



8 pages

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## Obama wants quick action

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama says the nation can't afford "distractions" or "delays" when it comes to the economic stimulus plan working its way through Congress.

Obama pointed to job cuts taking place at companies including Microsoft, Intel, United Airlines and Home Depot. And he said it means more working men and women "whose families have been disrupted and whose dreams have been put on hold."

Obama told reporters today the government owes it to "every American" to act with a "sense of urgency" and "common purpose."

Senate committees are scheduled to take up the massive economic stimulus package Tuesday and the full House is expected to vote on its version of the \$825 billion plan Wednesday. Republicans want the recovery package tilted more toward tax cuts.

Obama said these "extraordinary times" call for "swift and extraordinary action."

## Lady Eagles celebrate championship



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

The Lady Eagles celebrated after beating Pine Creek 48-39 in the championship finals of the Paul Wintz/ Tom Bowen Orange and Black Basketball Classic. For more photos and story about the Lady Eagles and the tournament see Page 8.

## Local author writes about 'Nick'

By Andy Heintz

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Erin Inman had her book The Fatherless published last summer. The book can only be purchased at Amazon.com for \$19.95.

Inman said it took her six years to write the book.

"It took six years to finish the book, but after I buckled down it only took about six months," said Inman.

The story did not come to Inman all at once. She said she had to rewrite and revise her story several times.

The book's main character is Nick, a young boy who grows up without a good father figure. He is brought up by his grandma until she dies when he is 12. He has to move in with his father J.D. who



Erin Inman

he has never met before. Nick and his father don't get along very well. His father is a really tough guy who doesn't like that Nick prefers to stay inside and play the piano. Nick eventually becomes friend with an elderly woman next store named Anya. Anya acts as Nick's mentor throughout his life.

Not wanting to give away the books ending Inman said she would only say the books conclusion has to do with Nick making some bad decisions later in life as a reaction to his unhappy relationship with his father and Anya has to step in and help Nick turn his life around.

"She shows him that God still loves him," said Inman.

She said the point of the book was to show how important father figures are to children.

"An earthly father is supposed

to give a picture to us of what god the father will be like," Inman said.

When fathers don't give their kids the love they need then they sometimes end up having a skewed view of God, she said.

Inman had to take a year off from her job to finish her book. Prior to writing her book, she was first and second grade teacher at Heartland Christian School.

She said she wrote about four chapters a day. The book is 406 pages long.

Baal Hayman Publishers agreed to publish her book. The publishing company is based in Nigeria.

Inman said she read a lot of books as a child. Her favorite authors were Francine Rivers and Angela Hunt.

Inman had some words of advice for people who hope to write a book someday.

"Write something everyday," she said.

## Eagles finish second



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Senior Stephen Dinkel elevated for shot against Liberal in the finals of the orange and black basketball classic. The Eagles lost to the Redskins 55-41. A summary of the game is featured on Page 8.

## Tougher emission standards sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama ordered the government today to re-examine whether California and other states should be allowed to have tougher auto emission standards to combat a build up of greenhouse gases, a clean break from Bush administration policy.

Obama directed his administration to get moving on new fuel-efficiency guidelines for the auto industry in time to cover 2011

model-year cars.

"For the sake of our security, our economy and our planet, we must have the courage and commitment to change," Obama said in his first formal event in the ornate East Room of the White House.

"It will be the policy of my administration," he said, "to reverse our dependence on foreign oil while building a new energy economy that will create millions of jobs."

California and at least a dozen other states have tried to come up with tougher emission standards than those imposed by the federal government, but Obama said that "Washington stood in their way." The president wants the Environmental Protection Agency to take a second look at a decision denying California — and the other states that want to follow its model —

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## Briefly

### Chamber luncheon Wednesday

Colby Chamber of Commerce luncheon at noon on Wednesday at Colby Community College Room 108 of the student union. College vice-president Skip Sharp will give an update on the college, and a nominating committee will be selected to search for future chamber board members to be placed on the election ballot. Wholesale Beverage, 1060 S. Country Club Drive, will hold the Business After Five on Wednesday.

### Girls out hawking cookies

If you're on a diet, you may not want to answer the door. But who can resist Girl Scout cookies? Sales run through Sunday, Feb. 1, said Scout leader Penny Cline. Cinnamon Spins have been renamed

Daisy Go Rounds in honor of the littlest Scouts, who will be out selling cookies this year, but they still come in 100-calorie packs. If you miss the knock on the door, call Mint Culver at 460-6005 or Cline (after 6 p.m. only) at 460-2929 to order.

### Tech students plan chili supper

The Colby High School and Middle School chapters of the Technology Students Association plan a soup supper starting at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, during the Colby-Hays Thomas Moore Prep basketball games. The supper is to raise money for the student's trip to the national competition in Denver. Homemade chili and chicken noodle soup, desserts and drinks will be available for a donation. For information call Lamoreaux Fulwider at 460-5300.

### Conservation reservations due

The Thomas County Conservation District will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Deadline for reservations is Friday, Jan. 30. Call district manager Debbie Potter at (785) 462-7482, extension 303.

### Cemetery decorations need to go

Beulah Cemetery caretakers ask that all Christmas grave decorations be picked up by 5 p.m. on Friday. For questions, call 462-3188.

### Museum offers program for kids

To mark Kansas Day, the anniversary of statehood on Thursday, the Prairie Museum of Art and History plans a free art workshop for kids in grades three to five from 2-4 p.m. Saturday. Participants will make colorful oil pastel sunflower designs in honor of the

Kansas state flower. Registration is limited to 20 participants. Call Rosanne Dougherty at the museum (785) 460-4590.

### Events help man fight cancer

Reid Atkins, a long time resident of Thomas County, has nonhodgkins lymphoma and is a patient at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, awaiting a bone marrow transplant. Kansas Quick Lube, 1927 S. Range, is offering a free oil change for every \$100 donation. Uptown Style Salon and Day Spa, 505 E. Fourth, is holding a cut-a-thon on Monday, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 462-2383 for an appointment.

### Genesis annual meeting Feb. 2

The annual meeting of Genesis-Thomas County Inc. will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, in the Pioneer Memorial Library meeting room, 375 W. Fourth St.