



8 pages

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CYNTHIA HAYNES/Colby Free Press

There's a bunch of cute, furry, adorable kittens at the Colby Animal Clinic looking for homes. They are all tame and ready to be loved, said veterinary technician Connie Gassmann (above). She gives each food, water and a little affection each day. The shelter gets in dogs also, she said, like the lab (below), which has already been adopted.



## Shelter looking for homes for kittens



By Cynthia Haynes

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The lone dog was headed for a new home but the nine kittens and two cats were still looking for someone to love last week at the Colby Animal Clinic.

The shelter had two labs, a pack of kittens and a pair of cats the week before. However, both dogs were rescued by a new owner and only the kittens and cats waited for someone to come and take them home.

Homeless animals are kept as long as possible, said veterinary assistant Sharon Dunn. That will be

at least three days, if not longer, she said, giving owners a chance to reclaim a lost pet.

However, the clinic only has so much space, so its first in and first out for those that aren't claimed or adopted.

By today, two more stray dogs were available for adoption — a basset mix or corgi mix male and a black lab with brown freckles. There is also a new cat. Dunn calls him "Tuxedo Cat" because of his black-and-white markings. He has been neutered and declawed in front, she said.

However, since farmers come in looking for cats, he may end up outside if he isn't adopted in a few

days, which, she said, would be a shame.

"Animals shouldn't be disposable," Dunn said.

While the clinic can't force new owners to have their animals neutered or spayed, she said, it strongly suggests that because while the dog or cat may have a home, that is not always the case for their offspring — which can come quickly for cats and dogs.

Dunn said she thought the dogs, one of which was still at the clinic last week, waiting to be neutered, had been adopted because their new owner saw a Briefly item in the *Colby Free Press*. The paper has been running an item on Page

1 once a week or so of what animals are available for adoption.

Cats usually are easier to place than dogs, Dunn said, since many people, especially farmers, will take several, but people usually only want one dog.

Veterinary technician Connie Gassmann showed off the dog waiting to go to a new home, and the kittens, opening their cages and playing with them. She said she learned to love animals when she was grow up on her parents' farm in rural Norton County.

The clinic, which handles Colby's strays, almost always has animals for adoption, she said, though the number and species varies.

"It seems we almost always have some for adoption," she said, "either available or coming available."

The cost of adopting a kitten is \$22.50, for an older cat \$32.50, for a puppy \$17.50 and for an adult dog \$27.50. This is mostly to pay for vaccinations, Dunn said.

The cost of neutering or spaying an animal varies, she said. Neutering a male dog costs about \$75 and spaying a female \$95 to \$100. Neutering a male cat costs \$40 to \$45 and spaying is \$75 to \$80.

To see the available pets, stop off at the clinic at 810 E. Fourth St. or call (785) 460-8621.

## College plans to lease golf course, add programs

By Andy Heintz

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Colby Community College plans to launch new programs in culinary arts, landscaping and turf management, and energy management, based at the Meadow Lakes Golf Club, while preserving an amenity for Colby citizens that might otherwise be lost.

Rory Bedore of Las Vegas, who grew up in Colby, agreed earlier this month to buy the course and clubhouse from the Bedore said he plans to lease the course and all the buildings to the college for its programs.

"The sale will be finalized in late November," said Bedore. "My plans are to keep it open until after the Christmas season and then start renovating and remodeling the main building."

"I have started talks with the college regarding a future lease agreement."

Bedore said the deal is still in the "due diligence" stage phase, with both sides

checking the legal details.

The college hopes to lease the facility from Bedore in March or April, said President Lynn Kreider.

"We are trying to create a new, exciting environment, that will entice the community to come and enjoy a great evening of dining in a welcoming atmosphere," Kreider said. "Our goal is that people will feel comfortable and enjoy spending time in the restaurant and on the golf course."

Kreider said the opportunities that could come from the deal are tremendous.

"Because of the declining population in our 14-county service county area, we must be more aggressive and forward thinking in our recruiting efforts," he said. "The collaboration with Mr. Bedore would allow us to start a culinary arts program, landscape and turf grass technology program and energy management program, while providing hands-on experience in existing programs such as entrepreneurship, business management, hospitality management, agronomy and others."

"Staffed by student trainees, the facility will emphasize professional, high-quality service to customers while providing an inviting, inclusive, friendly and environmentally sustainable atmosphere to the community of Colby."

The college board had a special meeting about the proposal last week.

Ted Hart, president of the Colby Chamber of Commerce, and Holly Stephens, executive director, expressed support for the project.

"We wish to express our support for the proposed alliance of programs planned between the college, Rory Bedore, the Colby golf course and the city of Colby," Hart said, adding that the opportunities could help keep more young people in the area.

The new programs could allow the college to grow its enrollment by as many as 65 to 70 students by the time they are in full swing, Kreider said.

"I'd guess, if full force, 40 in culinary arts and 25 to 30 in turf management," he said.

Today, the college has full-time equivalent enrollment of nearly 2,300 students, he added, but only about 500 on campus full time and 750 to 800 attending classes in person here. Others enroll in 24 outreach centers or online.

The setup, with students running the club under supervision of trained professionals, will be unique among college programs, he said. Nebraska and Kansas State have turf management programs, but the restaurant may be the only one of its kind.

One goal of the programs, he said, will be to help students find good jobs.

"We want to be sure people going out get a significant interview," he said.

Bedore said he is just glad to help out his hometown.

"I grew up in this community," he said, "and I'm just honored and humbled to be a small part of a property in which the city of Colby and Colby Community College will be involved."

A golf course is something the town needs, he said.

"Most people who are planning to relocate or bring in a business want a nice recreation facility," he said. "My goal is to have a club that will entice people to this area as well as a place to spend a few days relaxing."

Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, also voiced support for the project.

"We see this as being positive and progressive and adding to the amenities which help Colby's image as the 'Oasis on the Plains,'" she said.

College Trustee Arlen Leiker said people should understand the college is not diverting operating money to the new programs.

"I think it's important to emphasize the funding for the new project will not come from existing funds," she said. "Grants and other sources will be utilized."

Because the city of Colby owns much of the land where the golf course lies, Kreider said, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong has

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## Briefly

### Three days left to register

Anyone who did not vote in the last two state and national elections and anyone who has moved or changed their name needs to register by Monday in order to vote in November. Thomas County voters can register or re-register at the clerk's office at the courthouse from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Monday. Voters also may register while renewing a driver's license or go online to the Thomas County website at thomascountyks.com, which has links to the Kansas secretary of state's office.

### School plans Scrapbook Day

Heartland Christian School will hold its eighth annual Scrapbooking Day fund raiser from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. The cost is \$30 for the day or

\$15 for any six hours, including three meals. Come and paste away. Contact Tonya Winger at 462-3677 or twinger@st-tel.net to register.

### Scouts to collect for Genesis

The Colby Girl Scouts plan their annual "Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat" campaign from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Scouts and members of other organizations will go door to door collecting nonperishables for the Genesis Food Bank. If you are going to be gone, leave a bag of canned goods on your porch. If the weather is bad, the drive will be put off to Sunday, Oct. 26.

### New 'Boot Camp' starts Monday

The Colby Recreation Department start a new session

of its early morning fitness "Boot Camp" from 5:45 to 6:30 a.m. Monday, and each Monday, Wednesday and Friday for six weeks at the Community Building. The cost is \$30 for the session. Call the recreation office at (785) 460-4440 to get signed up.

### Coffee with Coaches' returns

"Coffee with the Coaches" begins at 9 a.m. every Saturday during the Colby High football season at the Sports Shoppe, 400 N. Franklin Ave. Come talk football with Coach Chris Gardner. For questions, call 460-5000.

### Flu shots available next week

The Thomas County Health Department will be at the Colby schools to offer flu shots to students and staff next Wednesday. A consent form will be sent

home with elementary and middle school children, and be available at the high school office. It must be returned to the school office by Tuesday. For questions, call Amy Hutfles at 460-5111.

The department will be offering flu shots at the office on Range from 1-4 p.m. Monday and from 9 a.m. to noon and at various businesses from 1 to 4 p.m. next Wednesday; at the office on Range Tuesday, Nov. 4; and Monday, Nov. 10. The cost is \$25. No reservations are needed.

### Care Center plans Halloween bash

The Colby Care Center at 105 E. College Drive plans a Halloween carnival from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at the center. There will be games, candy and a costume contest with prizes. Everyone is welcome.

