



Dottie finds a home

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Dottie has a new home. The dog, a patient at Colby Animal Clinic since Dec. 14, was adopted by Sue Draper for her father, Willard Morgan. “He lives by himself,” Draper said. “He didn’t need a pup.” They saw a story in the *Colby Free Press* and Draper decided to take a look at Dottie while she was at the clinic on other business. After a long discussion with two Pueblo West, Colo. residents, Draper made the decision to take the dog. She said they talked back and forth for a while and the two asked many questions, mainly because they wanted to make sure the dog would go to a good home. “It sounded like a pretty good deal,” she said. Dottie, as she is being called, ended up at the clinic when Lee Sternal and Bob Adams, both from Pueblo West, found her at the side of U.S. Highway 24 — about 13 miles east of Colby — early on the morning of Dec. 14 on their way to go pheasant hunting. The two called 911 and later took the border collie/springer spaniel mix to the animal clinic where they found out she had a broken right femur. Dr. Russell Bowers did surgery on the leg, pinning the bone so it



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Grace and Genial Morgan, the grandchildren of Willard Morgan, petted Dottie at Colby Veterinary Clinic Thursday afternoon. The dog, a patient at the clinic since Dec. 14, now has a new home.

could heal. It will be another few weeks before Dottie is completely healed. The two mens are paying the \$500-\$600 bill for the dog’s care. Dottie will have to go back to the vet once a week until she’s healed to make sure the leg is knitting properly.

Meth lab charges pending on two Colby residents

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Two Colby men were arrested Thursday after police suspected they were in possession of a methamphetamine lab, said Doug Murphy, coordinator with the Quad County Drug Task Force. Phillip Clark, 25, formerly of Colby and now living in Great Bend, along with Cody Huff, 16, were taken into custody after being stopped at the intersection of Fourth Street and Range Avenue. During the stop, police discovered items used for cooking methamphetamine such as pseudoephedrine, ether, lithium batteries, and other items used in manufacturing the drug. Murphy said Clark was booked into the Thomas County jail pending formal charges and Huff was transported to the juvenile detention facility in WaKeeney. Both Huff and Clark face multiple charges for allegedly violating

provisions of the Kansas controlled substances act. Murphy said that Clark is currently on probation on other charges stemming from an arrest in Jefferson County in 2003. Those charges are also meth-lab related. Prior to his probation, Clark had been sentenced to the boot camp in Labette County and was released on supervised probation to Barton County after completing that program. The investigation is continuing and more arrests could be pending, Murphy said today. “The arrests on Thursday,” he said, “brings to conclusion an approximate three-month investigation into the alleged meth lab activities of Clark and his associates.” Following Clark and Huff’s arrest, Murphy said it took about four hours for police and Quad County Task Force agents to clean up the lab, remediate and collect the evidence.

Murder hearing set

GOODLAND — The preliminary hearing for Lanny Bevington, 33, charged with the shooting death of his wife Kerrie was continued until March 17. Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby and Bevington’s attorney, Calvin Williams of Colby, agreed to reschedule the hearing. A second search warrant was issued Tuesday morning by district magistrate judge Richard Kvas-

nicka of Logan County and executed that afternoon by the Sherman County sheriff’s office, however Sheriff Doug Winston said no new evidence was found. Bevington was charged with first-degree murder Dec. 29. Kerrie Bevington, 27, was found dead of an apparent shotgun wound to the head about 7 a.m. in the morning on Dec 28. Bevington is being held in the Sherman County Bastille.

City, county, school officials look at goals in 2004

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

It’s a new year and county, city and school officials weighed in on their hopes for 2004. Thomas County Commissioner Ron Evans said the commissioners are pleased with the job the county employees are doing to meet the needs of people.

He said the county has a few goals for the new year, including supporting the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance as they pursue new businesses to help curtail population loss in the county over the last 10 years. Another goal is to finish all of the projects at the Thomas County Landfill. Evans said that entails dirt removal from the land south of the landfill, opening the new pit for municipal solid waste and beginning closure on the current use area. Other items on the county wish list he talked about are “modest” improvements to the Thomas County Courthouse and Thomas County Office Complex to extend the life of the older buildings. Evans also said the county would like to continue upgrades to several hundred miles of asphalt, and to also gravel county roads. “Finally, we hope that the

“I anticipate the budget being even tighter this year and next year. We held the line in 2004.” Carolyn Armstrong, Colby city manager

drought will end in Thomas County and that prosperity will return to our agricultural community, which will in turn benefit everyone in Thomas County,” he said. Colby Community College President Dr. Mikel Ary said he thinks there will be an economic upswing this year which can only benefit the state and in turn, the school. He’s optimistic things will change for the better. “I think we’re starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel,” he said. With Wall Street on the rebound, Ary said it will take time before the effects trickle down but he said it should be evident by mid-2004. He said things are moving away from the way they’ve been for the past two years. “There’s a time lag before we fully appreciate it,” Ary said. “It’s just not here yet.” Administrative changes at the school are another positive. Ary said redesigning the Web site to allow students to apply and enroll online has helped reach more students. “We’ve felt that’s been very positive,” he said, adding with a declining population in western Kansas, anything that improves contact is a plus. Two new specialty programs being offered also have potential. Ary said the school is offering a new computer science program and food/restaurant and hotel management. The dental hygiene program also “looks good,” he said, adding that the veterinary technology and nursing programs are also doing well. “They’ve held their own,” Ary said. He said there are also some challenges for the future, including a site visitation for reaccreditation. Despite Ary’s optimism, he said

the budget will be “difficult” again this year but he said that is to be expected with state cuts. Last year the college lost \$700,000 from its budget in state funding. Kirk Nielsen, superintendent of Colby public schools, is hopeful about the new year, despite some concerns. “The schools are in a good position to do well on the state tests,” Nielsen said. He said the school district will possibly lose enrollment again this year because there is a small kindergarten class coming in this fall to replace a large graduating senior class. “I’m hoping we don’t have a lot of turnover,” Nielsen said. “It would be a pleasant thing to not have large turnover.” He also is looking forward to getting fully settled into the new administration building. The school district’s budget is a concern, but Nielsen doesn’t expect any big changes. He did say he would like to see the board do something about the district’s capital outlay fund. Nielsen said it needs an increase and he said it could be done without a tax increase by moving money from the general fund to capital outlay. Colby Mayor Warren Hixson

said there are several projects the city will be working on in 2004. The biggest is a new waste water plant. “The old one is deteriorating,” he said. “It has to be replaced. That’s our priority item for 2004.” He said it will be east of Colby and will also include some sewer work. Another project is airport improvements and Hixson said the city received a \$400,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to complete those improvements. He also briefly touched on the budget and said it probably won’t change much from last year’s. “We kept the mill levy the same,” Hixson said. “We think it’s going to be a good year for the city.” City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the budget will be a little leaner next year. “I anticipate the budget being even tighter this year and next year,” she said. “We held the line in 2004.” On the flip side, Armstrong is hoping for local sales tax revenue increases with new businesses coming into the community and businesses looking to relocate. She also said another asset is that city employees have learned to do more with less.

Briefly

Childbirth classes begin

Colby Childbirth Education has started it’s January series. The first session was Thursday with three more classes to follow on Jan. 15, 22, and 29 from 7-10 p.m. at Colby Community College. For questions or enrollment, call Amy Hutfles at 460-4344.

Obedience school starts next week

The Thomas County Trackers 4-H Dog Club will once again be offering obedience training this winter and spring. There will be an orientation meeting Tuesday, at 7 p.m. at the 4-H building. This will be a meeting without dogs and participants will need to bring a copy of their dog’s current vaccination records, said Carrie Bredemeier, trainer. There is a nominal fee required and for details on the cost or other information, call (785) 460-3816.

Jaycees sponsoring ‘Coats for Kids’

The Colby Jaycees are hosting “Coats for Kids” from 9-11 a.m. Saturday at the Jaycee Center. Kids who have out-

grown a coat or kids needing a coat can come with their parents to pick out a coat or jacket donated by members of the community. Some adult coats are also available. The event is open to the public. For information, call 460-7147.

Congressman to stop in Colby

Congressman Jerry Moran will be in Colby from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 12, at the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park.

Baseball team plans fund raiser

The Colby High School baseball team is sponsoring a soup supper from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, at the Colby Community Building in conjunction with the Eagle basketball games against McCook, Neb. The cost will be a free-will donation and the event will be a fund raiser for the team to buy necessary equipment for its program.

Genesis to hold annual meeting

Genesis -Thomas County, Inc. will hold its annual meeting at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15 in the Thomas County Of-

fice Complex, 350 S Range, Colby. The regular meeting will follow the annual meeting.

Lab work for fair continues Saturday

The 2004 Wellness Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Colby Community College student union. Lab work prior to the fair is scheduled at Citizens Medical Center in Colby with three more dates available. Those include Saturday of this week from 6 to 9 a.m. and again on Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 12 and 13 also starting at 6 a.m. and concluding at 9 a.m. For questions, call Jeanene Brown, one of the Wellness Committee members at 462-7511. Fasting for 10 to 12 hours required.

Public hearing planned

The Colby Public Schools Board of Education has scheduled a public hearing at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 13 in the board room of the administration building, 700 W. Third St. The purpose of the hearing is to allow the public an opportunity to review the proposed petition to establish a charter school within the confines of the school district.



Teens and 50s

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Clear. Low around 17. West winds 5 mph. No precipitation is expected.
Saturday...Sunny. High in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 10-15 mph, with higher gusts. No precipitation appears in the forecast.
Saturday night...Clear. Low around 18. Southwest winds near 20 mph, decreasing to 10-15 and turning westerly. No precipitation is expected.
Sunday...Partly cloudy. High in the lower 50s. North winds 15-20 mph, decreasing to 5-10 mph later in the day. Dry conditions.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Low around 17. North winds 5-10 mph. No moisture.
Monday...Partly cloudy. High in the lower 40s. West winds 5-10 mph. No moisture.

The numbers
Thursday’s high, 50
Low this morning, 19
Records for Jan. 9, 70 in 1916 and -13 in 1973
Year ago today, 42 and 22
Month’s precipitation, 0.05
Month’s snowfall, 1-inch
2003 precipitation to date, trace
Soil temperature, 30

The sources:
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119.
Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

