



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Getting healthy in 2006



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

**ABOVE:** Melinda Morton (left) did a vision check on former Thomas County Commissioner Glen Kersebrock during Wellness Fair activities Saturday. Morton and other Lions Club members provided vision and acuity testing in room 107 of the Colby Community College Student Union. More than 50 people took advantage of the vision exam. **BELOW LEFT:** Natasha Besser, 9, (left) was shown the importance of brushing teeth daily by Amy Meier,

Colby College nursing student using cola-stained eggs. **BELOW RIGHT:** Samantha Sabatka, (right) who works for Tina Harris at the Physical Therapy and Sports Center gave Tawny Stover a back massage during the fair. The total of people taking the various blood tests numbered 577, which set a new record. Last year's total was just over 500 for testing. Attendance at this year's fair was about 300, which was about average, organizers said.



## City to review sewer plans, hearing slated

By Patty Decker  
Free Press Editor

A public hearing on the proposed assessments for the sanitary sewer extension will take place during the Colby City Council meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers, 585 N. Franklin Ave.



C. Armstrong

In addition to the hearing, the council is expected to authorize bids for the counter current aeration equipment for wastewater treatment facility improvements. The equipment in the proposal, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, is the proprietary items that were selected during the evaluation process in 2003 which will be used by the contractor actually building the facility.

The city's attorney, Dave Starkey, has reviewed the document, she said, and Thaniel Monaco of Miller and Associates, overseeing the wastewater treatment plant, will answer any questions.

Also associated with the sewer project, the city could consider approving an ordinance allowing property owners 30 days from the

date of legal publication to pay all or any portion of the assessments without interest in Blocks one and two of Rodenbeck Industrial Park.

Armstrong said the airport board is planning to meet on Tuesday and hopes to have a lease document ready for council approval that night regarding hangar leases at the municipal airport.

As part of the discussion, the council will consider interest rates on any unpaid private hangar approaches.

In other council business:

- The council will be considering approval of a resolution reconfirming support for the regional strategic plan and reapproving Thomas County as a Kansas Enterprise Zone.

- Jim Engel, emergency management director, will be requesting permission to access the city computer network from the council.

- The council will either approve or reject an ordinance amending electrically-charged fence restrictions for residential zones within the city.

- The sidewalk committee could have a draft ready require sidewalks in all new commercial developments and all new subdivision developments other than I-1, light industrial. All meetings are open to the public.

## Jury trial could begin Tuesday

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

A six-person jury will convene Tuesday to decide whether an Oakley man is guilty of driving drunk.

Michael Dodd, 54, was arrested Dec. 13, 2004, on Range Avenue in Colby and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and having an open container in his car.

A pool of 50 potential jurors is

scheduled to report to the Thomas County Courthouse at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. The last time a jury trial took place in Thomas County was in December 2004.

The trial will begin as soon as the last jury is seated. There is no definite time specified for opening statements.

Dodd will be represented by Charles Stewart of Oakley and Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick will prosecute the case.

## Wind gusts on Interstate 70 blamed for morning accident

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

High winds this early this morning caused an injury accident on I-70.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, the one-car accident took place at 12:35 a.m. eight miles west of K-25 at mile marker 45.9 eastbound.

A 1998 Dodge car driven by Manicha Chandra, 24, of Aurora, Colo., was headed eastbound on the interstate when a gust of wind blew the car off the road.

Chandra overcorrected, hitting the guard rail.

The vehicle then ricocheted, hitting the bridge and coming to a rest in the south ditch.

Passenger Ralph D. Moe, 36, of

Denver, Colo., was uninjured while Chandra was transported to Citizens Medical Center in Colby with injuries, where she was treated and released, said hospital administrative assistant Gwen Young.

Friday, the highway patrol worked another wreck on I-70. It took place at 11:50 a.m. on eastbound I-70 two miles east of Colby. Jessica Rose Cole, 22, of Long-

mont, Colo., was headed east in her 1998 Volkswagon when she entered the median and lost control. The car overturned and came to rest on its wheels facing to the northwest.

Cole was taken to Citizens Medical Center and was treated and released.

Another accident earlier last week was worked by the Thomas County Sheriff's Office.

Undersheriff Jason Moses said the wreck happened at 3:35 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11 just north of Nine Mile Corner, and involved two semi trucks.

Raymond Champ, 29, of Billings, Mont., was driving a 1998 Kenworth hauling 69 head of cattle, headed southbound on U.S. 83, approaching the stop sign at U.S. 24 East of Colby.

Johnny Blackwood, 53, of Cimarron, was driving a 1998 Peterbilt hauling animal hides. He was behind Champ.

When Champ slowed to stop at the sign at U.S. 24, Blackwood hit the back of Champ's truck. Both trucks were disabled, and traffic control was needed in the area for several hours while the trucks were being removed from the scene.

## Blacks concerned about equality

WASHINGTON (AP) — Blacks are more likely than whites to commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday, an AP-Ipsos poll found. They're also more inclined to harbor doubts about progress toward his dream of racial equality.

Three-fourths of Americans say there has been significant progress toward equality, but only 66 percent of blacks felt that way.

Racial integration has swept across much of American life, and blacks have gained economic ground since the height of the civil rights movement. Two decades ago, the government established a federal holiday in honor of the slain civil rights leader.

On some measures such as annual income, blacks have closed the gap considerably with whites over the past few decades, census figures show. The progress for blacks may have stalled, however.

"People have opportunities, but things get in the way of those opportunities," said Latoya Williams, a black mother of four in Norfolk, Va. "The way the economy is now, you're working just to put a little food on the table. You just work, work yourself to death."

Just under a fourth of the population said they planned to commemorate King's birthday on Monday. A solid majority of blacks, 60 percent, said they would be involved.

"Participating in the march and in church services is a good time of fellowship and is important in keeping the dream alive," said Aubrey Jones, a black deputy warden at a state prison near Macon, Ga.

Fewer than one in six whites, 15 percent, planned to commemorate the day, the poll found.

Sandy Smith, a white health care worker from Medford, Mass., said

she likes to participate in services at work for King Day.

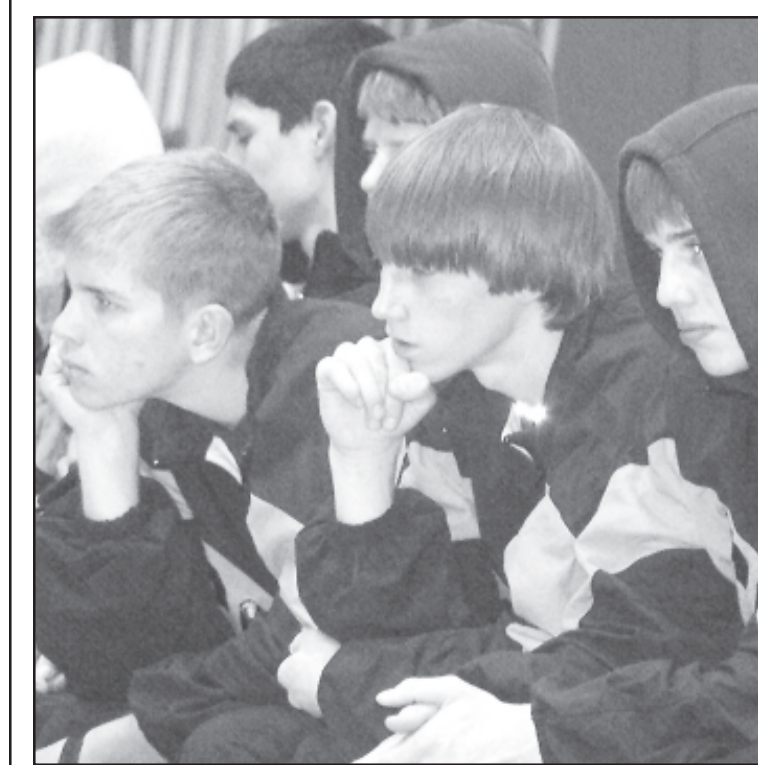
"It honors somebody who contributed quite a bit to our culture," she said.

All 50 states gradually recognized a King holiday. But only one-third of businesses offer a paid holiday, according to the Bureau of National Affairs.

Participation in the holiday was enhanced by legislation passed in 1994 establishing the day as one of service.

In many places, people will help with projects aimed to improve the community and help the needy. Supporters of the holiday try to discourage businesses from using it as a marketing gimmick.

"Martin Luther King would turn over in his grave if he thought he was recognized by a day of shopping and rest," said former Sen. Harris Wofford, D-Pa.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

## The think tank

Colby High School Eagle wrestlers Brent Luedke, Hunter Olsen and Jared Flanagin (left to right) watched fellow wrestler Tyson Plumisto's match during a dual tournament late last week at the high school gym. The Eagles hit the mats again, this time in Atwood, Thursday, starting at 6:30 p.m.