



# Top Legion commander coming here

Newly-elected American Legion National Commander Fang Wong will come to Colby for lunch Tuesday, Oct. 18.

Wong will be taking a tour of Kansas Legion posts that week. He will be at the Colby post from 12:30 to 2 p.m. for lunch. Colby Legion Commander Monty Lewis said anyone who wants to come to the lunch should contact the post at 462-3809.

Wong was elected to the post on Sept. 1. National commanders are elected at the Legion's annual convention and serve for one year. There are also five national vice commanders.

Wong was born in Canton, China, and immigrated to the United States in 1960. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1989,

retiring as a chief warrant officer. He served for 25 months in Vietnam as an interpreter. After his retirement he joined the Chinatown American Legion post in New York City. From there he helped direct relief efforts on Sept. 11, 2001.

After his stint in the Army, Wong earned a bachelor's degree in business and a master's in management. He worked for a software company that supported the Army's Software Engineering Center at Fort Monmouth, N.J., for 20 years before retiring earlier this year.

Wong and his wife Barbara have one son, Eric. Barbara is active with the Legion Auxiliary and Eric is a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

# Landfill director talks cell closures

By Christina Beringer  
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Thomas County Landfill director Larry Jumper and project manager Dana Daniels of Miller and Associates from Kearney, Neb., informed Thomas County Commissioners about landfill closures and expansions at Friday morning's meeting.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment informed the county on Aug. 5 that three inactive cell sites have been properly closed. Landfill cells 1, 2 and 3 have not been in use and have gone through all of the appropriate closure phases. There is a fourth active site that is being expanded.

"Right now we are trying to obtain site plans and verification of current landfill phases for pit excavation," Daniels said. "Phases one, two and three have been completed to expand the current cell."

Daniels said that they must adhere to costly and stringent regu-

lations set by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment which include policies to prevent moisture from permeating the caps of the closed sites and the need to prevent soil erosion.

"We are fortunate that we don't have to be as stringent on the old cells that were closed 30 years ago," Daniels said. "What we don't want to see, though, is soil erosion, which can be prevented by establishing vegetation."

The closed cell sites have been planted with native grasses and a cover crop of milo.

"Will those cells emit gasses, such as methane?" asked Commissioner Paul Steele. "And doesn't methane kill vegetation?"

Daniels explained that the cells do emit methane, but not enough to kill grass. He said that very little is expelled, especially with the small amount of rainfall that the area gets.

"I am required to do a visual inspection to monitor distressed

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# Immigration lawyer one of 13 laid off

By Roxana Hegeman  
The Associated Press

WICHITA — As the first and only federal prosecutor in Kansas dedicated solely to handling criminal immigration cases, Barry Disney took a pragmatic approach to filing charges in an interior state that has become a mecca for immigrant labor drawn to its massive meatpacking plants and other food processing industries.

Limited resources were spent on the worst criminals who had been deported and then come back to the United States. Disney's first trial in federal court dealt with two illegal immigrants found speeding through Kansas with an assault rifle wedged in the back seat of a truck and loaded pistols hidden in the vehicle's speaker compartments. Agents had seized \$16,000 in drug-tainted currency.

Disney's job as an assistant U.S. attorney in Kansas was created under a supplemental appropriation passed last year in the Southwest Border Security Bill, an initiative targeting criminal immigration cases and Mexican drug cartels. With the end of the federal fis-

cal year on Friday, the temporary funding for 81 immigration-dedicated federal prosecutors like him has also ended, Justice Department spokeswoman Jessica Smith said in Washington. Disney is one of 13 whose jobs were cut, while 68 others are being reassigned within the Justice Department.

"My frustration was that they added these positions in 2011 because they were needed; the need did not go away," Disney said.

Sixty-eight of the prosecutors will return to their old jobs and will still be able to work on Southwest Border Initiative cases, but not exclusively as they have for the past year, the Justice Department said. Justice officials have confirmed the reductions but have refused to elaborate on them.

"It is not that the U.S. attorney's office is going to ignore those crimes. It is just that they don't have someone whose sole responsibility is to do that," Disney said. "Fewer people are going to have to do more. They are dedicated to doing it. It's just going to be harder for them to do it."

Justice Department data analyzed by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at

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KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

# Parade, ceremony delight audiences

Groups of kids lined up along Franklin Avenue on Friday (above) to cheer for Colby High School's Homecoming Parade. The parade included floats from each grade (below) along with the FFA — who used the old tractor refurbished by the club — the Booster Club, the cheerleading and dance teams, the high school marching band (right) and the school board. The district's new activity bus also drove in the parade. Homecoming King Konnor Kriss (left) and Queen Brenna McKee were crowned following the football game Friday night at Dennen field.

