



## Contractors install tanks at elevator

Woofter Construction had two large cranes out for several days this week replacing fertilizer storage tanks at the Frontier Ag elevtor in Breton, on U.S. 83 between Gem and Rexford. A crane lifted this tank into place and then a workman, Ron Long, was hoisted up in a harness to disconnect the heavy lifting strap from the tank.

## City to install new generator on well

By Kevin Bottrell  
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In an evenly divided vote, the Colby City Council dedided Tuesday to make some improvements to the city's two biggest wells, installing a backup generator on Well No. 12 and reworking the backup diesel motor on Well No. 13.

Well No. 12 is at the city shop on Copeland Avenue and Well No. 13 is by the water tower on College Drive.

The vote was 3-3 with Council members Pat Mal-lory, Fred Taylor and Beverly Eicher in favor and Omar Weber, Tim Hutfles and Dave Voss against. Mark Beringer was absent, so Mayor Ken Bieber broke the tie in favor of the motion.

The new generator will be run by a backup system that could be started remotely if the city loses electric power. Both wells currently have diesel motors as a backup, but someone has to go out and start them. The improvements to Well 13 include extending the

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## Briefly

### Girl Scout cookie sales to end

Last chance! Girl Scout cookies are on sale through Sunday. If you have not been contacted, call Mint Culver at 460-6005 or Penny Cline at 460-2929.

### Stop at Gem for Lions' soup day

Winter days are good for homemade soup, corn bread and crackers, and that's what's on the menu from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Gem Community Building. Gem Lions Club publicity chair Ken Poland says the Gem ladies make the best soup and cake, plus there is plenty of room and time for visiting. Donations will be accepted, with proceeds going for community projects.

### Road department to get training

The Thomas County Highway Department office will be closed Monday for computer training. For information, call Dianna Gatz at 460-4562.

### First graders to perform musical

The Colby Grade School first grade will perform a music program, "The Unity Tree," at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday at the school auditorium. For information, call teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

### Seniors having potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. The building has an elevator near the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

### Professor to speak here

Dr. Ron Green, a professor of religion at Dartmouth University, will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday at

# College votes in business owner

By Andy Heintz  
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The Colby Community College board, turning back to correct a legal error, selected Dale Herschberger as the board's newest member at a special meeting last Friday at Thomas Hall.

Herschberger, owner of ZEZ Commodities in Colby, will serve the rest of Bill Biel's term. Biel, a retired implement dealer, re-

signed. He said he wasn't able to attend meetings and properly contribute to the board. The term expires next spring.

Herschberger was originally selected for the position at a board meeting on Feb. 22, but they did it as a written ballot without the signatures of each member showing who they voted for.

The other two people the board considered for the position were Larry McDonald and Kimberly Bear. McDonald works for

Woofter Construction.

Last Friday, board member Kenton Krehbiel made a motion to appoint Herschberger at the meeting and the motion passed 4-1. Board Chairman Cindy Black and members Arlen Leiker, Bill Shields and Krehbiel voted in favor while Mark Winger voted against. This reflected the way the members voted on Feb. 22, they said.

Winger said he voted for McDonald at that meeting and everyone else voted for Herschberger.

# Man escapes truck fire

By Kevin Bottrell  
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A 76-year-old Selden man had to smash a window to escape Saturday after his truck and a trailer load of hay overturned and caught fire on a Thomas County road east of Colby.

Deputy Tom Graham of the Thomas County Sheriff's Office said Donald Spresser was driving south on County Road 32 about 11 a.m. Saturday pulling a flatbed trailer with his 2002 Dodge pickup when he began to drive up a muddy hill north of U.S. 83. The trailer, which was full of hay bales, slid sideways, its momentum pulling the truck over.

Graham said leaking gas and damaged electrical systems on the truck caused a fire, which engulfed

the vehicle and spread to the hay bales and some brush in the ditch on the side of the road.

Graham said Spresser used a large bolt to break the passenger-side window to get out. He had a bump on the head and some bleeding, but was otherwise uninjured. He was taken to Citizens Medical Center.

"It was miraculous," Graham said, who said the man was wearing a seat belt. "He was lucky to have as few injuries as he did."

The truck was a total loss, as the fire damaged almost the entire vehicle, Graham said, adding that Spresser could have been seriously injured or killed had he not broken the window and escaped.

The Rexford Fire Department responded to the fire. Graham said they spread the hay bales out and let them burn out. The Rexford ambulance and an ambulance from Colby went to the scene.

# Colby High School students plan concert to benefit Haiti

By Vera Sloan  
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Because some kids just have an extra big heart for those who have suffered terrible misfortune, Paige Roopchan, Colby High sophomore knew she had to do something to help when the news broke of the earthquake in Haiti last month.

As a lover of music, Roopchan said, she was sure a concert with local talent would attract a lot of people. As a result of her efforts, "Hearts for Haiti," featuring some of the cream of the crop in the high school music department, will give a public performance to raise money for Haiti at 2 p.m. Sunday at the high school auditorium.

Donations will be taken at the door, she said, with the proceeds going to Haiti through the Thomas County chapter of the American Red Cross.

For a native of Trinidad and Tobago, an island nation about 100 miles south of Haiti, it was a natural thing for Roopchan to have a heart for the people she lived so close to for the first 13 years of her life.

She and her dad, Peter Roopchan, came to Colby three years ago when he purchased the Blakesley Inn on Fourth Street.

Paige said her school in Trinidad was a lot bigger than Colby's, but she loves it here. Her mother



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

From a little tug on your heart strings, big ideas grow. Paige Roopchan (left), who grew up in Trinidad and Tobago, only 100 miles from Haiti, and her best friend, Bailey Terrell, have joined forces to produce Hearts for Haiti, a concert by Colby High musicians.

and two older sisters are still on the Caribbean island.

Paige said after she heard the news of the earthquake, she called best friend, Bailey Terrell, who shared the excitement of doing a concert When they got permission from Principal Don Krebs, the two were on a roll to sign up students who would be willing to perform.

And that was not a problem.

"We have a lot of good talent for the concert," she said, "and everyone will be amazed at the guitars. Bailey and I have written a song, 'It is You,' especially for the event."

Concertgoers will be treated

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the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. For information, call Linda Davis-Stephens at (785) 460-5528.

### 'Brown Bag' series continues

The Thomas County Ministerial Association will sponsor the *Lenten Brown Bags and Bibles* program at noon each Wednesday throughout Lent with the theme, "The Prodigal Son." Speakers will be Steve Todd, College Drive Assembly of God, on Wednesday; W.G. Romine, Redeeming Love Ministries, March 17. Come to the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 545 W. Fourth St. Bring your own lunch; beverages and desserts will be provided. Call 462-6342 for information.

### Coalition to meet for lunch

The Thomas County Coalition will meet an noon Thursday at El Dos De Oros restaurant at the Qual-

ity Inn. The meeting will cover the recent town hall and the coalition's projects, such as a walking trail, events and the community garden. Someone will win a free meal. For information, call Trisha Korthanke at 460-8177.

### Low-income tax help at library

The American Association of Retired Persons will offer a tax help seminar from 1:30 to 4 p.m. every Thursday until April 15 at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The seminar is designed for low- and middle-income people with special emphasis on those 60 or older. For information, call Alvin Volk at (785) 460-2645.

