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# COLBY FREE PRESS



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## Colby School Board selects new member

By Kevin Bottrell  
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The Colby School Board has named area farmer Ed Geihlsler to fill a seat left vacant after Joel Powell's resignation in June. Geihlsler was selected by secret ballot at the July 22 board meeting. Board members ranked each of the five candidates in order of their preference. The votes were then tallied and Geihlsler declared the winner. The board then voted unanimously to appoint him to the seat. Geihlsler, a foreman for Ken Frahm Farms, said he is excited to serve on the board. He acknowledged the schools face difficult times, especially with cuts to the state budget, and said he hopes to

have open communication with the public about the issue. Geihlsler, who has a son and daughter who will be in first grade this year, said he was first approached by several teachers who encouraged him to apply for the opening. The new board member said he has been reading up on issues facing the board and has been fully briefed by district staff. "When I go in, I'm sure I'll be a little behind," he said, "but on the other hand, they're willing and able to help me." Geihlsler said although the cuts are not ideal, the board needs to listen to staff recommendations and keep the public informed. "Change is hard," he said. "We have to look at what cuts will not hurt the children's education. I

hope everyone will back us and help us make the transition." Board Vice President Tracy Rogers, who was serving as president during the selection process, said the board had debated several ways to fill the vacancy. They could have left the position open until the next general election, nearly two years away; simply appoint a new member; or taken applications. Rogers said the board did not want to leave the post vacant. The board settled on taking applications from anyone who might be interested, he said, because that seemed to be the most fair way to fill the vacancy. The district published a legal notice in the *Colby Free Press* on June 5 about the

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## Sunflower association to hold field day in Colby

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Anywhere from 50-100 farmers and others involved in the sunflower industry will be in Colby on Friday for the 2009 Sunflower Celebration, featuring field tours and talks on industry topics and growing sunflowers. Joni Wilson, merchandiser with the Northern Sun Industries/ADM plant in Goodland, and chairman of the High Plains unit of the National Sunflower Association, said the all-day event will begin at 7 a.m. with a free breakfast at the Thomas County 4-H building. Previous celebrations have been in Goodland. "This is year number 11 or 12," said Wilson, "and we are holding it at the K-State Colby research station for the first time." After the breakfast, farmers will get a tour of the sunflower plots at the research station, where they will also see plots of new hybrids. Lunch will be served at the 4-H building from

11:30 to 12:30, with afternoon speakers from seed companies and K-State. Speakers will talk about production issues, research and development, insurance programs, marketing, herbicides, diseases, fungicide treatments, and how to scout for insects. To get full benefit of all the information, farmers need to plan to attend the full day, Wilson said. Continuing education units will be offered for certified crop advisors. For information or to make a reservation, contact Wilson at Northern Sun, 6425 Road 14, Goodland, Kan., 67735, or (785) 899-6500. Here is the full schedule:  
**Thursday**  
9 a.m. (Central Time) – High Plains National Sunflower Association meeting, Sugar Hills Country Club, Goodland.  
**Friday**  
7 a.m. – Thomas County 4-H Building; Colby, coffee, cinnamon rolls and registration.

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### Enjoying the last days of summer



STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press  
Levi Rall (standing), 10, was enjoying the last few weeks of his summer with his brother, Bryson Rall, 2, on a fishing trip to Villa High Lake on Friday. The boys' grandfather, Larenz Rall, pulled this small catfish out the lake and let them take a look before throwing it back.

## Colby grad visits Bangladesh on Christian mission trip

By Vera Sloan  
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Offered a free trip to Bangladesh, some people might have to think about it a while. Not Lauren Cox, who thought it was the chance of a lifetime, especially because it was with a group of pastors, their wives, teachers and nurses on a forbidden mission. Cox, 20, of Colby, said she hadn't thought of going to anywhere this summer, but when the opportunity came, she couldn't turn it down. She said an acquaintance, Darren Stroud, and his wife Marlene, youth pastors from Wichita, planned a mission trip to an orphanage in the mostly Muslim Asian country, and needed someone to go with their group as a youth representative. Cox had all

the right qualifications. She is no stranger to missions, and has had training in putting others first, both at home, and as a student at Teen Mania Honors Academy in East Texas, at Lindale, where she studied after graduating from Colby High School in 2006. She is the daughter of Kevin and Jeannie Cox of Colby. "This trip didn't even cost me anything, and what I learned was awesome," Cox said. "It has given me a greater understanding of people in such dire circumstances." Cox said Bangladesh, which broke off from Pakistan and is mostly surrounded by India, is poor, with a population of 160 million people. It is like having half the population of the United States crammed into a land area the size of Arkansas, she said. She said good drinking water is practically nonexistent, and 34

million people have arsenic in their water. "There is a large population of homeless, with lots of orphans," she said, "and the 160 million census doesn't even include the homeless. It is just too difficult to keep track of them." Cox said the country is 90 percent Muslim, and only one-third of 1 percent are Christian. The school she worked at serves mostly orphans, she said, and has struggled for 13 years to exist because it is Christian. It is difficult to even have a school in the country, especially a Christian school, she said. The students learn English and are taught by missionaries, except they aren't. The school is in a village outside of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

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LAUREN COX  
Lauren Cox, daughter of Kevin and Jeannie Cox of Colby, recently returned from a mission trip to Bangladesh in southern Asia. While there she worked at this Christian school, mainly for orphans, near the capital city of Dhaka.

## Briefly

**Team selling clothes for trip**  
The Colby High Dance Team will host a "Jockey Person to Person" fund raiser from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Meadow Lake Golf Club. The team will be selling Jockey brand clothing at 50 percent off to help with expenses on a trip to the Liberty Bowl in January, where they will perform at half time. For information, call Karen Raymond at 460-3694.  
**Youth plan 'sack' fund raiser**  
The College Drive Assembly of God youth group will have a "sack sale" fund raiser from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the Rock, in the Southwind Plaza, to sell items left over from the weekend garage sale. Proceeds will go to the church's Speed of Light missionary group. For information, call Hans Krohn at 443-3587.  
**Tennis meeting set for Thursday**  
Players and parents of the Colby High School girls

tennis team are asked to come to a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Friday in the high school commons. For information, call coach Jennifer Rall at 462-0320.  
**Rexford enrollment Thursday**  
Golden Plains School District enrollment will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, and Friday. Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students will register at the Selden School, while middle and high school students will register at the Rexford building. The first day of the school will be Wednesday, Aug. 26. For information, call Tammy Shaw at (785) 386-4560.  
**Camp set for kids' football**  
The Colby Junior Football Program will hold a camp will be from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday through Saturday at the Colby Middle School practice field for kids in third through sixth grades. The team will

have a parents' meeting at noon Saturday, with uniform checkout. Regular practices will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, starting next Monday. For information, call Doc's on Call at 460-8000.  
**Group offers grief support**  
Good Grief Fellowship invites anyone dealing with grief to "Putting the Pieces of Life Back Together Again," a free support program, at 2 or 7 p.m. Thursday at the Colby United Methodist Church. For information, call Jo Cheney at 462-2082 or Gloria Mattix at 460-2705.  
**Free school supplies at church**  
The Colby Wesleyan Church will have free school supplies available for elementary and middle school students from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday during a free kids carnival and family picnic. The event, at the church,

320 W. Pine, will feature games, prizes and a free supper, starting with registration at 5:45 p.m. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.  
**Equivalency classes offered**  
The Adult Education Department at Colby Community College is offering free General Education Development (GED) preparation classes beginning next Monday. The degree is widely recognized as the same as a high school diploma by employers and colleges. Class times are flexible. To enroll call, Nance Munderloh at (785) 460-4663.

