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Learning from an expert



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Aaron Platt, 8, of Colby, listened to Jeanne Mann of Goodland as she told a class to be careful not to cut into the seams of their fringe quilts on Saturday. The Quilt Cabin on South Range held a “Kids Can Quilt” day on Saturday for children 8 to 12.

Pastor hangs up robe after 32 years in the church

By Aubrey Spencer
Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkansass.com

After almost four years in Colby, Pastor John Schmidt of Trinity Lutheran Church will be saying goodbye to the church family and town he has grown to love. Schmidt, a full-time pastor for 32 years, is retiring and moving to Bellevue, Neb., where, he says, he is looking forward to living only three houses away from his only sibling, a sister whom he hasn’t lived near for 35 years. His last day with the church will be Sunday, July 26. “That last day will be a tear-filled one,” he said. “This has been a good time in our life, and we will miss it.” Schmidt and his wife Deanna moved to Colby nearly four years

ago from Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho. He pastored in Idaho as well as St. Louis, Mo., Chattanooga, Tenn., and Norman, Okla. Schmidt said he had been looking forward to a congregation where he could spend more time being a pastor rather than an administrator. His previous congregations were large, with memberships of 1,500 to 2,000 people, whereas Trinity Lutheran in Colby, with 350 to 375 members, has been “just the right size.” Schmidt says one of the things he’ll definitely miss about Colby is the people of his congregation. They are warm and accepting, he said, and they have one of the best bell choirs of any church he’s been a part of. “It’s a nice group of people here,” he said, “and it’s been a joy to serve them.”

He said he appreciates the manner in which the congregations maintains its facility. “If something needs done, the people get it done,” he said. Schmidt complimented his church, saying that the ministry there will continue as is, even after he leaves. “And that’s the way it should be,” he added. Things will continue smoothly, he said, with the Rev. Don White of Atwood serving as interim pastor along with Rev. Tim Llewellyn of Oakley. The congregation plans a going-away dinner for the Schmidt family on Sunday, July 12, said Linda Pabst, church secretary. “The committee didn’t want to say farewell, so we are calling it a

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Moran to visit Winona next week

By Kevin Bottrell
Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansass.com

Congressman Jerry Moran will swing by the Winona Firehouse from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday as part of his annual tour of the 1st Congressional District. The firehouse is at 204 Bellview Ave. in Winona. Brecke Latham, Moran’s communications direc-

tor, said the congressman would be talking about subjects such as health care and climate change as well as his recently introduced bill that would give a timetable for the government to give up any ownership in the private sector by next year. Moran has visited 40 counties out of the 69 in the Kansas 1st District, she said. He was in Thomas County in April, and will conclude the tour in Ellsworth County on July 25.

Briefly

Lemonade stand to help shelter
Colby second-grader April Swartz plans to set up a lemonade and brownie stand from 8 a.m. to noon on Thursday at Swartz Veterinary Clinic. Proceeds will go to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter in Goodland. The clinic is at 1775 W. Fourth St. For information, call Swartz at 460-1078.

Food delivery this weekend
Prairie Land Food delivery will be from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Sacred Heart School Gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. For questions, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579 or State Farm at 462-7525.

View student art at museum
Through Tuesday, visitors to the Prairie Museum of Art and History can see artwork of Thomas County students in the Garvey Educational Room. Students from kindergarten through high school have

work in acrylic, pastels, watercolor, colored pencil and ink, and other media in the free exhibit. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For information, call the museum at 460-4590.

Nursing home plans dog show
The Colby Care Center will hold a doggie fashion show at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 11. Dress up your dogs and bring them by, along with a \$5 donation for the Residents Activity Fund. Veterinarian Tammy Swarts will judge the entries and award prizes, and give some free advice for dog owners. For information, call Amanda Hillis at 462-6721.

College pool open weekdays
The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Open swimming is 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through

One dead, one hurt in rural road wreck

By Kevin Bottrell
Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansass.com

One Colby man was killed and another injured Tuesday morning when their sports car went into a ditch and rolled into a field north of Levant. The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that about 11:30 a.m., a 1998 Pontiac Firebird was northbound on County Road 11 – about 11 miles north of Levant. The driver lost control, and the car went into the west ditch and overturning. The car ended up on its roof about 100 feet into a field on the west side of the road. The accident took place about half a mile north

of where the road changes from blacktop to dirt, the patrol said. The passenger, Donny Spresser, 25, of Colby was killed, the patrol said. The driver, Zachery Thompson, 21, also of Colby, was taken to Citizens Medical Center with a broken and lacerated wrist, head and eye trauma and a broken thigh. He later was flown to a Denver hospital. Neither victim was wearing a seat belt, the patrol said. Since the accident was close to the county line, officials said, Rawlins County Emergency Medical Services was alerted in case an extra ambulance was needed.

Sirens keyed to spotters, not to tornado warnings

By Kevin Bottrell
Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansass.com

A few eyebrows were raised in Goodland last week when the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning, but the town’s sirens didn’t sound. Police Chief Ray Smee told *The Goodland Star News* that the sirens are only triggered when a tornado touchdown is seen by trained weather spotters. Smee said the warning was issued because weather radar indicated the possibility of a tornado. He said he and one of his officers, also a trained spotter, were watching the storm, and it did not produce a tornado as the radar had

predicted. The weather service issues tornado warnings based on both radar and spotter information. The storm eventually moved south, bypassing Goodland. Smee said that he did not see any funnel clouds, and decided not to recommend activating the siren. Thomas County Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan said the alarms here are decided in much the same manner. There are six sirens in Colby, she said, and at least one in each of the other towns in the county. These are triggered by the county dispatch office in the event that a tornado is seen by trained spotters. McMahan said the sirens are all activated at once if a tornado is

spotted anywhere in the county. Dave Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist with the weather service’s Goodland office, said he holds spotter training in each of the 19 counties covered by the office every year. Floyd said he trains spotters on how to read forecasts, radar and other weather information. They learn to visually distinguish types of thunderstorms, tornadoes and other severe weather and how to relay that information to authorities. “We do rely heavily on the information from our spotters,” Floyd said. Floyd said the Thomas County spotter class is one of the best at

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Dads gather for barbecue



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press
Perfect weather reigned Sunday for the annual Father’s Day picnic for College Drive Assembly of God church members. A big crowd, including this hungry dad, enjoyed the barbecue expertise of Todd Unruh and Rob Ross.

brary’s community room. No homework is required and discussion will focus around the videos. For information, call the church at 462-8391.

Groups offer free shoot
The Colby Trap Hunting Heritage Group and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will hold another free shooting program for youths and inexperienced shooters at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 19. Shooters will learn weapons handling and range safety. Shotguns and shells will be provided at the Colby Trap Club at County Road R (West College Drive) and County Road 14, one mile south of U.S. 24 west of Colby. For information, call Wildlife Conservation Officer Benny Young at 462-7602.



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