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Injury accident in the parking lot



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Police officer Cole Andreasen (left), Police Chief Randy Jones and Fire Chief Bob McLemore checked out a Dodge sport utility vehicle that wound up on its side in the parking lot of Walmart Thursday afternoon after striking an unoccupied parked car owned by a Walmart employee. Officers from the Colby

Police Department, Thomas County Emergency Medical Services and the Colby Fire Department responded to the call at 2:45 p.m. The vehicle was occupied by Devon Schlageck and Trevor Gooch, both 18, and a 17-year-old juvenile. All are students at Colby High School and apparently had just left school

for the day. Schlageck and Gooch were taken to Citizens Medical Center and released. Jones said investigation of the accident is ongoing.

Catholic Schools Week kicks off tomorrow night

By Christina Beringer
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Students at the Sacred Heart Catholic School in Colby have a busy schedule planned for next week as they celebrate national Catholic Schools Week. Principal Dave Everett said their festivities take place every year during the last week of January and is a way for Catholic schools to celebrate and recognize their unique spiritual efforts. He said the theme for this year's week is "Faith, Academics and Service," and Saturday's evening service will kick off the roster of special

activities. "Our faith revolves around Mass and the most important part is prayer. So prayer will be the first event and will take place during a 5:30 p.m. mass on Saturday night at the Catholic church, followed by a pizza supper in the church basement for our students and their families." The week will continue with special activities planned for students' parents, unique apparel days and other events. "Monday is Muffins with Mom day, where mothers get to come to school and have breakfast with their kids. Fathers get to come in on Tuesday for Doughnuts with Dad," he said. "Then, on Thursday,

grandparents have been invited to come in, visit classrooms and have lunch." Students get to wear unusual clothes throughout the week, too. On Monday, they get to wear clothes that do not match. Students can dress up in the uniform or outfit that represents what career they hope to have when they grow up on Tuesday. Wednesday is Team Spirit Day. It is also a special day where the students get to adopt a seminarian. Each class is selected to receive the name and contact information for a seminarian and the students write him a letter.

"This has been a very successful program that was done in the past," said Everett. "Father Richard Daise of Ellis received letters a few years ago, and when he came to visit he mentioned how special it was to him." On Friday, students get to wear crazy socks and every hour, music will be played over the intercom so the kids can quickly take a break from lectures and stand up and dance. "Students from St. Joseph's School in Oakley will help us end the week's celebrations by coming to Colby and doing an art activity with us," he said. Everett said he oftentimes uses the pop-

ular saying "it takes an entire village to raise a child" to explain how the school operates. Many of the programs throughout the week emphasize the relationship built between God and the students, but by inviting family to take part, the week also promotes the importance of family. "We are different from public schools and our focus is on a spiritual formation to influence academics," explained Everett. "We believe that our emphasis on God, and the relationship that the week helps to build, makes us a better person."



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong gave her State of the City speech Wednesday during the annual Chamber Luncheon at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

City manager gives speech at annual Chamber Luncheon

By Christina Beringer
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The Colby City Manager, Carolyn Armstrong, was the featured speaker during the annual Chamber Luncheon on Monday. Her State of the City presentation drew 55 attendants. "It was impressive to hear that Carolyn has been the city manager for 15 years, which is unheard of," explained Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce Director Holly Whitaker. "It was exciting to hear her talk about all of the things going on now and Colby's potential for so much more in the future. Colby just keeps growing and we all know about the individual projects going on and the businesses coming in, but, to hear everything all at once was truly eye opening," she said. Armstrong began her presentation by reviewing the city budget, property tax and sales tax information. She explained that on a home valued at \$100,000, the property

tax will be \$1,817.96 a year and out of that amount, the city of Colby will receive \$371.22. "For that, a citizen receives protection from the fire and police departments, 24 hours a day, all year long. Maintenance on the streets, 160 acres of city parks, ball fields and the swimming pool come from that. Traffic control, public parking, building permits and inspections are provided; as well as the court systems, library, law enforcement, fire and ambulance service, emergency operating system, airport and animal control," explained Armstrong. "Not to mention the electrical, water, sewer and sanitation services," she said. "Colby is a successful community because we have had good mayors and good council members who have planned for the future. The 73 full-time employees and 31 part-time employees work hard to provide all of the services just mentioned; and, lastly, no one person or entity can be successful without teamwork with everyone in the community." Armstrong gave a briefing on

the many projects, developments and new businesses in the works for Colby in 2012. • Work with Cohen-Esrey Real Estate Services will continue for the creation of 30 apartments for low-income individuals in the old hospital on Range Avenue. • Work will continue with Wesley Bainter and his construction company to build the first 12 apartments on Sewell Avenue across from Fairview Retirement Estates. Each of the two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments will have an accompanying double-car garage. • An overflow parking lot is being planned at the Colby Aquatic Center. • The city plans to continue partnerships with the Thomas County Coalition on the Walking Trail project. • Playground equipment needs selected for the area north of the

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