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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Remember to slow down at Rexford



STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Crews from the Kansas Department of Transportation finished installing new school zone signs at Rexford this week. The signs reduce the speed limit to 45 mph when the lights are flashing. The department conducted a study of rural schools near highways and decided U.S. 24 around Rexford needed a speed reduction.

## Storms cause minor flooding

By Vera Sloan and Kevin Bottrell  
Colby Free Press  
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Several big thunderstorms moved through the area Thursday, causing some minor flooding in the southern part of Thomas County.

Emergency Management Director Susan McMahon said the county road crews had found some areas along the north fork of the Saline River with standing water as well as some flooded roads. Actual damage to the roads is limited, she said, and no farms had flooded yet. There have also been no reports yet of erosion around bridges. Heavier flooding occurred in

Gove County.

After some heavy rains early Thursday morning, rain continued sporadically throughout the day. The county, along with most of northwest Kansas, northeast Colorado and southwest Nebraska was under a tornado watch in the afternoon. The Gove County sheriff reported a brief tornado to the National Weather Service about 13 miles southeast of Gove. There were 10 other tornados in western Kansas and several more in Colorado.

Rain gauges around Colby registered more than an inch of rain Thursday morning and an additional

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## County aims for new air and saves money on parts

By Vera Sloan  
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The Thomas County commissioners learned Monday they will be able to use parts they had intended to use for an old heating and cooling system for the courthouse on a new system, resulting in a \$13,000 savings to tax pay-

ers.

The county had previously purchased new pumps with bearing assemblies for the old system before learning it would probably be only be a "band-aid" fix. The new parts are sitting in the basement.

Commissioners were excited to learn Monday that the parts can be used in a new system without affecting the warranty. The best

news was the substantial savings to the county.

Floyd Highland of Midwest Energy in Colby, an expert on boilers and chillers, met with commissioners over the noon hour on Monday to discuss the renovations to the aging heating and cooling units at the courthouse the commissioners

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## Tree Board plants around town

By Andy Heintz  
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The Colby Tree Board has been busy, planting trees at several parks around town.

Board Chairman Marvin Bickner gave an update to the Colby City Council Tuesday. The board planted trees along Range Avenue and removed old stumps at Fike Park. He also talked about the new trees the board has planted at Fike Park, the soccer fields near Colby Recreation Fields, the tree

farm near Shalz Airport and Buffalo Park. He said the board has planted 40 trees at the airport, 25 at Fike Park, seven at the soccer fields and five at Buffalo Park. He said there are some existing trees at both Fike and Phillips Park that need to get the dead spots removed from them.

The tree board will be celebrating Arbor Day starting at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in Fike Park, Bickner said.

In other news, the council:

- Approved a bid from Service Oil for fuel service for July 1,

2010, through June 30, 2013, on the basis of supplier rack cost, plus applicable taxes, environmental fees, freight and a charge of 1 cent per gallon.

The city received bids from several other businesses in town including Bosselman Travel Center, cost plus 2 cents per gallon; 24/7 Travel Store, 2 cents per gallon if paid monthly; Oasis Travel Center, 1.6 cents per gallon; and Hi-Plains Co-op, 8 cents per gallon; Everyone except the 24/7 Travel

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## College graduates second inmate class

By ERICA BRADLEY  
The Norton Telegram  
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Norton Correctional Facility graduated their second basic business class on Tuesday with nine inmates participating in a small ceremony attended by Norton Correctional Facility employees and Colby Community College staff.

The business program is paid for by a \$30,000 KAN-GO grant and run by Colby Community Col-

lege.

Alan Waites, vice president for business administration at the college, gave they key-note address to the inmates, speaking about expectations. He said society expects half of released inmates will end up back in prison within a year of their release.

"Perceptions might not be the truth. People have perceptions about you," he said.

He said everyone is bombarded with expectations,

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## Briefly

### Band taking garage sale items

The Colby High School marching band will have a garage sale to raise money for their trip to Washington D.C. on Saturday, May 1. The band will be marching in the National independence Day Parade. Anyone can donate items for the sale and have band members pick them up. For information, call Joey Nichols at 460-4300.

### Community gardeners needed

A meeting for anyone who wants to help with a proposed community garden is scheduled for 5:30 to 6 p.m. Monday at Pioneer Memorial Library.

### Offices to close for lunch

The Thomas County Clerk's office and the county road and bridge department will be closed during the noon hour for the rest of April because of software

training. Both departments will conduct business from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call the clerk's office at 460-4500.

### Scouts looking for faded Glory

Bring your tattered, torn and faded Old Glory to the Pioneer Memorial Library through Friday, April 30. As part of its U.S. flag disposal drive, Colby Girl Scout Troop 165 reminds everyone that flags should be disposed of if they are torn, dirty, no longer rectangular, faded or in general disrepair. For information, call Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeier at 460-3298.

### Baseball signup Sunday

Boys 12 and under can sign up for summer baseball at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Recreation Fields. Kids must be under 12 before July 31. For informa-

tion, call Shawn Curry at 443-0289 or Brian Quagliano at 443-0226.

### Methodists to walk for hunger

To help fight world hunger, the Colby United Methodist Church is sponsoring a "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty," or CROP Walk, at 2 p.m. Sunday at Fike Park. Participants will walk around the park for donations. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the church office at 460-2761.

### 4-H to show dogs Sunday

The Thomas County 4-H Dog Obedience group will hold a spring dog show at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Heartland Christian School gym. For information, call the Thomas County Extension office at (785) 460-4582.

### Arbor Day party Thursday

The Colby Tree Board invites everyone to come help celebrate Arbor Day at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in Fike Park, where the board will be planting trees, weather permitting. For information, call Marvin Bickner at (785) 462-6692.

### College to show off horses

The Colby Community College Horse Unit will hold an open house from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the college farm, on County Road 23, three miles east and one mile north of Colby. Enjoy tours, horse exhibitions and refreshments. For information, call the horse program office at 460-5464.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

## Bank holds block party Wednesday

Farmers and Merchants Bank celebrated National Community Bank Week in a big way on Wednesday. The Assistant Colby Fire Chief Sean Hankin (above) brought a fire truck for the kids to check out. The bank treated patrons and friends to a sidewalk cafe atmosphere cafe where they could sit and eat free hot dogs and sodas served by the college volleyball team (right) while they enjoyed a rare day in the sun. Bank President Brent Wiedeman gave Ashley Mosier, bank secretary, the credit for spearheading the event.

