

# Leadership group graduates; many projects underway

See "TOURISM," page 4

mas Class has come to an end. The final session was held Friday, April 23 at the Law Enforcement Training Center with teams presenting their facilitation exercises.

A special thanks to Donna and Doug Finley of New Beginnings for providing lunch and break food and to Randy Jones for use of the facility and tour.

Celebration for the class was held at Colby Country Club. Danny Thornton, director of Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center was the speaker encouraging class members to continue with servant leadership and making a difference in the community. Plaques were presented to: Terrel Harrison, Jamie

Heskett, Tracey King, Tim Moeder, Deanna Pabst, Greg Swob, Marie Skoulot, Jada Tubbs and Laura Tubbs. The class will continue to meet as they work on their class project which they plan to finish in October. Elected to the Board of Directors for three year terms are Tim Moeder and Deanna Pabst. Jada Tubbs serves as the chamber representative, an ex-officio position in the leadership board.

May is the time for both Colby High School and Colby Community College graduations. Don't forget the grand opening May 11. Also mark your calendars for June 10-15 for Chautauqua and June 11-13 for Heritage Daze Weekend including the cruise to the Past Rod Run and Prairie Heritage Day.

## Kansan catches big fish

ATCHISON (AP) — Clinton Boldridge caught a fish so big he had to jump into the water and wrestle it to the shore by the gills.

It took Boldridge, of Atchison, about five minutes to subdue the 144-pound spoonbill in Dam No. 7 behind the National Guard Armory. The fish broke the state record for a spoonbill by more than 48 pounds.

"When you've got one that big, you take your time," said

Boldridge, a professional fisherman. "Calm down and don't get in a hurry, because if you put too much pressure on a fish that size, you'll lose it." Boldridge was fishing with his brother, Bryan Boldridge, and a friend, Michael Parsons, on May 5 when the monster fish tugged on Boldridge's 8-pound test line.

"I saw that thing come up and thought it was a dinosaur or something," he said.

# Bullock's ruling a shot aimed squarely at legislators, Kline says

By JOHN HANNA

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP)—Terry Bullock had a few scores to settle.

In December, the Shawnee County district judge told legislators and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius that the state's school finance formula was unconstitutional. He gave them until July 1 to fix the problems he identified.

They didn't. What's more, some Republican legislators appeared to revel in making it plain they didn't care what Bullock thought because the Kansas Supreme Court would be the final arbiter.

Three days after the Legislature adjourned the 2004 session without passing a school finance bill, Bullock issued another order. This time, he declared that effective June 30, the state could not spend any money on its school system until legislators fixed the formula for distributing \$2.77 billion in aid. Classes could not resume this fall, Bullock said, unless the problems were fixed.

His order last week was a dramatic gesture. It also was a score-settling shot aimed at legislators and Attorney General Phill Kline.

"How the children of Kansas

benefit from these official actions of our government escapes the court," Bullock wrote. "The court has no choice but to act and to act decisively."

Kline quickly asked the Supreme Court to stay Bullock's decision and said Kansans should not worry about whether schools will open this fall.

While it's uncertain whether Bullock's order will ever take effect, there's no doubt that the judge forced other state officials to pay attention.

"If you want a little shock value," Gov. Kathleen Sebelius told a na-

tional conference on education Friday, "you need a judge in your state who'll do just that."

Bullock's rulings were made in a lawsuit filed in 1999 by parents and administrators in the Dodge City and Salina school districts.

Those plaintiffs argued that the state spends too little on its schools, then distributes the money unfairly. Most shortchanged, the plaintiffs contend, are districts that need extra money the most for programs designed to help poor and minority children.

In his December order, Bullock said the state had no rational basis

for how it distributed its money. He professed himself aghast at the state Department of Education's failure to ask school districts and individual schools what they needed before formulating budget proposals.

Bullock noted that a consultants' study from 2002, commissioned by legislators, was the only evidence to suggest how much it costs to provide a suitable education to every Kansas child. That study suggested the state was falling more than \$850 million short on an annual basis.

The judge never expressly said that such an increase in spending

was necessary. Instead, he said the state did not know how much it needed to spend and could not refute the study.

In fact, in his order last week, Bullock suggested that a new school finance system, with better management, could rein in costs for the state. But many legislators took Bullock's December order as a call for a huge tax increase — an attempt by a judge to impose his personal and political agenda on the state.

They still held that opinion last week. Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, described Bullock as "a single activist judge."

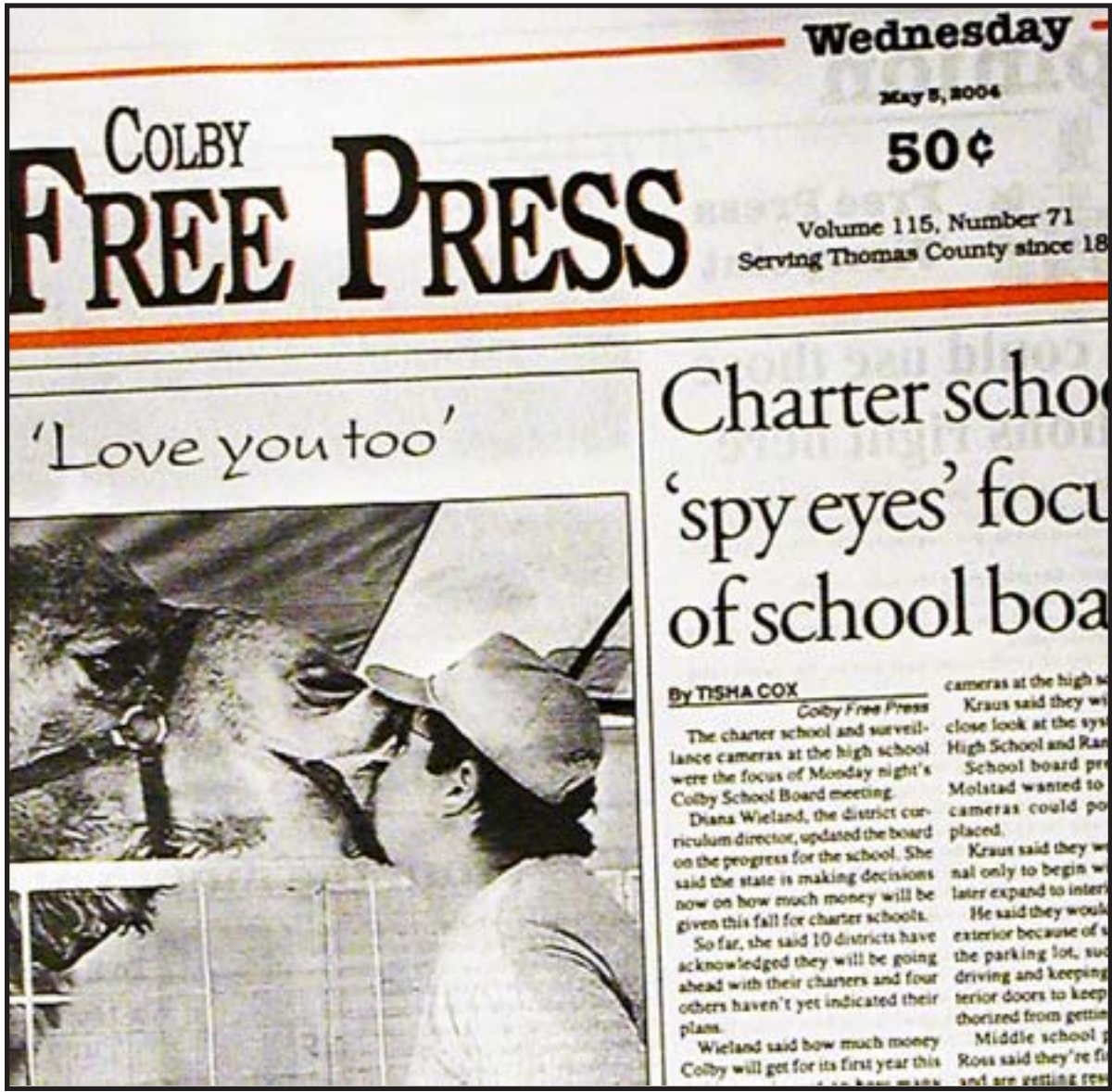


PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby High School's commencement ceremony was held Sunday at the Colby Community Building with Michael Schwanke, a 1996 graduate from Colby, delivering the address. ABOVE: At the end of the ceremony, Colby High Seniors Theo Kleinsorge and Josh Cox gave one another a congratulatory sign with Becky

Lang, another graduate, (middle) smiling. Both Kleinsorge and Cox listed that they plan to attend the United State Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., but Cox also added that he could join the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy as an alternative. Lang plans to attend Liberty University in Virginia.

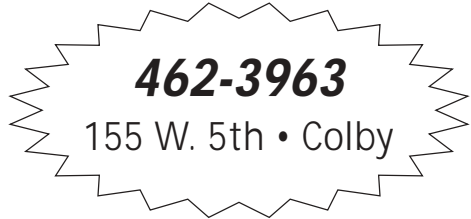
# This is what THEY'RE ALL TALKING ABOUT!



- Local area news
- Comics • Bridge
- Crossword Puzzle
- Dear Abby • Weather
- Sports • Features
- Statehouse Coverage
- Diverse Editorial Page

## Delivered by carrier in:

- Colby
- Brewster
- Oakley



\* By mail in the following counties: Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Wallace and Thomas counties.

We also offer Senior discounts.

## DISCOUNT COUPON

# \$5.00 OFF

## A NEW SUBSCRIPTION TO THE COLBY FREE PRESS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

By carrier: 4 mo. (\$32) ☐ 8 mo. (\$47) ☐ 12 mo. (\$64) ☐

In area by mail: 4 mo. (\$44) ☐ 8 mo. (\$56) ☐ 12 mo. (\$72) ☐

Mail coupon with your check to: **The Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th, Colby, KS 67701.**

### CARRIER RATES:

\$64 per year

Over 55 - \$54 per year

### BY MAIL NW Kansas\*:

\$72 per year

Over 55 - \$65 per year