



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## stretch

Rehearsal for members of the Hi-Plains Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines kicked off with a little stretching Tuesday night at the Colby United Methodist Church. The group holds rehearsals every Tuesday at the church and is getting ready for their “Shee-Haw” country-western and comedy show on Oct. 23. Larry Patterson, director, said they weren’t at full strength Tuesday night but attributed that to some members missing because of harvest.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

# But kept it quiet Coach’s resignation known by activities director since June 6

**By Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*  
Tom Beckman is no longer the girls’ head basketball coach at Colby High School. The Colby School Board accepted his written resignation at its meeting this morning.

Board member Joel Powell said they found out that high school activities director Jeff Quenzer had Beckman’s letter of resignation, which was dated June 6, yet didn’t tell anyone.

“I’m surprised Quenzer had it and didn’t notify anybody,” Powell said, adding he thought the coaching issue put the community through a lot of unnecessary turmoil.

Board member Tracy Rogers said he thinks the board has more important issues to be involved with. “I think we should take administrator’s recommendations because they work with and evaluate these people,” he said.

Rogers said there are four issues boards are supposed to deal with — budget, long-range planning, policy and superintendent evaluations. Proof that the issue did capture attention were the members of the high school girls’ basketball team and others who spoke in support of Beckman at the meeting, today.

Zanae Baird was one of the players who said she supported Beckman. She said any rumors people heard around the community weren’t true and players worked hard at practice and the four years the team went to state were a testament to that.

# Levant woman charged with possession of drugs, stolen property

**By Patty Decker**  
*Free Press Editor*  
Paperwork was filed Monday in the Thomas County District Court alleging that a Levant woman, on two separate occasions, was in possession of illegal narcotic drugs that were also considered stolen property.

Kimberly Anne Boardman, 33, will appear in court on Wednesday, Aug. 3, at 10 a.m. regarding the four charges stemming back from March and June of 2005.

In the first incident, Boardman is alleged to have illegally taken Carisoprodol, a schedule II substance on Friday, June 3, from Melanie Wright of Colby. In the complaint, Thomas County District Attorney Andrea Wyrick is charging Boardman with “permanently depriving the owner of the narcotic prescription drug (Carisoprodol).

In the second incident, on or about Sunday, March 26, Boardman is accused of “intentionally obtaining control over stolen property.” The stolen property alleged to have been taken is Butalbital, an unscheduled prescription drug (medication not prescribed to an individual) from the owner, Lindsay Garrett.

In addition, Boardman could be facing revocation of her probation with respect to similar-type charges in February of 2004. Boardman was arrested on Feb. 13, 2004 with burglary charges to include the theft of morphine, sulfate pills, oxycodone, phenteramine (stimulant), hydrocodone and endocet from three separate homes.



K. Boardman

As part of the plea negotiations in September of 2004, the court agreed to grant a diversion on 7 of the 11 charges dealing with burglary and removing prescription drugs from homes without permission.

## Country singin’



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Audrey Hoyt of Brewster brought a country flair to Picnic in the Park today at Fike Park. Hoyt sang a selection of well-known country songs for the large crowd. The picnics will continue each Thursday through July at noon at the park.

## Colby’s link to game show unfolds Monday

**By Tom (TD) Dreiling**  
*Free Press Publisher*  
Let’s play “Jeopardy!” “She was born in Colby, Kansas and was educated in the schools there through 8th grade.” “Who is Jennifer Weiner?” Correct!



A. Trebek



J. Weiner

Colby people will want to watch the television show “Jeopardy!” on Monday, July 4th to see how Jennifer Weiner fares.

Jennifer who? During her school days in Colby, she was Jennifer Windholz, whose father, Brian, was the last administrator of St. Thomas Hospital, and then controller at Citizens Medical Center.

Weiner is a medical underwriting manager for UnitedHealthcare. She, her husband Barry, and two children, David and Cameron, 5 and 2, respectively, live in Chanhassen, Minn. She graduated from Kansas State University.

Jennifer attended Sacred Heart Grade School and Colby Public Schools through 8th grade. Her brother, Chad Windholz, also attended Sacred Heart and the public school system through 5th grade. He eventually graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1996 and is currently a navigator with rank of captain at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Neb.

# Helicopter crash in Kabul may have been costly

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Rescuers have reached the wreckage of a U.S. special forces helicopter that crashed in a rugged mountain ravine in eastern Afghanistan, but there was no immediate word on the fate of the 17 troops on board, a U.S. military spokesman said today.

“We are at the wreckage as we speak,” Lt. Col. Jerry O’Hara told The Associated Press. “We are conducting search and recovery operations. But we are more into the recovery stage.” He declined to elaborate on efforts to find survivors or the bodies of the 17, who were believed to have died in Tuesday’s crash.

The British Broadcasting Corp. reported on its Web site that U.S. officials at the main American base near the crash site said 13 bodies had been recovered. Seven other soldiers, including some that were fighting on the ground, were missing, the BBC reported.

U.S. spokeswoman Lt. Cindy Moore declined to comment on the report, saying the military would release a new statement on the crash later Thursday.

A military statement said U.S.-led coalition forces were “currently assessing the cause of the crash and the status of the 17 servicemembers who were on board the MH-47 helicopter.”

O’Hara said “there are still bad guys in the area” around the crash site and that troops were having to “do a recovery and a tactical operation at the same time.”

Militants are believed to have shot down the MH-47 helicopter as it was bringing in reinforcements for a battle with suspected al-Qaida fighters.

A storm that hampered rescuers from reaching the wreckage Wednesday had passed by Thursday. Recovery operations also have been made difficult by the rugged terrain of the remote crash site, reachable only by foot, and continued fighting with militants.

