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Drawing to help after Lyons flood

ing for gift certificates at Friday's Colby High football game to Colorado, one of those hit by last month's historic floods.

the Colby High Young Humanitarians to sell tickets for the drawing. more tickets before the game. A resident of Colby for six years,

floodwaters in mid-September.

raise money for her home town in on sale for \$2 for a ticket or \$5 for three, at the Farmers and Merchants Bank branch at Dillons un-Hadassah Schmitt has help from til 6 p.m. Friday. Then the Young certificates, she said. Each one is

Schmitt said she plans to draw including photography Schmitt is raising money for tickets at the start of the game and her former hometown of Lyons, announce the winners at half time. See "FLOOD," Page 2

A Colby woman plans a draw- which was all but wiped away by There will be drawing for 11 different prize packages. You do not Tickets for the drawing will be 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 Humanitarians will be able sell good for hundreds of dollars worth of items at area businesses,

Building inspector started as firefighter

Colby's outgoing building inspector has been 24-7 job," Dickman recalled.

working for the city for nearly 30 years.

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 take things personal," he added.

Of his time at the department, Dickman said, he The city will hold a reception for Rick Dickman 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



Rick Dickman

Trustees examine

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 Mon-

The board talked about the "Western Experience" pilot proto take trips to Colorado or Nepointed out that the college is just for itself and be affordable.

three hours from the ski slopes, while other schools are nine or 10 more thing to do," Dr. George Mchours 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.

20 to 25 students on a series of eight monthly trips throughout the gram, which would allow students year. The next step is to look into a travel agency to help out, Vacik trip would talk about it to their braska to ski, fish, hunt or do other said. Local sponsorships could friends, he said, encouraging them activities. President Stephen Vacik help, but the program has to pay

"It will give our students one Nulty, vice president of student affairs, said.

Vacik said that the program would be available for one yearlong price, but Trustee Dale Herschberger pointed out that an athlete might only be able to travel The pilot program will include 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

See "TOURISM," Page 2

West Nile virus identified in Thomas County cases

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.

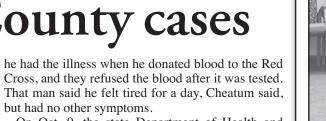
Symptoms of West Nile range from so mild the patient might not notice they are sick to life-threatening, Cheatum said, and include every level of severity in between. The man who was hospitalized was one of two cases reported in late September.

The third case involved a man who only found out do, just make the public aware that it is in our area."

Three cases of West Nile virus have been detected 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,

> 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



Special event to honor adoption

November is National Adoption organized by the Christian Alli-Church will honor foster and adoptive families on Orphan Sunday, Nov. 3, during its 10:45 a.m. spread to the U.S. in 2003. worship service. A "kid-friendly"

lunch will follow the service. recognition of children in foster Children and Families, and 955 care and waiting for adoption, is Kansas kids waiting for adoption.

Month, and the Colby Wesleyan ance for Orphans, said Joy Roth-

The event began in Zambia, and

There are about 6,676 children in foster care in Kansas, accord-Orphan Sunday, a worldwide ing to the Kansas Department for

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



Open for business



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press Guests toured the recentlyexpanded 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

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.