



COLBY FREE PRESS

Going to the dogs

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The idea of boarding dogs as a business has been something Bill and Deb Mariman of Colby have wanted to do for a long time.

Known as "The Dog House," the new business will be opening the first of May and, for now, will only be taking dog reservations. There are plans in the near future; however, to open a separate area for cat boarding, Deb said.

Prior to the actual opening date, Bill said they will have an open house celebration, Sunday, from 2 to 4 p.m., giving dog owners a chance to tour the building located at 1065 S. Country Club Dr. (formerly Northwest Kansas Fire Extinguisher Service).

"We saw a need for more facilities in Colby," Deb said about why they were venturing into this type of business. The other reason, Bill said, was because they both love animals, having two dogs of their own.

"Six of our seven children have dogs," Deb said, adding that they both understand how much people worry about their animals when having to leave them behind.

"We want dog owners to feel like when they leave their animal with us, we will be taking care of them the same way they would," Deb said.

As for the number of boarders possible, Bill said they are equipped to offer room for 40 animals.

"We will have separate units for each animal inside the facility and will also offer the dogs fresh air, grass surroundings and exercise if needed," he said.

Deb said they will provide bedding and food at a cost of \$8 per



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Bill and Deb Mariman, owners of "The Dog House," were adding the finishing touches to the outer area of the boarding facility where grass will be available for the animals. **BELOW:** Deb Mariman (standing) assisted her daughter, Devan Meyers, with a sign showing hours of operation at the soon-to-open new business. An open house is planned Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

day or \$5 for a partial day after 3 p.m., along with daycare services at \$6 daily or \$25 per week.

Some pet owners may want to bring their animals favorite toy, blankets, or even food and that's okay too, Deb said.

"The Dog House" will also have central air and heat to make the animals as comfortable as possible.

"Our goal," Deb said, "is to provide an atmosphere for your dog so that he wouldn't know he wasn't at home."

One other aspect of the new business, is that Karen Davis, also of Colby, will provide grooming services independent of boarding at the north end of the building.

When the new business opens, weekend pickup times for both Saturday and Sunday will be from 8 to 9 a.m.; 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

To make a reservation, call (785) 460-0460 or 462-0663. In the event of an emergency, they will take drop-offs, but would appreciate it if pet owners called ahead.



High school gets new head football coach

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

It's official. Colby High School has a new head football coach. The Colby School Board approved the hiring of Greg Koenig of Las Animas, Colo. at its Monday meeting.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said Koenig will also teach English at the high school and replaces Shelly Myers who resigned to spend more time with her family.

Nielsen said Brian Kraus, high school principal and Jeff Quezner, activities director, interviewed three candidates for the job.

Koenig has spent 14 years as a coach, six as head football coach at Las Animas High School. Nielsen said he also spent several years as an assistant coach there.

"Overall he's a great individual," Quenzer said. "He's going to be a great asset to our faculty and the district."

In other business, the board approved an emergency substitute teaching license for Emily Duarte-Heideman and Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce dues in the amount of \$400.

They also approved an out of district field trip request for Lesley Wagoner to take three students to the first ever national lodging and hospitality competition in Florida. Colby is the only school representing Kansas at the competition, Wagoner said.

Quenzer also gave the principal's report for the high school because Kraus was at a University of Kansas honors program in Oakley.

He said they're in the process of interviewing family and consumer science teachers and are trying to find a new Spanish teacher.

Quenzer said the fall class sched-

“Overall he's a great individual. He's going to be a great asset to our faculty and the district.”

Jeff Quenzer, activities director regarding new coach

ule and enrollment are still in progress.

Also, he said Colby students performed well at the state music festival held at the high school last week.

The girls choir received a 2 rating and overall, the mixed choir and high school band both earned a 1 rating each.

Quenzer said about 14 students from Colby will be headed to the state forensics competition May 1 and they're holding an open house at the high school Monday to show off the pieces they've performed throughout their season.

The board also saw a curriculum presentation on the Reading Academy, which is being used to help get students up to speed on their reading fundamentals.

There were also two presentations at the meeting. Four teachers, Kathy Vaughn, Sally Smith, Mara Dee Fulwider and Carol Robison received certificates commemorating 25 years of teaching and the high school cheerleaders and their sponsor were on hand with the sportsmanship award they received for their efforts during the state basketball tournament.

Commissioners begin hearing budget requests

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners received what will be the first of many budget requests at their Monday meeting. Walt Hill of Colby, with High Plains Mental Health, submitted a request to the county for the same amount of money they received last year.

"Basically they just wanted to say they appreciate our support and to request the same amount of money they received last year," said Commissioner Ron Evans.

"They do a good service for the citizens of Thomas County and hopefully we'll be able to accommodate them."

He said it's not unusual for the

requests to start coming in this time of year.

"We'll have people visiting until budget time," Evans said. "We'll consider all of it when we do our budget."

He said the county provides money to the Thomas County Historical Society, Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas as well

as funding all of the county departments.

In other business, Rex Jamison of the Brewster Fire Department and Kathi Wright and Martin Rinehart of Thomas County Emergency Medical Services were at the meeting to work out an agreement for keeping an ambulance at the fire department in Brewster.

Evans said the fire department is thinking about expanding its building by adding several bays and wanted to know if the county ambulance service would help pay some costs. He said there's no problem with the county budget and said if they're keeping an ambulance in Brewster, they should help offset some of the costs.

Colby school board approves new spring break dates

By **TISHA COX**

Colby Free Press

Spring break for Colby schools next year will be the same week as break at Colby Community College. The school board approved the change at its meeting on Monday night.

Spring break was scheduled for the week of March 14-18 but has been changed to March 21-25 to match the college.

The board had discussed changing the date at its April 5 meeting. The academic calendar for the 2004-2005 school year was approved in February and along with it, all of the dates for activities.

Board member John Cranston thought it would be a good idea to align the breaks and he received several phone calls from people wanting to know why they weren't the same anyway.

Joel Powell, board member, said he contacted the college and found that out of 120 employees, 42 had spouses or children attached to the school district. He said there were also 11 seniors this year who are taking classes at the college and their breaks didn't coincide.

He said matching up the breaks will have a positive effect on the community by letting families affected by both schools be out at the

same time.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen gave the board a list of activities that would conflict with moving break.

Activities Director Jeff Quenzer asked it if could be postponed a year because he's already got the contracts back for a forensics tourney Colby High School will host next spring. He also said the week break has been held was "important" because it's right after winter sports

end and before the beginning of spring activities.

"It's a great time to take a break," Quenzer said.

Nielsen said moving the forensics meet will be "tough" but now the district's break will be in line with most of the colleges in the state, including Fort Hays State University, the University of Kansas in Lawrence and Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Briefly

Colby College schedules play

The Colby Community College drama department will present "Ring Round the Moon," on Thursday, Friday, Saturday in the Cultural Arts Center on campus. Show times begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, with a 3 p.m. matinee on Saturday. The play, directed and designed by Deb Bickner, is appropriate for all ages. Tickets will be available at the door at \$4 for adults, \$3 for students. For questions, call 462-3984.

Krehbiels to be honored

Colby Community College will host a public reception to honor Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel on Wednesday, April 28 at 3 p.m. in Room 108 of the Student Union. The Krehbiels have been selected as the 2004 honorary associate degree recipients. The degree will be conferred during commencement exercises Saturday, May 15.

Senior Awards Night planned

The 2003-04 Colby High School Senior Awards Night is planned for Monday, May 10, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the

school auditorium. During the evening, academic, attendance and scholarship award winners will be recognized for their accomplishments. The public is invited. For questions about the event, call 460-5300.

Taxes due by May 10

The 2003 second half of property and real estate taxes for Thomas County residents are due by Monday, May 10, said Donita Applebury, county treasurer. She wanted to remind anyone with taxes due to make sure and submit those taxes by the May deadline since this is a change from previous years when taxes were due on June 20. Questions, call 462-4520.

Piano recital Sunday

The piano students of Sharon Kriss will be having a Spring Piano Recital at 2 p.m., Sunday, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Students participating are: Kaitlyn Albers, Joshua Baden, Brett Bandy, Brittany Bange, Morgan & Lauren Bell, Tess Brown, Elizabeth and Erika Erickson, Abby Friesen, Katie Friesen, Rachael Funk, Tanner and Treasure Glad, Jeremy Harter, Hollie Herbel, Valarie Higerd, Katrina Kaus, Kevin Lang, Sara Martin, Taylor

McClure, Skyler, Haley and Morgan Mengel, Cynthia and William Mick, Abby Miller, Taylor Miller, Alex and Rebecca Muirhead, Michelle Myers, Katelin Neuenschwander, Karl Pratt, Ariel and Kale Regier, Ashley Standage, Kirstie Strutt, Michael Tubbs, Quade Woolfer, and Andrea Zerr. The public is invited.

Underclassmen to be honored

Colby High School has scheduled an awards ceremony for students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades starting at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, in the school auditorium. The public is invited to attend this event to honor students with academic and attendance accomplishments. Cameras are welcome.

Students collect food for Genesis

The Colby High School Service Club will be collecting food Sunday in the Colby area for the Genesis Food Bank, said Doug Finley, advisor. Since volunteers are minimal, Finley said the students will be going door-to-door throughout the city and asks that residents not leave food on the porch for that reason. For questions, call 460-5300.



Rain forecast

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area Tonight...Mostly cloudy with rain likely. Lows in the lower 40s. East winds 5 to 15 mph. Chance of showers 60 percent. **Thursday...**Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 50s to around 60. East winds 5 to 15 mph. **Thursday night...**Occasional rain showers. Lows in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of showers 80 percent. **Friday...**Cloudy with rain likely. Highs in the 50s. North winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent.

The numbers
Tuesday's high, 74
Low this morning, 34
Records for April 21, 89 in 1989 and 13 in 1899
Year ago today, 69 and 31
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
April total, 1.29
April snowfall, 3 inches
Soil temperature, 62
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.

