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Water shutoff gives college the afternoon off

By Shalee Roundtree
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Students of Colby Community College got Friday afternoon off when the water on campus was shut off after a hit-and-run driver hit a fire hydrant northwest corner of campus.

The hydrant was hit sometime Friday morning and water had to be shut off around 11 a.m.

President Dr. Lynn Kreider said he decided to cancel all classes after noon, as the water would remain shut off until about 4 p.m.

“One of the lanes (on Range Avenue) was shut down and traffic was directed around,” said Chris Bieker, Colby public works director.

Although no problems arose with traffic, the incident did cause problems on campus.

“The cafeteria and the dorms were

probably the ones who had the most trouble with the water being shut off,” said Debbie Schwanke, college director of public information.

Many students didn’t have a problem with the water being shut off.

“I didn’t even really notice it until I had to go to the bathroom,” said veterinary technician student Carrie Jo Davison, “plus it was nice to have the afternoon off.”

Students and staff at the animal sci-

ence building had to store water before it was shut off because the animals can’t go without it.

“We were filling up buckets and anything we could find with water,” said Davison, “We never ended up using it, though. It was just preventative measures we were required to take.”

The water was off only in a few places along Range. Only some of the buildings on campus were without water. The Living Center Northeast, the “new dorm,”

had water and so did Bedkar, the newer building in the southwest corner of campus.

The problem was taken care of quickly and didn’t cause too many problems.

“The city did a very good job handling the situation and the water didn’t have to be shut off for very long,” said Dorm Coordinator Lela Panter.

Most students, meanwhile, agreed that they enjoyed having a head start into their weekend.



Secretary Kasie Goetz (above) looked a little worried while she was being duct taped to the bleachers Wednesday by the freshmen. The four classes each taped up a teacher as part

of a Colby High cheerleaders’ fund raiser for the Red Cross. Art teacher Donna Roberts (below) hung helplessly after the sophomores took the milk crate she was standing on.

Teachers find wall a sticky situation

By Andy Heintz
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Four teachers looked on helplessly as students taped them to the bleachers during a pep rally Wednesday afternoon at the Colby High gym.

Soon, the four — Coach Beau Sheets, English teacher Amber Fairbrother, art teacher Donna Roberts and Career Center secretary Kasie Goetz — were enveloped in yards of silvery duct tape. A crowd shouted instructions to the students applying the sticky mess.

The taping wasn’t an act of student anarchy, though; it was all for a good cause. The Colby High cheerleaders have been busy raising money for the Thomas County American Red Cross.

The duct taping of teachers was part of an especially creative plan the girls devised. They came up with an idea that allowed every class at the school to tape a teacher to the wall, said coach Lynn Carpenter. For every quarter a student gave to the Red Cross, their class

got a foot of duct tape. When the teachers were well stuck to the wall, the tapers took the crates out from under them. The class that did the best job — shown by which teacher hung the longest — won one “open” lunch. That wound up as a tie between the freshmen and the seniors, as Goetz and Fairbrother were still up as the rally ended.

The donations began on Monday, Feb. 9, and ran until 1 p.m. Wednesday, Carpenter said. The seniors raised \$63 to buy 80 yards of tape, the juniors donated \$37 for about 40 yards, the sophomores gave \$96 for 120 yards and the freshman \$109 for 150 yards of tape. That made nearly \$305 for the Red Cross, said Carpenter.

The cheerleaders also cut out “did you know” paper hearts with facts about the American Red Cross on them and taped them to the school walls on Monday, Feb. 2.

The girls also baked 24 cakes they served at a soup dinner on Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Colby United Methodist Church. The supper raised \$600 for the Red Cross, she said.



City looking for stimulus from the feds

By Andy Heintz
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The City of Colby is hoping some of the money from the federal stimulus bill will find its way here.

So far, the city has requested grants for three projects, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong told the City Council on Tuesday, a water standpipe, backup generators for two city wells and some work at the new wastewater treatment plant.

Armstrong said she wants to use more water from the treatment plant to water the ball fields, so the city can conserve its freshwater from the Ogallala Aquifer.

Later, the council agreed to extend an agreement with Ed Collins reserving water for a future golf course near the wastewater plant. Collins asked for a six-month extension, but the council was only willing to grant him three. Collins’ agreement with the city was set to expire on March 2, said Armstrong. She said it has been extended to June 2.

At a public hearing on a runway project at Shalz Field, Brad Walker of HWS Consulting Group reported that a study shows the

paving will not have a negative environmental impact on any of its surroundings.

The city hopes to lengthen the main runway and pave the northwest-southeast crosswind runway during the project. The south end of the main runway would be torn out and the entire strip shifted north to clear the approach zones, required by Federal Aviation Administration rules. A map shows where the city would buy land for approach zones and the runway changes. The grassy southwest-northeast runway would be removed.

After Walker finished, the public was free to ask questions. Gary Baumfalk, who lives at the northeast corner of the existing airport property, said that the extension of the north-south runway would close off the road from his house to K-25. The alternate route involves about two miles of unpaved roads. He said that his house’s proximity to the project had caused the value to plummet.

“My property value is zero,” said Baumfalk. “This plan would impact my business severely.”

The proposed runway would close the road Baumfalk uses to

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Foundation to cite ‘kind actors’ Friday

By Marj Brown
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The Thomas County Community Foundation will be presenting awards to two groups that did kind things during the Random Acts of Kindness Week at an open house Friday at the county office complex, 350 S. Range.

The foundation urged people to report kindness during the observance last week, but Executive Director Melinda Olson said apparently, no one thought to call.

“I’m sorry to say that we didn’t have as many kind acts called in to us this year as (we did) last year,” she said. “We know there were a lot of people doing nice things,

but everyone is just so busy nowadays and just didn’t think to call us. Also, some kind deeds may have been done so anonymously that people didn’t even know who did them.”

She said everyone is invited to the come-and-go reception from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the foundation office. The awards will be presented at 10 a.m.

“We want to thank everyone who participated in our kindness week,” Olson said. “Even though they didn’t call in the kind acts to us, we know there were a lot of them. We plan to do this again next year and hope things have settled down enough that we can all take time to do more Random Acts of Kindness.”

Briefly

Historian to detail range wars

Evelyn Hoyt Ward of Goodland will talk about range wars between ranchers and homesteaders from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History for the Food for Thought program, which features a soup lunch and history program. Call the museum at (785) 460-4590 for details.

Relay plans poker fund raiser

Thomas County Relay for Life will hold its third annual poker tournament at 2 p.m. Saturday to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The suggested donation is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Players may register at Dillons until Friday. For information, call Karla Sharp, 460-4881.

Orchestra to play in Oberlin

Western Plains Arts Association is sponsoring

“Celebrate the Love of Sound,” a the winter concert by Pride of the Prairie Orchestra, at 3 p.m. Sunday at The Gateway civic center in Oberlin. Admission is by season ticket, Friends of the Orchestra membership or at the door. The concert, conducted by Burlington High School Band Director Andrew Salvador, will feature pianist Sharon Kriss of Colby performing Grieg’s “Piano Concerto in A Minor.” For information, call Pat Ziegelmeier at (785) 462-7808 or 460-5518.

Annual Spelling Bee next week

Colby fourth and fifth graders will have their annual Spelling Bee at 1:15 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 23 and Feb. 24, in the grade-school auditorium. Seven contestants have been chosen from each classroom, with one alternate. Medals will be given to the top three in each grade. The public is invited.

Rotary to sell soup at games

The Colby Rotary Club will have a soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday during the Colby High-Norton Blue Jays basketball games at the Community Building. Club members for be serving chili and potato soup. Tickets are available from any Rotarian at \$4 for adults and \$2 for kids. For information, call Relda Galli at 460-2000 or e-mail galli@fnb.com.

Chamber coffee at college

Colby Community College Student Services will have a Chamber Coffee at 10 a.m. Friday in the Student Union. Come in for food, fun and fellowship. For questions, contact Chamber Executive Director Holly Stephens, at 460-3401.

FFA to flip pancakes Thursday

You’re invited to the free Colby High FFA Appreciation Breakfast from 6:30 to 8 a.m. Thursday at the

Ag Shop, 240 N. Copeland. Pancakes, bacon or sausage, drinks and door prizes will be offered to mark National FFA Week. For questions, contact Shawna Howell-Hoffman at (785) 460-5320 or showell@colbyeagles.org.

Benefit will help girl’s family

Friends and family plan a benefit soup supper for Trinity Pfeifer, a second grader at Colby Grade School, who needs hip surgery. She is the daughter of Jason and Angie Stegeman of Colby. Come in from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Community Building basement. Donations will be accepted. For information, call her mom at (785) 460-0227.

