



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Drawing to help after Lyons flood

A Colby woman plans a drawing for gift certificates at Friday's Colby High football game to raise money for her home town in Colorado, one of those hit by last month's historic floods.

Hadassah Schmitt has help from the Colby High Young Humanitarians to sell tickets for the drawing. A resident of Colby for six years, Schmitt is raising money for her former hometown of Lyons,

which was all but wiped away by floodwaters in mid-September.

Tickets for the drawing will be on sale for \$2 for a ticket or \$5 for three, at the Farmers and Merchants Bank branch at Dillons until 6 p.m. Friday. Then the Young Humanitarians will be able to sell more tickets before the game.

Schmitt said she plans to draw tickets at the start of the game and announce the winners at half time.

There will be drawing for 11 different prize packages. You do not have to be there to win, she said, as long as your name and number are on your ticket.

The prizes mainly consist of gift certificates, she said. Each one is good for hundreds of dollars worth of items at area businesses, including photography studios

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Building inspector started as firefighter

Colby's outgoing building inspector has been working for the city for nearly 30 years.

The city will hold a reception for Rick Dickman from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, his last day on the job, at City Hall. This is Dickman's seventh year as building inspector, but before that, he worked 22 years on the fire department.

"I started as a firefighter and moved up, and when I left there I was the assistant fire chief," Dickman said.

He said he joined the city because he wanted a stable job with more benefits. He had worked for Don Surmeier at the former Colby Locker - which used to be on East Fourth Street - for 10 years.

"Being on the fire service in a small town, it's a

24-7 job," Dickman recalled.

Of his time at the department, Dickman said, he spent 21 years as a full-time fire fighter. After a while, he said, he wanted more time at home with his family, including his wife Becky, son Matthew and daughters Amy and Jenny. Matthew is 18 now and his daughters are in their 20s.

He said he had often had to fill in as the building inspector, and took over that position from Doug Lewis in 2007. Dickman described the position as being like any other job, with good days and bad days. People often get mad when you try to enforce building codes, he said.

"It's one of those jobs where you don't want to take things personal," he added.



Rick Dickman

Trustees examine tourism pilot program

By Sam Dieter

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The Colby Community College trustees talked about a new pilot program they hope will bring students to the school for tourism opportunities at their meeting Monday night.

The board talked about the "Western Experience" pilot program, which would allow students to take trips to Colorado or Nebraska to ski, fish, hunt or do other activities. President Stephen Vacik pointed out that the college is just

three hours from the ski slopes, while other schools are nine or 10 hours away, giving Colby a competitive advantage. Some trips planned for the program might be more ambitious, such as going to Mount Rushmore.

"I think it's a great recruiting tool for us," Dr. Vacik said.

The pilot program will include 20 to 25 students on a series of eight monthly trips throughout the year. The next step is to look into a travel agency to help out, Vacik said. Local sponsorships could help, but the program has to pay for itself and be affordable.

"It will give our students one more thing to do," Dr. George McNulty, vice president of student affairs, said.

Vacik said that the program would be available for one year-long price, but Trustee Dale Herschberger pointed out that an athlete might only be able to travel for part of the year, and Vacik said it might be possible for students to pay for only some of the trips.

The students who went on the trip would talk about it to their friends, he said, encouraging them

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West Nile virus identified in Thomas County cases

Three cases of West Nile virus have been detected in Thomas County, including one that sent a patient to an eastern Kansas hospital.

Monique Cheatum, a registered nurse with the Thomas County Health Department, said the cases have been reported since late September. One man was so sick he was sent to the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City for several days.

Symptoms of West Nile range from so mild the patient might not notice they are sick to life-threatening, Cheatum said, and include every level of severity in between. The man who was hospitalized was one of two cases reported in late September.

The third case involved a man who only found out

he had the illness when he donated blood to the Red Cross, and they refused the blood after it was tested. That man said he felt tired for a day, Cheatum said, but had no other symptoms.

On Oct. 9, the state Department of Health and Environment issued a list of 32 cases which did not include any in Thomas County, but Cheatum said it takes time for the county to investigate each case. A lab test is used to figure out what kinds of diseases are reported here. The county agency tries to find the source of each outbreak, but that is easier with some diseases than others.

"With West Nile," she said, "there's not a lot to do, just make the public aware that it is in our area."



Open for business



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
Guests toured the recently-expanded Family Center for Healthcare (above) Tuesday afternoon, following a reception celebrating the opening of the addition. Kevan Trenkle, (far left), administrator of Citizens Medical Center, talked to Dr. Kelly Gabel, a general practice surgeon, while Dr. Sarah Gabel looked on following the ribbon cutting for the new addition. Scott Focke (below, left) the clinic manager, also chatted with Kelly Gabel; the couple began practicing in Colby recently. The reception also welcomed them to the center.



New magazine debuts today

A new feature, *Athlon Sports* magazine, makes its debut in today's issue of the *Colby Free Press*. It will run monthly from now on.

The magazine gives an inside view of all major sports. Right now, it's running its "Inside Sunday" edition, providing highlights from National Football League games and previews of upcoming

games.

Athlon will publish its "Women's College Basketball Season Preview" on Wednesday, Nov. 6. The same firm now owns *American Profile*, which appears weekly in the *Free Press*, the cooking magazine *Relish*, and *Spry*, for seniors, both of which run monthly.

Special event to honor adoption

November is National Adoption Month, and the Colby Wesleyan Church will honor foster and adoptive families on Orphan Sunday, Nov. 3, during its 10:45 a.m. worship service. A "kid-friendly" lunch will follow the service.

Orphan Sunday, a worldwide recognition of children in foster care and waiting for adoption, is

organized by the Christian Alliance for Orphans, said Joy Rothfuss.

The event began in Zambia, and spread to the U.S. in 2003.

There are about 6,676 children in foster care in Kansas, according to the Kansas Department for Children and Families, and 955 Kansas kids waiting for adoption.

To learn about adoption in northwest Kansas, go to www.st-francis.org. For information about Orphan Sunday, call Rothfuss at the church, 462-8391.



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