



## Crafters come from near and far

Jim Dye (above) of J&P Crafts worked on stitching more leather goods during the We Did It! Craft Fair Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He and wife Pat traveled from Leoti to sell a selection that included the leather goods, baby blankets and clocks. Jake Anderson (right) moved some of the crafts in a booth for the 4-H Horse Club. The club was raising money for a retreat that members say is similar to scholars' bowl. Others in the booth were Melody Goodwin and daughter Layne, Jake's mother Tina Anderson, Evin and Lexi Berquist and mother Connie and Janet Arnold and daughter Shelby.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



# Colby principal fired for 'acts of moral turpitude'

The Colby School Board agreed to fire the high school principal after a special, closed-door meeting Thursday morning, putting the activities director in charge of the school.

The board had announced a special meeting at 7 a.m. Thursday on Tuesday, with a closed discussion of "nonelected personnel" as the only item on the agenda.

After about an hour of discussion, said Superintendent Terrel Harrison, the board voted to accept the resignation of a clerical worker, Kylie Cersovsky. It then adopted a resolution of intent to terminate

the contract of principal Rocky Robbins.

Harrison said Larry Gabel, the high school activities director and assistant principal, would be the acting principal, effective Thursday. He'll probably get some help with his other duties, she added, but it hasn't been decided who might step up to fill the activities job.

He said Cersovsky was a "para-professional," or teacher aide, at the intermediate building and worked in the district office's copy center.

The board's resolution noted that Robbins is entitled to a hearing before the board if he files notice

within 15 days. It says Harrison had placed him on paid leave Monday, and the suspension would continue until further action of the board.

As reasons for the termination, the board cited:

- "Unprofessional conduct, including engaging in acts of moral turpitude."
- "Conduct unbecoming a school administrator, including dishonesty with the superintendent and board..."
- "Mr. Robbins has betrayed the trust and confidence of the board, engaged in unprofessional conduct and is not an appropriate role

model."

Robbins had been with the district since July 1, 2005. In a statement to the Free Press today, he apologized to the community:

"I would like to take the opportunity to publicly apologize for my actions to the citizens of Colby, including (school) employees and patrons. I am deeply sorry that I did not uphold the standards of character needed to continue as the high school principal.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to I had to serve the community of Colby since the 2005-2006 school year. I would hope that my tenure

here would not be defined by this alone, but also that the positive contributions over the past four years are also remembered, and I pray for your forgiveness."

Harrison said school officials had talked with the faculty and staff and with the students, but the district did not plan on sending any notice home.

The acting principal, Gabel, joined the district two years ago at the high school after a long career as the wrestling coach and elementary principal in St. Francis. He was known for winning teams as a coach, and also was the county

ambulance director there.

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## corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

# Sheriff fires deputy; commissioners let him keep dog

By Andy Heintz  
Colby Free Press  
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Thomas County sheriff's deputy and K-9 handler Mark Finley was fired by Sheriff Mike Baughn when he reported for work at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, apparently because he had agreed to serve for the man who defeated Baughn earlier this month.

Finley will not be unemployed for long, however, as Sheriff-elect Rod Taylor says he intends to make him his undersheriff when he takes over on Monday, Jan. 12.

"It serves no purpose to fire him when he will be back on Jan. 12," Taylor said. "He's been a good all-around officer."

Finley said the sheriff told him his dog was going to be sent to the kennel and be sold. However, Thomas County commissioners heard about the issue and intervened.

The commissioners became aware of the situation when Finley approached County Clerk Shelly Harms about what had happened. Finley said Harms told the commissioners about the situation.

Commissioner Paul Steele said the commissioners told Baughn the dog was owned by the county and couldn't be sold without their permission. They decided to put the dog under Finley's care for 60 days.

Harms said Thursday that Finley will be reimbursed for the costs of dog food and medical care.

When Finley becomes undersheriff, he will be bringing his dog back to work with him. He speaks very highly of the animal.

"He has seized millions in currency and narcotics for multiple agencies," the former deputy said.

The dog is 7- or 8-year-old Belgian Shepherd, or Malinois. Finley said he had trained the dog.

Finley said Baughn didn't give him any reasons why he was being fired.

"He said he was exercising his

right of authority (as sheriff)," he said.

"What really upsets me the most is that Sheriff Baughn knows there are a lot of narcotics cases I've

been working on. He knows that he's jeopardizing those with my dismissal."

Baughn said the dismissal was a personnel matter.

## CRAFTS FESTIVAL

### Nu Phi Mu's 31st Annual Food & Gift Extravaganza

**Saturday, November 22, 2008**  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (MT)  
Max Jones Field House 13th & Arcade  
Goodland, Kan.

**FREE ADMISSION**  
Pictures with Santa  
9:30 a.m. to NOON

Make-N-Take Booth from 9:30 a.m. noon (For kids of all ages)  
Lunch Counter - All Day and Babysitting Available  
Festival of Trees Auction-fully decorated Christmas trees auctioned to benefit Big Brother/Big Sister of Goodland

The fair offers a large variety of unique shopping, handmade crafts, holiday decorations and projects from home businesses and food items - something for everyone on your list, including yourself. Come check out the many new exhibitors, local crafters and businesses. Nu Phi Mu proudly donates 95% of our proceeds back into the community. When you shop at the fair, you help support those in the area.

Your Business on the web  
You.com

Your Business on  
[www.NWKansasOnline.com](http://www.NWKansasOnline.com)

**BE SURE**  
your Business is Listed  
[www.NWKansasOnline.com](http://www.NWKansasOnline.com)

Call 785-462-1149

## Considering Weight Loss Surgery?

**FREE Informational Seminar**

**Thursday, December 11, 2008**

Program 9:45 am  
Citizens Medical Center  
100 East College Drive - Board Room  
Colby, Kansas

**Your benefits over time may include:**

- Significant weight loss
- Relief of sleep problems
- Relief from urinary incontinence
- Lower cholesterol
- Decreased joint pain - improved mobility

- Improvement of Type II diabetes
- Relief of digestive problems
- Lower blood pressure
- Improved mood and self esteem
- Decreased medications associated with weight related diseases

If you are wondering if you should consider bariatric surgery, make plans now to attend this informational seminar. Dr. Zurab Tsereteli, Bariatric Surgeon, will discuss the procedure. The program will include general information on qualifying for surgery, an overall description of the lifestyle changes that are necessary following surgery, plus information on the insurance process. This informational session is **REQUIRED** for anyone considering Bariatric Surgery at Hays Medical Center.

**Registration is required. Call 785-623-5945.**

**BARIATRIC SURGERY**  
At Hays Medical Center