

# FALL SPORTS SECTION INSIDE

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# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Developer seeks county easement

**By Heather Alwin**  
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City of Colby employees Tyson McGreer and Rick Dickman appeared at the Thomas County Commissioners meeting on Friday to argue on behalf of the

company planning to turn the old hospital on Range Avenue into an apartment complex.

According to McGreer and Dickman, the company wants an easement to use a portion of the county's office complex land as parking for the new apartments.

But using that county land as proposed

at the Friday meeting would eliminate the north access to the county fairgrounds and parking in front of the county health department's building entrance. And the company does not plan to pay the county for the use of county land.

McGreer, Colby's city manager, was quick to point out that the roadway tradi-

tionally used as the north entrance to the fairgrounds is not actually designated as a road.

Commissioner Mike Baughn replied that it is on county property and even if it is not actually a road, it is used as such.

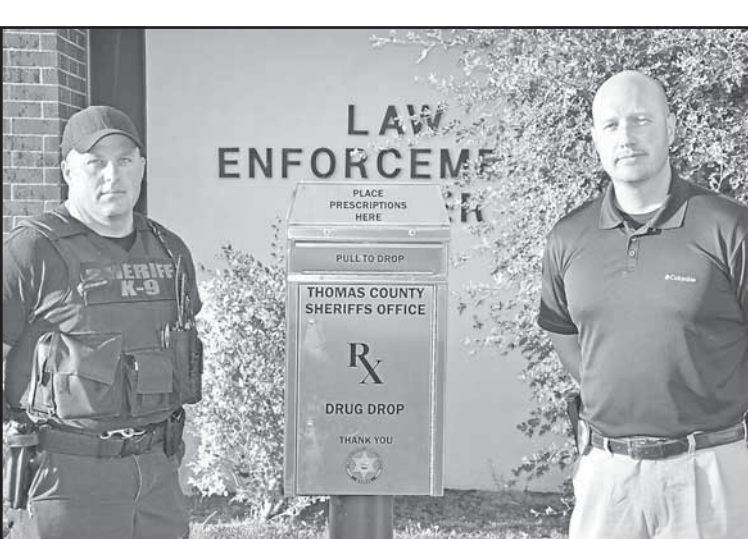
Health Department Administrator Kasiah Rothchild argued in favor of keep-

ing at least a few parking spaces in front of the department's main entrance on the north side of the county office complex.

"That's predominantly where our patients park," she said.

She said the department needs three

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RICHARD BARRETT/Colby Police Department  
Undersheriff Marc Finley (left) and Colby Police Chief Ron Alexander stood next to the new drop box installed for prescription medications at the Law Enforcement Center.

## Pill dropoff made simple

Citizens can now drop off unwanted prescription medications at any time of the day or night, thanks to a new medication disposal receptacle installed at the Thomas County Law Enforcement Center.

Undersheriff Marc Finley recently had the box installed after receiving numerous calls from members of the public wanting to know what to do with unwanted medications.

"This new receptacle offers a convenient way for people to (dispose of medication) properly," Finley said.

Previously, it was difficult for individuals to properly dispose of medication since other disposal methods like throwing it in the trash or flushing it down the toilet are discouraged by law enforcement.

The department previously collected about 70 pounds of prescription medications, said Finley. "Your safety is our concern. Overdose, whether accidental or

intentional, is a huge concern for us," Finley said.

Improperly discarded medications can be accidentally swallowed by children and can be deliberately misused by teens and adults.

There is a camera that monitors the box for security purposes, but drop-offs are anonymous.

Medications dropped in the new receptacle will be disposed of through a partnership with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

"Prescription drug abuse is a growing problem across the nation," Finley said. "If you have medications that are outdated or no longer needed, please dispose of them."

The sheriff's office paid for the box, which cost \$1,100, out of its drug forfeiture money, so no tax dollars were spent for the receptacle.

The drop-off box is located outside the Law Enforcement Center at 225 N. Court Ave. in Colby.

## Kansas tightens food stamp guides

TOPEKA (AP) - A federal waiver that allowed about 20,000 unemployed Kansas residents to receive food assistance will be allowed to expire at the end of the month, state officials announced today, saying they wanted to encourage work over welfare dependency.

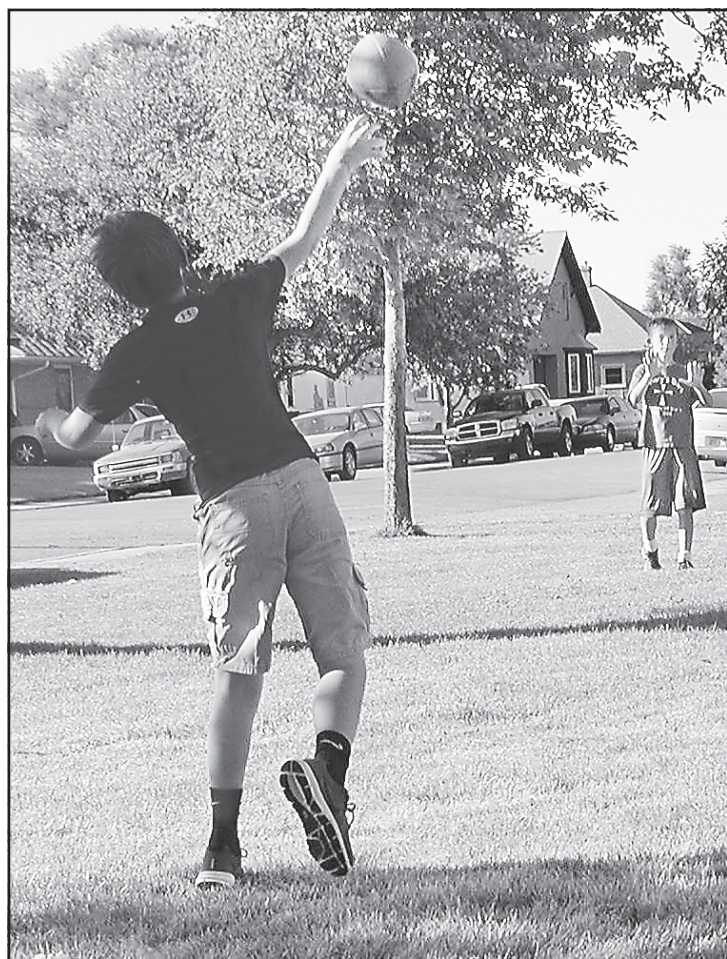
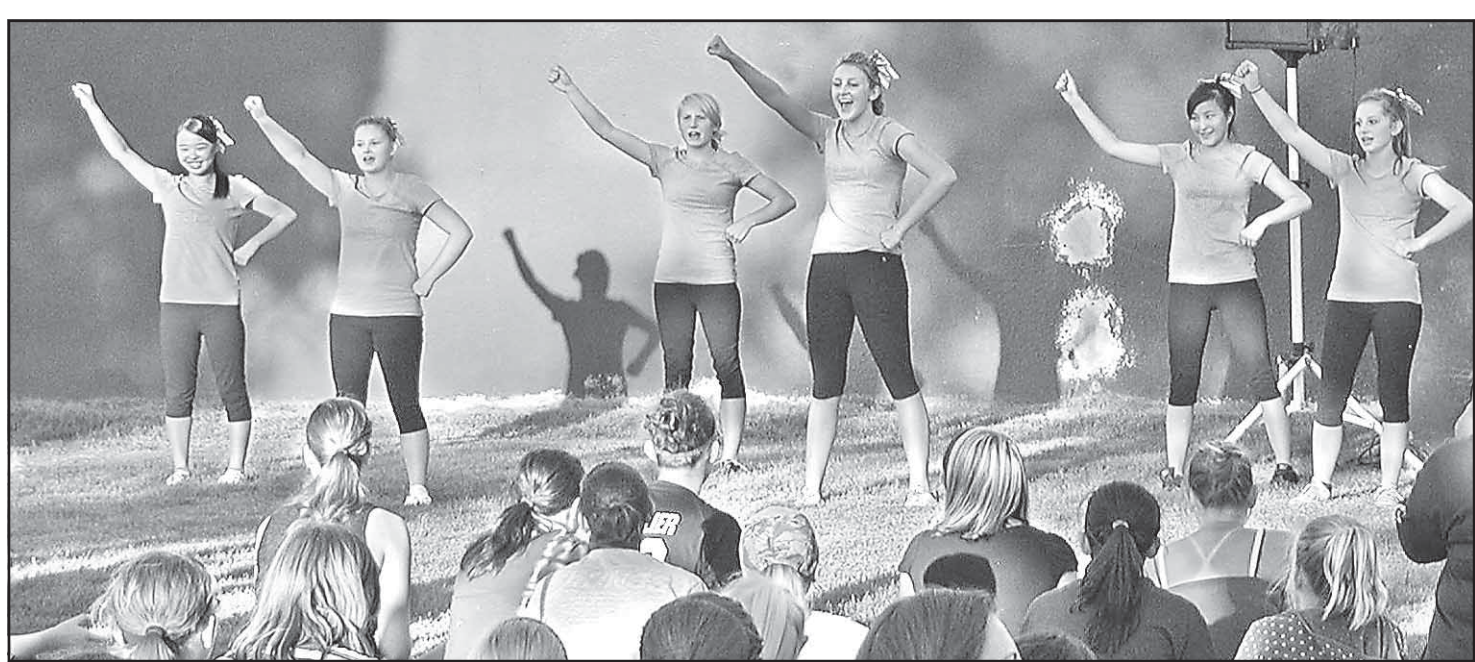
The Kansas Department for Children and Families said able-bodied adults with no dependents would need to work no less than 20 hours per week to qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as SNAP or food stamps.

"We know that employment is the most effective way to escape poverty," department Secretary Phyllis Gilmore said in a news release. "As long as federal work requirements are met, no one will lose food assistance; the law only affects those individuals who are capable of working and have no dependent children."

The work requirement to receive food stamps was first implemented in 1996 as part of welfare reform. But the 2009 stimulus bill allowed all states to waive the work requirements for able-bodied adults who had no children. Since then, states have been allowed to keep using the waiver as long as they meet certain criteria.

Kansas no longer meets the criteria because of its low unemployment rate, but the state was offered the chance to use an earlier higher unemployment rate in order to continue the waiver if it wanted to do so. Kansas rejected that offer, opting instead to let the waiver expire on Sept. 30.

That means that come Oct. 1, adults will have three months to either find work or enroll in a federally approved job training program. The state said Oklahoma and Wisconsin also plan to let their waivers expire.



## Brewster gets all together



HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press  
Titan cheerleaders (top) set an enthusiastic mood for the program at the annual Brewster hot dog and watermelon feed, which benefits the Brewster Heritage Center. Following a meal enjoyed by even the youngest community members (bottom) some teens took time out to toss a football around (left). During the program Mayor Rex Jamison gave former mayor Mike Baughn a community service award (above). School Superintendent Janci Mills introduced coaches, teams and the student council and the town thanked the organizers of the Brewster 125th anniversary celebration.

The City of Brewster honored Mike Baughn with two awards at Brewster's annual hot dog and watermelon feed Thursday.

Baughn has been a teacher and law enforcement officer. He served the city as mayor from 1979 through 2012, when he stepped down to assume his current position as county commissioner.

Baughn, was given awards for community service and distinguished service to the city, along with an engraved pocket watch.

Mayor Rex Jamison, along with the city council and officers, presented the awards to Baughn in front of over 100 community members gathered for the annual feed.

The event is to welcome new residents and kick off the school year, and a community member is honored each year with the community service award.

School Superintendent Janci Mills introduced coaches and team members of the football, volleyball, cheering and cross country teams, along with the members of Brewster's student council.

Announcer Fred Juenemann introduced the new community residents and recognized the sponsors of the city's 125th anniversary celebration.

The hot dog feed raises money to support the Brewster Heritage Center and its community projects.

## Former trustee cites communication block

**By Sam Dieter**  
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The Colby Community College Board of Trustees is looking for a new member after Trustee Nick Wells resigned.

"I rather not talk about it," Wells said when asked why he resigned. The trustees voted unanimously to accept the resignation at a special meeting on Aug. 23. Wells and Trustee Dale Herschberger were not at the meeting. Wells is still the director of the college's endowment foundation. He has been director of the foundation for 10 years and has been on the board for two years.

"I thought I could offer some guidance and direction, and open a line of communication (between the board and foundation)," Wells

said, "but all I did was close it."

Wells would not say who he thought would be a good candidate to take his place.

"I don't think we were expecting it," said Debbie Schwanke, the college's public information director.

Schwanke said that applicants have until 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12, to apply to college President Dr. Stephen Vacik for the

position. A notice of the vacancy on the board was published in the Colby Free Press on Aug. 26, 28 and 29. The board will choose a new member at its Monday, Sept. 16, meeting, Schwanke said. She expects most of the applicants will be at that meeting.

