmers and Merchants Bank, and the one at Dillons; Michele Werth, Kathy Baird and Andrie Shuman, who decorated Brewster Grocery Store; Vicki Oard, who decorated Leroy's Printing; Madison Zimmerman and Karissa Singer, who decorated Colby Furniture Store; and Lacy O'Neal, who decorated Personal Touch.

Grant pays college instructors

Colby Community College will receive \$100,000 from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to pay the 2103-14 salaries for two of its nursing instructors, named "Instructors of Excellence."

The recipients are Jennifer Landis, a nursing instructor at the college's Norton campus, and Gwen Loyd, a WaKeeney nursing instructor.

"It is truly an honor," said President Steve Vacik. "because the Hansen Foundation has given this money in support of excellent instruction. Both Jennifer and Gwen are outstanding examples of the quality nursing instructors at CCC." The college has three locations



Gwen Loyd



J. Landis

that offer nursing classes: Colby, which offers both day and evening practical nursing and registered nursing programs; Norton, which offers day and evening classes; and WaKeeney, which began to offering evening classes last year for practical and registered nursing students.

"The money received from the Hansen Foundation will pay the salaries of two of our best nurses," said Vacik. "This will allow the college to utilize the payroll savings to address other needs of the college."

The mission of the Hansen Foundation is to enhance the quality of life throughout rural communities in northwest Kansas.

Although projections differ about how many Kansas nurses will be needed to address future needs, some reports say the supply of nurses nationwide could fall 36 percent below requirements by 2020.

The college has made it a priority to train as many nursing stu-

dents as possible to help meet this growing demand.

"We realize many of our students are place-bound and not able to travel to Colby on a daily basis," said Vacik. "To meet the demand, Colby began the program in Norton several years ago and started the nursing program in WaKeeney last year. Because nursing is a costly program, this gift from the Hansen Foundation is especially helpful, allowing us to deliver programs to other towns in our service area."

