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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Colby school enrollment down slightly

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press  
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With a preliminary head count of 965 students – including pre-school – enrollment in Colby Public Schools is down slightly this year, continuing the overall trend of the last several years.

Business Manager Jo DeYoung said in the past decade, enrollment has mostly decreased each year, with some years holding steady. Head count at the end of the 2008-2009 school year was 971. In 1994, enrollment was around 1,300.

The district keeps preliminary numbers – which change on an almost daily basis – until the official head count is sent to the state on Sept. 20. Enrollment numbers are important for knowing teacher-to-student ratios and whether or not a school is over capacity, DeYoung said.

However, the simple head count is not used when calculating the budget or money received from the state. DeYoung said the state uses the full-time equivalency number, which is a lot more complicated.

That computation includes the amount of time students spend in classes or getting services from the district. DeYoung said the district counts ordinary students as full-time, but any student receiving services from the district, regardless of where they are enrolled, counts as part-time. For example, a home-school student who comes to one of the Colby schools for band would count as a part-time student for the amount of time

they spent in the class.

“You are paying for the services,” DeYoung said, “so you get to count them.”

DeYoung said students receiving extra services, such as those for gifted students or speech therapy, also count toward the number.

Special education works a little differently, she said. The district gets state money based on the number of licensed special education teachers working at the grade level they trained for.

Special-education students who are enrolled in the district are already counted as full time and are not weighted any differently. Outside students who receive special education from the district count as half-time. State money for vocational students, on the other hand, is based solely on equivalency calculations.

Students at the Thomas County Learning Center, which offers high school and general education courses downtown, also count as part time, DeYoung said, based on the number of hours they spend there. They are counted as students at Colby High School, not for other uses, such as the official count of freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes or on the numbers the Kansas State High School Activities Association uses to determine what class a school competes in.

Kindergartners always count as half-time students, even if a school offers all-day class. However, if a kindergartner is also receiving other services, such as special

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

## Colby firefighters take donations for medical charity

Firefighter Ross Carney (above) took donations at the intersection of Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue for the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Saturday. Assistant Fire Chief Sean Hankin (right) was decked out in full gear when stopping passing motorists. He and Tim Hansen manned the southern end of the intersection. Other firefighters were also gathering donations at Walmart and Dillons. The event was part of a national fund raiser, which is conducted by fire departments all over the country at this time every year.



## Memphis or bust



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Junior Audra Fleming (left) and sophomore Kayla Skiles worked the concession stands during the Colby High School football scrimmage Friday at Dennen Field. The girls are raising money so all 13 of the team's members will be able to afford to go to Memphis where they will perform at the halftime of the 51st annual Liberty Bowl, which starts on 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 2.

## Technical college starts green project

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News  
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Students from three programs at the Northwest Kansas Technical College plan to transform an old house near downtown Goodland into an energy-efficient three-bedroom, two-bath home over the next year.

About 80 people representing the college carpentry, electrical and heating, ventilation and air conditioning programs, civic groups, city and school-district officials, high-school students, former college officials and friends of the college gathered for a ground breaking for the “green” project on Friday.

Dr. Ed Mills, college president, said the project will be a great benefit to the whole area. He said the students plan to gut the house and convert it into an energy-efficient dwelling that could be a model for the community and the state.

He said he first heard the idea when he came to town in May. Carpentry instructor Brian Freeman liked the idea of making it a green project, he said, and they began looking for a house.

He said real estate agent Rose Koggie helped them find this one. It was given to the college by Dennis and Linda Saint.

For more than three decades, the departments built

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## Kansas congressional delegation stands firm on public health care

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

OTTAWA — U.S. Rep. Lynn Jenkins stood just a few feet away as a young mother told about her frustration at not being able to afford a doctor for her son, but the first-term Republican was not swayed from her opposition to a government-run insurance plan.

Jenkins, a freshman represent-

ing the 2nd District of northeast Kansas, is part of a GOP-dominated delegation that has largely decided against what's become known as “the public option” in health care reform. The delegation — split 5-1 in favor of the Republicans — went into its summer recess opposed to the idea, and nothing in the town hall meetings Republicans have held appears to have changed that.

The delegation's lone Democrat, Rep. Dennis Moore, whose 3rd District includes part of Lawrence and the Kansas City metro area, is the most favorable toward a public option — though he's wary, saying he's willing to accept it, but it's not his first choice.

There's little incentive for the delegation to reconsider its posi-

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## Briefly

### Charity ride holds event in Colby

The Honor Run, a charitable motorcycle ride across the United States, will spend the night in Colby. Free activities in Fike Park, with food, music and entertainment, begin at 6 p.m. The riders will arrive starting about 7 p.m. For information, call Jim Oliver at 462-0040.

### Extension field day Wednesday

The Kansas State University Northwest Research-Extension Center plans a free Horticulture Field Day at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday just west of town. Extension experts will talk about subjects including tree care, landscape design and lawn care. Registration will start at 5:30 and the program will start at 5:50. For information, call Vicki Brown at 462-6281.

### Library to hold book review lunch

The Pioneer Memorial Library program *Booked*

for Lunch will be at noon next Wednesday at the library. Donations will be accepted for lunch. At 12:15 p.m., Linda Goossen will review the book “Extreme Measures: A Thriller” by Vince Flynn. For information, call 460-4470.

### Dance at community building

A singles and couples dance is planned from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday at the Colby Community Building. Music will be provided by The Calhouns. For information, call Lue Duffey at 855-2341.

### No trash pickup Monday

Colby city sanitation trucks will not run next Monday because of the Labor Day holiday. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, said Public Works Director Chris Bieker. Have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

### Offices closed for Labor Day

The Thomas County courthouse and office complex will be closed on Monday for Labor Day. The county transportation van will not run that day. The Thomas County landfill will close at noon Saturday and reopen on Tuesday. For information, call County Clerk Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

### City picking up grass clippings

City crews continue to pick 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.

### Church to hold kid's Bible club

The Awana program, an interdenominational children's Bible club, will be meeting at 7 p.m. each

Wednesday starting Sept. 16 at the Colby Berean Church. Colby-area children age 3 through fifth grade are invited to attend. For information, call James Claassen at (785) 694-1677 or the church at 460-2763.

### Crew needs Eagles' T-shirts

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is looking for new and old Colby Eagles T-shirts for a fund raiser. Shirts can be dropped off at the ambulance building on South Franklin, near the hospital, or someone will come get them. For information or a pickup, call Dawnelle Umberger at 443-0176.



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