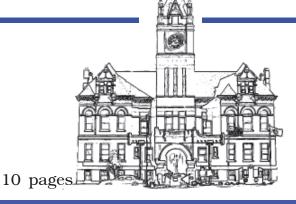
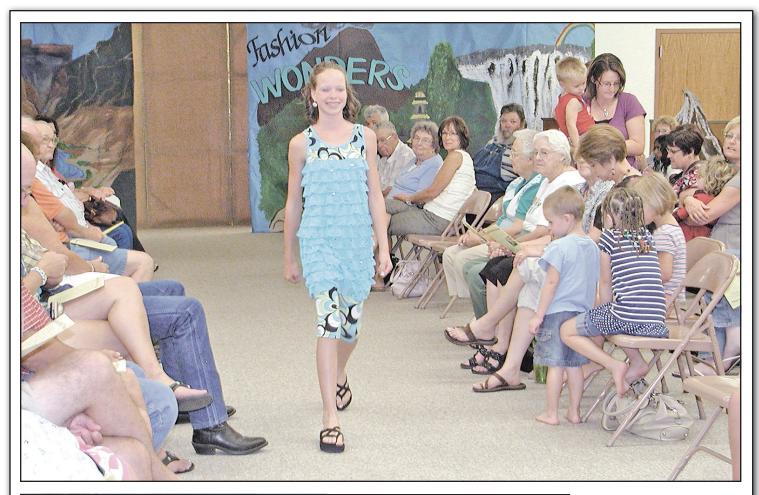
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4-H kids model clothing

Caitlyn Comfort (above) of the Solomon Valley 4-H Club and Alex Zimmerman (left) of the Colby Comets 4-H Club each modeled an outfit Tuesday during the 4-H Public Fashion Revue at Colby Methodist Church. Dr. Keegan Nichols, vice president of student affairs and marketing at Colby Community College, was the emcee for the event and told the crowd what each of the models was wearing.

> **KAYLA CORNETT** Colby Free Press

City weighs new budget for next year

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press

During a meeting last Tuesday, Finance Director Debbie Zerr went over the proposed 2013 bud- the proposed budget is up about get with the Colby City Council, 7 1/2 percent from \$18,996,619 including an increase in the property tax levy of about 1 mill.

"We're going to keep our mill levy constant," Zerr said, but after some discussion, the council asked her to decrease the levy by another mill.

This means that she had to cut the budget by about \$44,000, Zerr said, which brought the total down to \$20,408,022.

proposed tax rate down about one Before the meeting, Public Works mill to 33.205 mills, Zerr said. She Director Omar Weber had already said that she tried to propose the same tax rate last year, but when See "CITY," Page 2

the city receives the assessed valuation from the county appraiser sdieter@nwkansas.com in November, it could change the proposed tax rate. Last year's actual tax rate was 32.280.

Even with the levy held down, this year. The estimated property tax revenue for the budget is \$1,391,715, up from \$1,374,425 this year.

The proposed 2013 budget was published Monday in the Colby Free Press. The City Council set a public hearing for this budget at its meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 7.

Zerr said that the reductions she made came from street budget, This reduction also brought the part of the city's general fund.

Crashes occur over weekend

Two vehicle accidents over the ing seatbelts. weekend in Thomas County resulted in people being taken to Sunday on highway K-25 about hospitals for injuries.

The first happened on Saturday about a mile east of the Brewster exit on Interstate 70 when a 2007 way and overturned on its passen-Ford Explorer rear-ended a semi.

The driver of the Ford, Larraine Hildebrant, and passenger of Jasper, Ga., was uninjured. Da-William Hildebrant, both of Warr vid Leroy Harris Jr. of Moulton. Acres, Okla., were taken to Colby Ala., a passenger who had been Medical Center, where they were riding in the sleeper, was taken to treated and released. All those in- Logan County Hospital with posvolved in the accident were wear- sible injuries.

The second accident happened three and a half miles north of U.S. 40, when a northbound semi entered the ditch east of the highger side.

Driver Amanda Jumar Bagwell

Fear prompts gun sales, panic after Colorado massacre

By Kristen Wyatt and Mike Baker

Associated Press

DENVER – Firearms sales are surging in the wake of the Colorado movie massacre as buyers express fears about both personal safety and lawmakers who are suburban Arvada, Colo., said requests for using the shooting to seek new weapons restrictions.

In Colorado, the site of Friday's shoot-

days that followed. The state approved day. background checks for 2,887 people who more than the average Friday to Sunday period in 2012 and 43 percent more than the same interval the week prior.

Dick Rutan, owner of Gunners Den in tan said. concealed-weapon training certification ate, but the numbers also look strong out-'are off the hook." His four-hour course in gun safety, required for certification for

"What they're saying is: They want wanted to purchase a firearm -25 percent to have a chance. They want to have the ability to protect themselves and their families if they are in a situation like what happened in the movie theater," Ru-

> Day-to-day gun sales frequently fluctuside of Colorado, too.

Seattle's home county, King, saw near-

ground checks on Friday, up 14 percent it one of the best Saturdays his business from the week before. Oregon checks on Friday and Saturday were up 11 percent over the month prior. Four days of checks in California were up 10 percent monthto-month.

have consistently been the slowest months for gun sales, according to FBI data.

Jay Wallace, who owns Adventure ing that killed 12 and injured dozens of a concealed-weapons permit in Colorado, ly twice as many requests for concealed Outdoors in Smyrna, Ga., found that his others, gun sales jumped in the three has drawn double the interest since Fri- pistol licenses than the same timeframe sales on Saturday were up 300 percent See "PANIC," Page 2

a year ago. Florida recorded 2,386 back- from the same day a year ago – making has ever had. He said customers are often afraid when there's a gun-related tragedy that some lawmakers might try and push through an anti-gun agenda.

"We shouldn't let one sick individual During the past decade, June and July make us forget and lose sight of freedoms in this country," Wallace said. A few members of Congress have talked this week about the need for tougher gun

Gov. Brownback, state officials visit northwest Kansas on tour

sas hardest hit by drought conditions Tuesday with stops in Trego, Graham and Sheridan counties.

Along with Kansas Water Office Director Tracy Streeter and Kansas Department of Agriculture Chief Counsel Kim Christiansen, the governor met with local officials, farmers, ranchers and business owners to learn how the northwestern part of the state was dealing with the heat and dry weather.

"You can really see the effects of the drought here in northwest Kansas. Despite the brutal heat and dry conditions, I have been impressed at the level of cooperation among communities," Gov. Brownback said. "The tools that were passed this last legisla-



Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback tive session to help Kansans deal continued his tour of areas of Kan- with drought conditions like these cal leadership who sees the bencouldn't have been more timely. efit of implementing available I want to thank the local leader- water management tools, such ship for what they have done to as the proposed Local Enhanced assist farmers and ranchers in this drought."

> The tour of western portions resources." of the state began at Cedar Bluff Reservoir near WaKeeney where ers are resilient in their ability the group viewed the reduced wa- to overcome challenges and this ter levels, followed by a visit to the farm of Larry Hixson to view the impact of the drought on agricultural production.

> farmers and agribusiness leaders farmers and ranchers have inforat a Hill City restaurant, the governor toured the Hoxie Feedyard to discuss how the drought is affecting the cattle feeding industry. "This region of the state is cer-I appreciate the work USDA has done to make assistance available to the farmers and ranchers here," said Director Streeter.

"I also want to acknowledge lo-Management Area for Sheridan County to deal with limited water

"Kansas farmers and ranchdrought is no different," Kansas Department of Agriculture Secretary Dale Rodman said. "The Kansas Department of Agriculture Following a meeting with area continues working to assure our mation about all resources they need to adjust and recover from this drought."

Gov. Brownback began his tour of drought-effected areas of the tainly drier than it was last year. state last week with two stops in Saline County in central Kansas, followed by a trip to Allen and Neosho Counties in southeast Kansas.



KANSAS GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Gov. Sam Brownback toured low water levels at Cedar Bluff Reservoir. The boat docks are about 15 feet behind the governor.