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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Prom night 2005



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

**RIGHT:** Irvin Dinkel, a senior at Colby High School, escorted his date, Rashaun Wilson, a sophomore, into the prom dance Saturday at the high school commons area. More than 125 students attended this year's event and, as in past years, the traditional promenade kicked off the festivities as parents, relatives and friends looked on. **ABOVE:** Brandon Williams, graduate of Colby High School, helped his date, Tess Baumfalk, a junior at Colby High School, out of the horse and carriage driven by Darrel Pabst of Colby. The Victorian-style horse and buggy, also known as a "Visa Vis" carriage has been used for many years to take prom couples, wedding couples and others for a nostalgic ride from another era.



## Colby's ordinance revisited

By Patty Decker  
Free Press Editor

As the city prepares for clean up week on May 2 through May 7, council members agreed that changes in the environmental code were necessary as it relates to the unsightly and hazardous conditions in some neighborhoods.

After reviewing the ordinance at the most recent meeting, Dave Starkey, city attorney, found some changes that needed to be made, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

One of the major changes in the language regarded violations and steps the city would take in correcting a problem area.

In the previous ordinance, the violation procedures were unclear and in the revised ordinance there are more procedures and clearer steps for resolving problems in certain areas.

In the new ordinance, Doug Lewis, the public officer, will report violations to the city council and in turn the council will order the property owner or any other any persons associated with the location to clean up that area.

The new ordinance will allow 30 days from the date the order is issued to abate the exterior yard conditions and 60 days to fix any exterior structure in violation of the ordinance.

The types of violations could include unsightly and hazardous conditions involving dilapidation, deterioration or disrepair of walls, siding, fences or other accumulations of filth, stored or parked material, equipment, supplies, machinery or vehicles.

In both the old and new ordinance, conditions that can be generally harmful to the welfare of the city or injurious to health and safety are in violation.

After the public officer determines a violation was committed, the owner(s) will have 14 days from the date of the order to request a hearing in front of the council.

In the event the property owner fails to fix the condition or requests a hearing, the result could be prosecution and or the city charging the owner for repairing or correcting the violation.

Once the above conditions have occurred, the city council, city manager or a designated public official will either through certified mail or by personal service continue the process with penalty of fine, imprisonment or other remedy.

The council encourages all citizens to review the ordinance in the event they could be in violation for having exterior conditions with excess of lumber, wire, tires, concrete, plastic products, auto parts, junk or garbage.

In addition, furniture, appliances, televisions, sinks, bicycles, lawn mowers, carcasses of dead animals or places where animals are kept in an offensive manner.

With the city and county-wide cleanup week happening next week, city officials urge citizens to take advantage of the many services to help them either remain in compliance or get into compliance, Armstrong said.

For questions about the ordinance or clean up week, call 460-4410.

## Business, community awards announced at banquet

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce honored its own at its annual awards banquet Friday night at City Limits Convention Center. Awards for community service and the business person of the year were handed out.

Bonnie Dinkel and Deanna Mallory, owners of Donelan Jewelry, received the award for Business Person of the Year and this year there were two recipients of the Community Service Award — Cathy Harrison and Bill Summers.

Dinkel and Mallory said they were both surprised at the award announcement.

The two have owned the business for 10 years and worked for Jay and Marilyn Donelan for about a decade before deciding to buy the business.

Dinkel said they wanted to thank the Donelans, adding they wouldn't have the business if it weren't for them. She said they both learned much from them.

She also wanted to recognize their employees, their customers and the community for their support.

They two were presented the award by Doug Munderloh, president of the Colby Ambassadors, which select the business person of the year.

He noted their memberships and

accomplishments, which are numerous.

Both are members of the Colby Promotion Committee and Kansas Jeweler's Association.

Mallory is a past board member of the Colby Chamber, past member of Pi Gamma, and Sacred Heart Church Board-Pastoral Council.

Dinkel is on the board of directors of the Colby High School Booster Club, Sacred Heart Church Board-Pastoral Council, Home and School Board and Beta Sigma Phi.

Both are also chamber members.

They have also volunteered for activities like the hometown amusements at the fair, Sacred Heart Church Auction, Booster Club functions, Chamber golf tournament, Chamber Christmas parade, the Chamber fall festival and Fike Park Project.

For the Community Service Award, Summers received his award from Chamber president Charles Schwanke.

He said Summers was chosen because of his volunteer activities in the community, which have included serving on the Prairie Heritage Committee; has been the sound man and provided his own equipment for Picnic in the Park, and has performed that service for the past 15 years.

Summers also provided his services as sound technician for



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Bonnie Dinkel and Deanna Mallory, owners of Donelan Jewelry, received the Business Person of the Year Award from Doug Munderloh, Colby Ambassadors president.

Pickin' on the Plains and has his own business, Strings and Things Guitar Shop in Colby.

Harrison was selected for her volunteerism and involvement in service organizations in the community.

She has served as a Colby Diplommat and on the original board of

the Thomas County Community Foundation.

Also a graduate of Leadership Thomas County, she is still active with the organization and also volunteers at both nursing homes.

Chamber director Mary Ann Downing was pleased with this year's event, which drew in excess

of 150.

"I think it went very well," Downing said.

As for the speaker, cowboy poet Ron Wilson, Downing said his down-to-earth motivational poems and speech provided a more relaxed atmosphere than many of the past speakers.

## Pope meets with Muslims

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A day after reaching out to other Christians and to Jews in his installation Mass, Pope Benedict XVI met today with members of the Muslim community, assuring them the church wanted to continue building "bridges of friendship" that he said could foster peace in the world.

Benedict made the comments while meeting with religious leaders who attended Sunday's installation ceremony, saying he was particularly grateful that members of the Muslim community were present.

"I express my appreciation for the growth of dialogue between Muslims and Christians, both at the local and international level," he said.

He noted that the world is marked by conflicts but longs for peace.

"Yet peace is also a duty to which all peoples must be committed, especially those who profess to belong to religious traditions," he said. "Our efforts to come together and foster dialogue are a valuable contribution to building peace on solid foundations." Benedict, 78, said he had hoped to spend his last years living quietly and peacefully.

## Train derails in western Japan, at least 50 killed

AMAGASAKI, Japan (AP) — A packed commuter train jumped the tracks in western Japan on Monday and rammed into an apartment complex, crumpling passenger cars into twisted metal. At least 50 people were killed and 340 injured in the deadliest rail accident here in four decades.

Investigators immediately focused on whether excessive speed or the actions of the inexperienced driver caused the crash

in an urban area near Amagasaki, about 250 miles west of Tokyo. The 23-year-old driver had overshot the stop line at the last station before the accident. Several people were still trapped in the wreckage hours after the crash, local police said, but it was unclear what their conditions were. Train operator West Japan Railway Co. said at least 343 people had been taken to hospitals.

The seven-car commuter train was carrying 580 passengers when it derailed, wrecking an automobile

in its path before slamming into a nine-story apartment complex just yards away. Two of the five derailed cars were flattened against the wall of the building, and hundreds of rescue workers and police swarmed the wreckage and tended to the injured.

"There was a violent shaking, and the next moment I was thrown to the floor ... and I landed on top of a pile of other people," passenger Tatsuya Akashi told NHK. "I didn't know what happened, and there were

many people bleeding."

The Amagasaki Fire Department said at least 50 people were killed. It was not clear how many of the dead were passengers or if bystanders or apartment residents were among the victims.

The accident was the worst rail disaster in nearly 42 years in Japan, which is home to one of the world. "There are many theories but we don't know for sure what caused it," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said.

