



12 pages

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## Border patrol unit overnights in Colby

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Members of the U.S. Border Patrol's Mustang Mounted Unit stopped overnight in Colby last Saturday.

It was a rest stop for the patrol of 10 horses and 10 riders, who were on their way back to their stations along the Canadian Border, after riding in the Presidential Inaugural Parade on Jan 20.

The unique unit was formed in the spring of 2007 when the Spokane Sector of the Border Patrol began adopting wild horses through the Bureau of Land Management. The horses are used to patrol a stretch of border that boasts some of the most rugged and remote terrain in all of North America.

The Spokane Sector is responsible for patrolling a 308-mile section of the United States and Canada border. The area includes the Cascade Mountains in Washington to Glacier National Park in Montana. There are seven patrol stations within the 308 miles of rugged border.

In a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Land Management and the Colorado Department of Corrections prison in Cannon City, Colo., the wild horses are used to help rehabilitate inmates, before they are adopted by the Border Patrol. The inmates provide personal training to break the once wild horses and mold them into dependable, loyal animals.

The wild mustangs are rounded up (gathered) when they are between 3 and 4 years old. They are chosen for their sureness of foot,

strength, intelligence and endurance. They stand at 13 to 15 hands (52 to 60 inches) high.

The patrol purchases the animals for \$125 each and pays the prison \$800 for each animal to get them green broke to the saddle. After breaking, they are picked up and taken back to the Patrol station, where they are slowly integrated into the patrol routine. It is not uncommon for a horse to remain in the service until they reach 20 years of age.

The horses are especially beneficial in the rugged terrain of the Spokane Sector's area of operations, because they can go places an All Terrain Vehicle can not go. Illegals are also exploiting the waterways the officers said.

Patrol officer James Perkins, from the White Fish, Mont. station said, "each day on the job is different ... illegals cross the borders in groups of individuals, they carry drugs on their person, on mules, on horses and vehicles," he said, "and we need to match their firepower ... so if we're on horseback, we can get back into the remote areas too."

Perkins said, "it's a dangerous job, and we sometimes back pack into the mountains on mules for several days. Besides mules and horses, we also use ATV's and other vehicles," he said.

Perkins said he loves his job, and has served under three presidents. He started out on the southern border near San Diego. Although he grew up in Arizona, he prefers the northern border. Members of the patrol are all law enforcement officers and all carry weapons.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Members of the U.S. Border Patrol were not bothered by the 8 degree weather in the early hours of Sunday morning as they loaded their horses after an overnight stay at the Colby Sale Barn. This mustang unit was chosen out of hundreds of appli-

History tells us the border patrol is actually older than the Constitution, and was formed because

England refused to offer America any protection.

The Border Patrol is a division

cants to ride in the Presidential Inaugural Parade. The patrol tries to make 500 miles a day back to headquarters in Spokane, Wash. They will have chalked up around 7,000 miles when they arrive home.

of the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection and responsible for

U.S. national security in the rural areas between the official ports of entry into the united States.

## School kids celebrate Kansas Day



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Erwyn Freeman, first grader student in Julie Ross' class, made her initials out of play dough yesterday as part of the

school's celebration of Kansas Day. Thursday Kansas celebrated 148th anniversary of attaining statehood.

## Rep. Jerry Moran files for Senate run

Congressman Jerry Moran (R-Hays) Thursday filed paperwork with the Kansas Secretary of State to be on the ballot as a candidate for the United States Senate in the 2010 election.

In November, Moran filed paperwork to begin accepting contributions for the senate race. Moran is seeking the seat being vacated by Senator Sam Brownback.

"In my travels across the state, Kansans have been encouraging me to run for this Senate seat and I have listened," Moran said. "My

first priority has always been the people I represent, the people of Kansas.

"What I hear from Kansans is they are tired of politics as usual in Washington, D.C. My priority in this campaign will be to focus on how we can get our country back on track. I will work to forge a new direction in politics in America, not the same old politics as usual of which the American people have grown weary."

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## Police search for attacker

Colby police say they are continuing to investigate an incident where a 30-year-old woman was allegedly attacked about 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the parking lot behind the Colby Free Press at 115 W. Fifth.

Sergeant Kent D. Dible said Thursday the police were following up on some possible leads, and felt the attack was aimed at the woman involved.

The description of the man the police were looking for is a white male, age 18-25, 5 foot 10 inches to 6 foot. He has shoulder length dirty blond hair that curls at the bottom, and was

wearing a dark hoodie and dark loose jeans.

The woman who was allegedly attacked said she thought it was a continuation of some harassment she has had for about the last month.

She said the harassment started innocently with a note under her door saying "I think I am in love with you."

Later she said someone began pounding on her door nightly between 1 and 3 a.m., and her boyfriend saw the man one time and gave chase.

The boyfriend said the man

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## Briefly

### Girls out hawking cookies

Girl Scout cookie sales run through Sunday said Scout leader Penny Cline. 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.

### Events help man fight cancer

Friends of Reid Atkins, who has nonhodgkins lymphoma, 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 to help Atkins on Monday from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 462-2383 for an appointment.

### Fad Diets topic for Wise Up and Count Down

Dr. Denis Medeiros, Head of the Department of Human Nutrition, Kansas State University, will speak at 5:30 p.m. on Monday at the Colby Community Building as part of the Wise Up and Count Down program. Dr. Medeiros will be speaking about "Fad Diets" and answering nutrition questions. Those not enrolled can attend for a \$5 fee.

### Genesis annual meeting Monday

The annual meeting of Genesis-Thomas County Inc., which operates the Colby food bank, will be at 7 p.m. Monday in the Pioneer Memorial Library meeting room, 375 W. Fourth St. All Thomas County residents are invited to attend.

### Dog obedience class Tuesday

The Pawsome Paws 4-H Dog Club is offering dog obedience training classes beginning Tuesday. The class will cover basic obedience. Registration will open at 6:30 p.m. and the first class at 7 p.m. There is a fee for the class. Dog owners need to bring a copy of the dog's current vaccinations, a training collar, 6 ft leash and a clean-up kit. For information contact Carrie Bredemeier at (785) 460-3816.

### School book fair starts Tuesday

Colby Grade School Parent Teacher Organization is hosting the annual spring Scholastic Book Fair from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., on Tuesday and Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday. This year's theme is "Lights! Camera! Book Fair! - Reading makes you a star!" The fair offers new released, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, adult

books and current bestsellers. For more information, call the grade school office at 460-5100.

### Booked for Lunch Wednesday

Melinda Olson will be reviewing, "Philanthropy and Rural America Challenges and Opportunities," at the Booked for Lunch Program to be held at the Pioneer Memorial Library on Wednesday. Lunch will be at noon and the program will start at 12:15.

### Lecture Series Tuesday

Colby Community College will host the first speaker of the Max Pickerill Lecture Series at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the Cultural Arts Center located on the southeast corner of campus. The conflict between faith and evolutionary theory will be the topic of the lecture by Professor Jeffrey Kieft of the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver.



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