



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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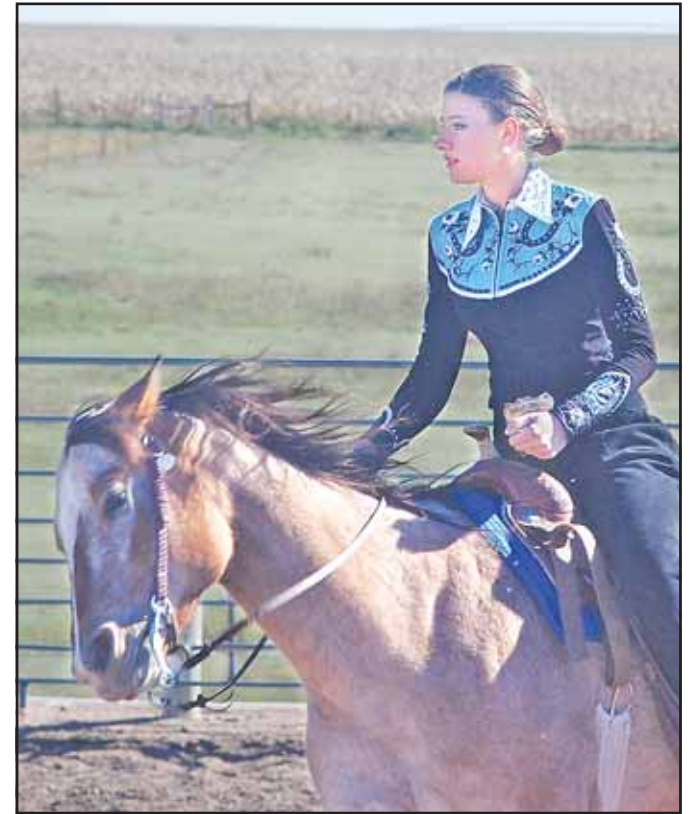
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## Windy, cold ride

R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Top equestrian athletes from major universities and community colleges in the Midwest came to the Colby Community College horse show last weekend. Advanced horsemanship (above) was among Sunday's highlights, and Colby's own Cateline Isley (above right) captured the championship. Strong winds teamed with chilly temperatures didn't deter fans (right) from showing their support at this two-day event. Teams included the University of Wyoming, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha and the University of Colorado.



TAMA UNGER/Citizens Medical Center

Brian Unruh (left), Jennifer Haag and Andy Rose are all certified physician assistants at the Family Center for Health Care.

## Community Foundation reviews events of the past year

By Sam Dieter

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New board members were elected and people gave thanks at the Thomas County Community Foundation's annual meeting Wednesday.

Foundation members and guests met at noon Wednesday at the Colby United Methodist Church. A short business meeting started with the election of three new board members: Duane Cheney, from Thomas County; Judy McCarty of McCarty Family Farms, Rexford; and Corky Bellamy, Colby. Kristina Hills, the outgoing vice president, pointed out the "friends of the foundation" – donors who were at the meeting are voting foundation members – and noted that those not present got absentee ballots.

Jada Tubbs thanked Hills and two other former board members – Matt Vogler and Todd Stramel, a Colby lawyer. Vogler represented the Rexford area, Tubbs said.

Vogler has been on the board for two years, Stramel for three. Hills, who helped conduct the meeting, has served for five years, and been the board president and vice president, and the chair of the foundation's grants and scholarships committees.

"He made us think and he kept us on our toes," she said of Stramel.

People representing Colby Elementary School, the Thomas County Healthy Communities Coalition and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism attended the meeting to thank the foundation for grants they have received. Executive Director Melinda Olson said the foundation has given out over \$629,402 in grants since it was founded in 2001.

The foundation's financial report showed \$1,696,129 in assets at the end of last year. The foundation's liabilities and equity totaled the same number, most of which was included in its operating funds, permanently endowed funds and permanently endowed agency funds started by other nonprofits for their own benefit.

One guest, Wes Sowers, who works for Wildlife and Parks, said he also represented the Hunting Heritage Group. He thanked the foundation for its help with the Youth Outdoor Skills Day that several groups have been sponsoring for 13 years. A total of 95 people – kids, adults and volunteers – were at this year's Skills Day, he said.

He credited the foundation with giving \$4,881 since 2002 to help with the event, including \$800 the foundation gave to buy outdoor survival kits this year. The foundation also gave Wildlife and Parks \$3,500 for hunter safety technology in 2005.

Jeanene Brown, education director at Citizens Medical Center, who serves on the Coalition's Active Community Design Committee, said she looked at chronic disease statistics and realized that

exercise and eating well could provide wide-ranging health benefits, but is hard to get people to do. She said a better lifestyle

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## Physician assistants fill health care gaps

By Heather Alwin

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National Physician Assistants' Week, Oct. 6 to 12 this year, celebrates the certified physician assistants who help look after patients in many towns today.

According to the American Academy of Physician Assistants, these providers, often called "PA" or "PA-C," perform many of the same duties as doctors: physical exams, diagnosing and treating illnesses, interpreting and ordering lab tests, assisting in surgery and prescribing medications.

There are about 900 licensed physician assistants in Kansas, said John Borchard, a board member of the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants.

To be certified, these providers must be graduates of an accredited program, he said. The only such program in Kansas is at Wichita State University. After graduating, candidates must pass a national certification exam and obtain a state license.

Physician assistants must complete 50 hours of continuing medical education each year to maintain their certification.

The Colby area is home to a handful of certified physician assistants, including three who practice at Family Center for Health Care: Jennifer Haag, Andy Rose and Brian Unruh. Each had his or her own reason for becoming a physician assistant.

"I enjoy the daily challenge and

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## 'Guilty' the verdict in trafficking case

A Minnesota man was found guilty Friday of human trafficking by a Logan County jury in Oakley.

Preston Sanders, 27, St. Paul, Minn., was originally arrested after a traffic stop on Inter-

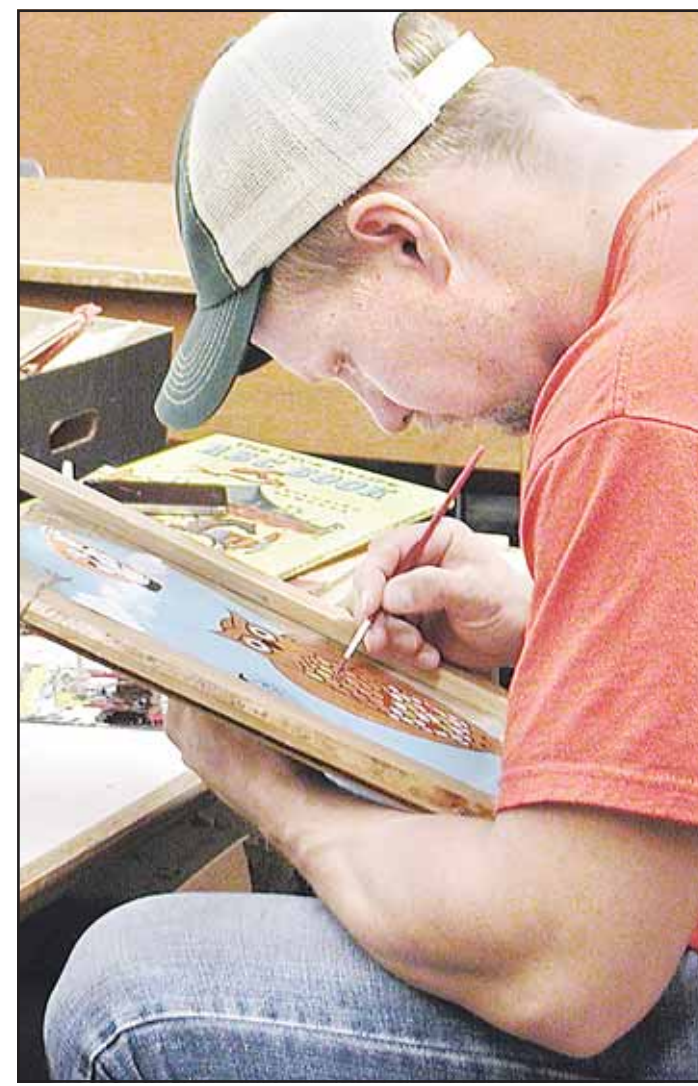
state 70, according to a statement from Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt.

On Friday, a jury found him guilty of transporting a person under age 18, knowing she would be used for the sexual gratification of another and furnishing alcohol to a minor. He was also found guilty of driving on a suspended license and transporting an open container. Christine Ladner, the assistant attorney gen-

eral handling the case, and Logan County Attorney Margaret P. Mahoney, represented the state. Charges were brought against Sanders after an investigation by the Logan County Sheriff's Office, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Highway Patrol, and the Des Moines and St. Paul police departments.

He is due to be sentenced at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, by Judge Glenn D. Schifferner.

## Brushing up details



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Chris Thummel painted an owl Friday afternoon at Colby Community College. Thummel, who earned his Associate of Arts degree at the college in 2006, was the featured artist for October's "Studio Friday," a painting session at the college on the first Friday of the month.



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