



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Kids score for reading, knock down some pins

The Colby Grade school third-grade classes celebrated reaching their accelerated reading goals at Colby Bowl and Fun Center last week. Students (from left) Steele Brown, Kamrie Miller and Brayclen Lynn cheered and watched as a classmate tried to finish up a spare. Spirits were high with much laughter and singing, and Lauren Rodgers and a friend even broke out some dancing moves.

Dean's list named

Several area students are included on Fort Hays State University's Deans Honor Roll for the spring 2012 semester.

The roll includes only full-time undergraduate students who earned at least a 3.60 grade average for the semester.

Colby: Ryan Baalman, senior, accounting; Brittany Bange, freshman, art and graphic design; Tisha Bieker, senior, accounting; Joshua Faber, senior, elementary education; Shea Finley, senior, elementary education; Michelle Kaus, senior, elementary and early childhood education; Bailey Koerperich, freshman, chemistry; Jordan Krzycki, junior, psychology; Tyson Miller, junior, organizational leadership; Jordan Voss, junior,

chemistry; Lindsey Wilson, senior, agricultural business; Taylor Young, junior, management.

Selden: Isaac Broeckelman, sophomore, health and human performance.

Menlo: Caitlyn Moss, senior, nursing.

Oakley: Halley Boyd, senior, early childhood education.

Atwood: Max Kisner, sophomore, technology studies; Sara Miller, senior, radiologic technology.

Hoxie: Carman Hill, sophomore, education; Corinna Hoyt, senior, elementary education; James Kaufman, junior, technology studies; Robert Mahanna, senior, studio art.

Lawns can survive missed mowing

It rains and rains. Or, you go on vacation. Or take off for a long Memorial weekend in the mountains.

The result is a shaggy, too-tall lawn – a mockery of the “best-practice” rules of mowing.

“It’s no reason to lose sleep. Best practices are what their name implies, but you still have options. You’ll only ruin your lawn if letting it go becomes a regular practice,” said Rodney St. John, K-State Research and Extension turfgrass scientist.

The easiest option, St. John said, is to put the bag on the mower and start cutting. That way, the clippings won’t clump on top of the lawn, creating shade for the turf with unsightly piles of drying grass.

The less stressful approach for the lawn is to reduce its height in steps:

1. Raise the mower as far as it will go. Don’t bag unless clippings will be more than 2 inches long. Instead, let the mower distribute them, so the

clippings filter down into (and fertilize) the grass.

2. Lower the mower a notch and cut again. Continue until the setting is at recommended height.

“You don’t need to drag this out. I’ve seen lawns recover well when their owner did all of the necessary cuttings in one or two days,” St. John said.

The needed follow-up is simple: Return to “the rules,” he said. Any nearby extension office can supply the best local advice. K-State’s turf site at www.kstaturf.org/ connects to a wealth of information.

“The most important things now are: Keep your mower sharp. Cut your lawn to recommended height – which for tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass is about 3 inches tall. Plus, never remove more than a third of your turf’s height in any one mowing. If 3 inches is your goal, just mow whenever the grass gets about 4 to 4.5 inches tall,” St. John said.

Backpack solves crime

OREM, Utah (AP) – An 18-year-old Utah man was arrested on suspicion of burglary after police say he left his homework at the crime scene.

Police in Orem say they tracked a USB drive found at the burglarized home to Dallas Najahih. They say the computer hard drive contained his homework and was in a backpack abandoned in the backyard.

A 75-year-old man and his wife reported their home had been burglarized. The husband says he was awakened by a light in his office, and found a man looking through a desk.

The suspect punched the man and fled on foot.

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