Happy New Year!





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er Sheila by the Christmas tree at their home last week. Kayla Day parade in London on Thursday.

Colby High cheerleading captain Kayla Williams and her moth- left Friday for England and will be performing in a New Year's

Colby girl cheering in London

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press aheintz @ nwkansas.com

Some moments remain in people's memories forever. The first home run they ever hit, the first time they see something as aweinspiring as the Grand Canyon or Yellow-

stone. And Colby High cheerleader Kayla Williams may be experiencing one of these special moments. Williams left Friday for England, and Thursday, she'll be participating in London's New Years Day parade.

Trip, the parade, all this is not a matter of luck. She had to earn it.

Williams, a senior, competed in a tryout at a cheerleading summer camp in McPherson run by the Universal Cheerleaders Associa-

"Cheerleaders get ideas for pep rallies, learn leadership and interpersonal skills, find out how to promote school spirit and build camaraderie between cheerleaders from different cities and towns," said cheerleading coach Lyn Carpenter.

The coach said 11 out of 16 of this year's cheerleading team attended the camp with Carpenter and assistant coach Dawn Alber. The camp ran for four days, with tryouts for the London trip the last day.

Everyone at the camp could try out for the all-star team, she said, but Williams was the only Colby cheerleader who did. At tryouts, girls had to do an extreme routine and an extreme cheer, Carpenter said.

She said both the cheer and the routine had been taught to the girls at the camp. The girls also had to perform their two best jumps. Carpenter said about 60 people tried out and

18 were selected.

"I was really shocked to make the team," Williams said.

The association holds tryouts all over the country during the summer at association camps, Carpenter said. These start in the first week of June and run through the end

The all-star squad will have two practices before the parade, Carpenter said. They will perform a dance and a cheer at the parade.

"This is an excellent opportunity for her," Carpenter said.

Williams has been part of the Lady Eagles' cheerleading squad for four years. She and senior Emily Terrell are this year's team cap-

Kayla has done an excellent job and she has shown great leadership, said Carpenter.

Sebelius says job, home kept her here

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

Sebelius hasn't ruled out joining President-elect Barack Obama's administration eventually, despite her decision this month to take herself out of consideration for his Cabinet.

"That is one of the doors that will continue to be open," Sebelius said during an interview today with The Associated Press, "and he has pretty much said that."

On Dec. 6, the Democratic governor had announced she would stay in Kansas to deal with pressing budget problems, reviving speculation about her running for the Senate in 2010.

Her comments today appeared to cast doubt on a Senate race.

"I would say there are lots of doors open and no specific decisions about anything," Sebelius

The governor is well-regarded in national Democratic Party circles for winning two terms in GOPleaning Kansas. Party leaders Washington but worrying about picked her to give the Democratic the complications. sponse to President Bush's last many Democrats saw her as close to Obama after she endorsed him in January and campaigned for him. She was one of four finalists for the party's vice presidential spot when Obama picked Delaware Sen. Joe Biden.

Obama's victory immediately led to national speculation that Sebelius would join the cabinet. She was most often mentioned as a potential secretary of energy, education or labor.

But as the speculation continued, the state's' budget picture took a dive. Legislative researchlems aren't addressed, the gap tell me what it was."

could grow to more than \$1 billion by June 30, 2010.

"That adds additional pressure TOPEKA — Gov. Kathleen and a sense of responsibility," Sebelius said. "I mean, this is the job I campaigned for. It's the job that I love. I have spent a lot of time and energy trying to move this state forward, so to walk out the door didn't ever come together very well."

She said personal reasons were involved as well. Her husband, Gary, is a federal magistrate judge in Topeka, "a job he loves." The governor said that had she

taken a job in Washington, she would have been living apart from her husband for a lot of time. She noted that their 34th wedding anniversary is Wednesday.

"At the end of the day, I couldn't get to the point that it felt OK," she said. "I am not disappointed at all with the president-elect. He may be a bit disappointed in me, but I think we're just fine."

She said she "lived in a parallel universe" while trying to decide, excited about a potential job in

"I have to tell you that the de-State of the Union address. And cision that I made a couple of weeks ago came as somewhat of a surprise to even me," she said. Last week, Larry Gates, the state Democratic Party chairman, said Sebelius' decision to stay in Kansas suggested a Senate run is "absolutely back on the table."

But Sebelius said her focus is on the budget problems and the 2009 Legislature, which opens Jan. 12.

"The notion that somehow I have this grand plot of exactly figuring out what the next steps are couldn't be further from the truth," she said, "because, as I say, I somewhat surprised myers now project that the state will self. There is no backdoor plot end its fiscal year on June 30 with that people aren't aware of, and if a \$141 million deficit. If the prob-there is, I wish somebody would

Farmers here eligible

or winds from Jan. 1 to Aug. 14 be accepted until July 27. may apply for U.S. Farm Service Agency emergency loans.

Farm Loan Manager Dwight sible," said Jurey. A. Jurey said the disaster decbut under federal law, Chey- ley office, 1015 W. Second.

Farmers in Thomas and some enne, Logan, Rawlins, Thomas adjacent counties who suffered and Wallace counties also belosses due to drought, heat, hail came eligible. Applications will

> "Loans ... are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as fea-

Farmers who think they are laration is for Sherman County, eligible should apply at the Oak-

Mexico drops search for missing woman

suspended their search for a Florida woman who apparently fell from a ship balcony during a Christmas week cruise.

have jumped overboard, but the FBI is still investigating whether someone pushed her.

The Mexican Navy said late Monday it had ended its search for Jennifer Ellis Seitz, a Florida journalist, who was reported miss-

MIAMI (AP) — Mexican authorities have surveillance camera captured a person falling Ellis family said in the statement. "She was overboard on Christmas night. The U.S. Coast Guard also called off its search Monday.

The 36-year-old woman's family said she The woman's family believes she might had "previous emotional issues," but they said there were no outward signs of distress while on the seven-night cruise from Miami.

> Seitz's mother joined her daughter and sonin-law on the cruise.

ing by her husband about eight hours after a mood both before and during the cruise," the support group; both had undergone surgery.

excited about starting a new job and her future career with a local newspaper. She and her husband had been talking about starting their family.'

Seitz and her husband, Raymond, were celebrating their one-year anniversary on the Norwegian Pearl cruise ship.

Raymond Seitz has not been charged with "Jennifer was in a very happy and uplifted any crime. The couple met in a weight loss

Briefly

Praise, love to usher in year

Redeeming Love Ministries will have a New Year's Eve "praise and prayer" evening from 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. tonight at 345 N. Franklin. Come prepared to share something great from 2008 and pray for peace of mind in 2009. The public is invited. Refreshments will be provided.

Two offices closing early

The Thomas County Clerk of the District Court office will close at noon today so employees can complete end-of-the-year accounting. The county treasurer will be closed all day for the same reason.

College pool open over the holidays

The Colby Community Col-

lege swimming pool will be open as follows during the holiday break: Lap swim, 11:30-1 p.m. Friday; 5-7 p.m. next week. Open Swim: 2-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The Fitness Lab will reopen for regular hours on Monday.

County, city offices to close

The Thomas County courthouse, office complex and landfill will be closed on Thursday for New Year's Day. The country transportation van will not

Colby city offices will be closed Thursday for New Year's Day and reopen at 8 a.m. Friday. Sanitation trucks will not run on Thurs-

day, and Thursday residential routes will be picked up on Friday. Have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m.

Pets available for adoption

Colby Animal Clinic has one kitten, a big black male lab and a black female lab available for adoption. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Reception for sheriff Friday

The public is invited to a retirement reception for Sheriff Mike Baughn from 1-4 p.m. Friday at the Law Enforcement Training Center in downtown Colby. The sheriff will leave office next month after 36 years serving Thomas County in law enforce-

Deadline near for program

The deadline is coming up to join an eight-week

nutrition and fitness program sponsored by Thomas County Extension and Colby Recreation Department. Registration for the "Wise Up and Count Down Thomas County" program must be received at either office by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9. No late registrations will be accepted. The cost is \$30 per person; the program is for teams of four.

City crew trimming trees

The Colby city crew is trimming trees over streets and sidewalks as the weather allows. Trees will be trimmed to 13 feet, 6 inches above streets and 8 feet above sidewalks, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. For questions, call the city at 460-4410.

Emergency med class planned

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will be offering an emergency medical technician B class starting in January. Call (785) 460-4585.

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