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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Police chase ends in crash; two men hurt

By Kevin Bottrell  
Colby Free Press  
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

Two area men were taken to the hospital early Sunday after their pickup rolled during a high-speed pursuit east of Colby and the driver was thrown from the cab.

Chief Randy Jones said Officer David Rodriguez was doing a bar check at Twisters about 2 a.m. when he watched a 1998 Chevy pickup drive into the ditch opposite the bar. The officer approached the vehicle, which took off at a high speed east on College Drive.

Jones said Rodriguez followed, but backed off when the road turned to gravel past Country Club Drive.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that the truck went into the north ditch about three miles

east of Colby around 2:10 a.m. and rolled three times, coming to rest on its top. The driver, Michael Murphey, 31, of Oakley, was ejected. A passenger, Ryan Murphey, 21, of Colby, also was injured. Both were taken to Citizens Medical Center. Neither was wearing a seat belt, the patrol said.

Hospital Administrator Janis McCart said Ryan Murphey was treated and released, while Michael Murphey was transferred to Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita.

Jones said that no citations have been issued yet, but that it was likely a driving while under the influence situation. Officer Nick Quenzer and Cpl. Ron Alexander assisted. Since police were involved, he said, the accident was turned over to the patrol for investigation.

## Vandals make mess at church

By Kevin Bottrell  
Colby Free Press  
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

Volunteers pitched in to clean the Christian Education wing at Colby's First Presbyterian Church on Sunday after vandals broke in and set off two fire extinguishers.

The vandals — police couldn't say how many — broke into the education wing sometime during the weekend and discharged the two fire extinguishers, which belong to the church, in the hallway, a classroom and the chapel. Pastor Carol Rahn said several crosses and a television set were destroyed, and pages out of a book that looked like a Bible, but wasn't, were burned.

Seventeen volunteers, including pastors from the Baptist and Lutheran churches, came out Sunday to help clean up the mess. Rahn said the volunteers have taken care of most of the heavy cleaning, but three or four more cleanings may be needed to get all the dust from

the dry chemical extinguishers. The church may also have to strip and re-wax the floor, Rahn said. Dry-chemical fire extinguishers leave a residue that can damage anything it gets on if not immediately cleaned, she said.

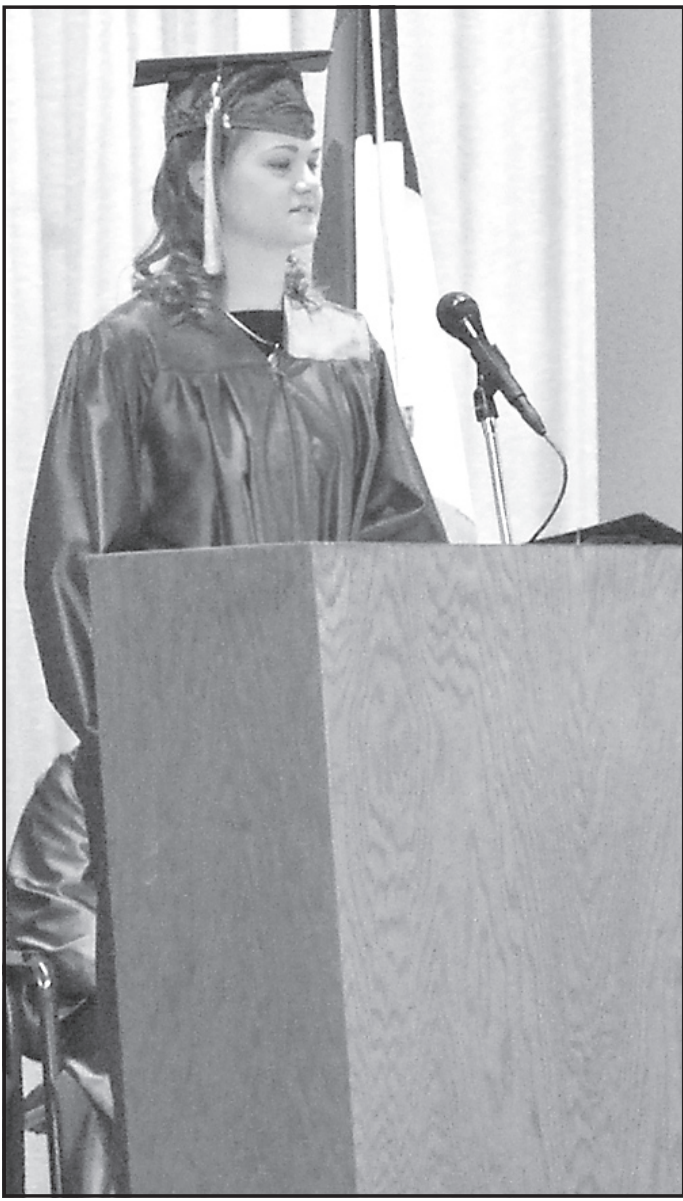
So much dust from the extinguishers was in the air, Rahn said, that when she entered the church Monday morning, a fine dust covered everything in the education wing, even after it had been cleaned once.

She said the wing, which is attached to the church, was the only area broken into. No one knew for sure when the break in occurred, Rahn said. She discovered it Sunday morning when she came in after a vacation.

Police Chief Randy Jones said officers are investigating the incident, as well as several other vandalism and property destruction cases over the weekend, including one at the city recreation complex.

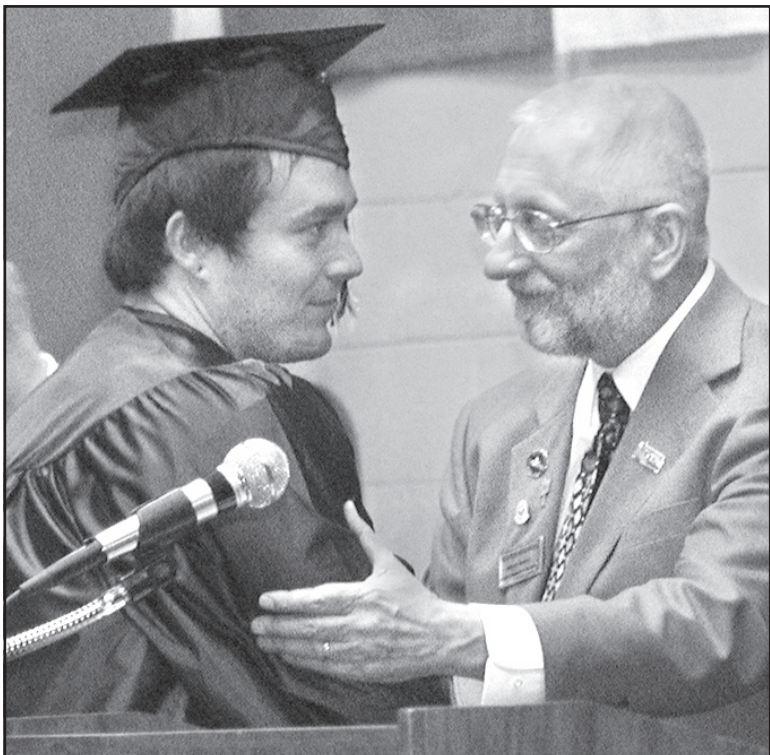


CAROL RAHN/First Presbyterian Church  
Jan and Pastor Carroll Morony of the Colby First Baptist Church joined many other volunteers Sunday to help clean up the First Presbyterian Church after vandals damaged the interior with fire extinguishers.



## 2009 class ends year

Colby High School senior choir members (above) performed at the commencement ceremony Sunday. The choir, directed by Joey Nickols, sang "Friends" by Michael W. Smith. Graduating senior Abbie Reed (left) spoke at the Heartland Christian School commencement ceremony Saturday. Reed was one of three graduating seniors. Colby Community College sophomore Matthew Perdue shook hands with Kenton Krebiel, chairman of the college board, after receiving his diploma at graduation Saturday afternoon in the Community Building.



ANDY HEINTZ AND KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

## Students fake injuries for tornado drill

By Andy Heintz  
Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Students in the Colby basic Emergency Medical Technician class feigned agony, their arms and legs dripping fake blood.

Some were strapped to gurneys while others winced in pain as they clutched an arm or leg coated with more fake blood.

The students were part of some elaborate "April Fools" prank, just playing the role of victims during a mock tornado drill put on by

the Thomas County Emergency Management Department.

Dawnelle Umberger, county cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructor, said the exercise was a way for the students to get some real-life training. She said the students came up with scenarios on how and where they would get hurt during a tornado. Some of those included a chisel going over a person's leg, another's legs being trapped under a farm implement and glass embedded in arms and legs.

Umberger said she was impressed with the students' ideas.

The fake blood the "victims" had caked on various parts of their bodies during the drill was a result of Umberger taking a "moulage" class where she learned how to make fake cuts look real. She said the class taught her how fake blood, vomit and burns.

The emergency medical course began in January and will end Saturday, when the students take their state test. Five out of the eight students who started the course plan to take the test and join the Thomas County ambulance

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## Briefly

### Ball league sign-up due soon

Registration for adult softball leagues is due by Friday, and swim lesson sign up is due by Wednesday, May 27. Girls summer-league basketball registration is due Wednesday. Players and parents should double check their information on summer activities to get kids and teams signed up on time, says Colby Recreation Director Stacy Lee, and pay close attention to late registration policies. For questions, call the Recreation Department at 460-4440.

### Library book sale this weekend

The Pioneer Memorial Library will hold its Memorable Book Sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the basement of the library. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

### FFA to hold awards banquet

The Colby High FFA Awards Banquet will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Ag Shop, 240 N. Copeland. All family and friends are welcome. The greenhouse will be open for the end-of-the-year sale, which ends that night. Prices on all items are reduced for quick sale. Everyone gets a free bird feeder with a purchase as a thank-you for supporting the Ag Education program. For questions, call teacher Shawna Howell-Hoffman at 460-5320 or showell@colbyeagles.org.

### Relay needs teams, walkers

Teams are needed for the 2009 Thomas County Relay for Life, sponsored by the Colby chapter of the American Cancer Society, on Friday, May 29, in Fike Park. To find a spot on a team, or register a new team, call Tiffany Moeder at 460-2383.

### City to pick up grass clippings

City crews are picking up grass clippings. Clippings must be at curbside by 8 a.m. on your regular trash day in a separate tipper can from household trash. Put clippings in the tipper loose, not in plastic bags. For questions, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

### Sign up for summer program

Enrollment for the Summer Youth Program at the Colby United Methodist Church will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at the church. The program, for children age 3 through sixth grade, runs from Monday, June 1, through Wednesday, July 8. The church is at 950 S. Franklin Ave. For questions, call 460-2761.

### College to hold fishing derby

Colby Community College and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will hold a free "Kids Fishing Derby" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, at Villa High Park in Colby. The lake will be stocked with channel catfish and bluegill. The Colby Community College radio station, KCJC, plans to broadcast live. Wildlife experts will talk to kids about fishing. There will be a food vendor and face painting. For information, contact Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs, at (785) 460-5429. The park is on the east side of Range Avenue south of the KXXX Radio building.



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