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## Convoy completes sixth year

By Sam Dieter  
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Small groups of people could be seen along the road Saturday, waiting for the sixth-annual World's Largest Truck Convoy to roll through Colby.

"All these kids are so excited about it, the athletes," said volunteer Jane Mentlick.

In all, 52 trucks pulled into town from Goodland and Oakley, with about 35 Special Olympics athletes riding along helping the truckers honk their horns. They were led by about 30 bikers, including many from the American Legion Riders. Two representa-

tives of the Special Olympics law enforcement torch run led the last stretch of the parade down Horton Avenue and into the Oasis parking lot.

Many of the convoy participants were also entered into a custom truck and bike show being held in conjunction with the convoy. The entry fees and money going into the show all went to the Special Olympics.

Mentlick's son Greg, a Special Olympics athlete, rode with her husband Joe in his Kenworth semi tractor. Joe got the idea to help set up a convoy in Colby after seeing one in Salina in 2006.

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Sisters MacKenzie Turner (left) and Cadence Wallace cheered Range Avenue watching the convoy, which supports the Special Olympics.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

## Gem celebrates 125 years

The City of Gem plans to celebrate its 125th anniversary with a community potluck at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Gem Community Building.

The city will provide pork sandwiches and hot dogs. Those attending are asked to bring side dishes and desserts.

Mayor Phyllis Ziegelmeier said she and the City Council invite neighbors old and new to attend this gathering for some fellowship and reminiscence. Anyone with a Gem affiliation is welcome, she said.

Ziegelmeier said the town was established in 1887, but is unsure of the actual month or day. She said Gem eventually became an incorporated city.

She said Gem's population today is about 85, and over the years, there have been a few changes in town.

The old Baptist church, Ziegelmeier said, was turned into the Gem Community Building. The public school was consolidated in 1966 and the post office was shut down in March 2009.



PHYLIS ZIEGELMEIER/City of Gem

Pete Ziegelmeier, husband of Gem Mayor Phyllis Ziegelmeier, and his grandson, Nash Ziegelmeier, stood under Gem's 125th anniversary banner Tuesday. It was hung on the picnic shelter in town. The mayor and City Council have planned a potluck on Sunday for the occasion.

"We have a (grain) elevator and a fire department still," she said.

Margie Flanagan, a longtime resident of Gem, said an interesting fact about Gem is that it had the first cemetery in Thomas County.

She said a man named An-

drew Reed, along with his wife and three kids, were the first people to settle in Gem, in a section south of the town. One day, Flanagan said, one of the Reed children had a baby that died and the family buried the baby in what now is the cemetery.

## Colby native lectures at college

By Sam Dieter  
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Dr. Mark Hansen spent his visit back home making a tough sell: he said that Barack Obama will win the election.

"I'm going to stand up here in early September and give what I think will be outcome of the election in early November," he said, "so I'm kind of stepping out into the abyss."

Hansen was the first speaker in this year's Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby Community College. He delivered his presentation, "Coming Together or Coming Apart; America and the 2012 Election," to about 300 people Wednesday night in the Frahm Theatre at the college.

The son of John and Joyce Hansen of Colby, he graduated from Colby High School in 1977 and studied at the college. He has since become dean of social sciences

and senior adviser to the president at the University of Chicago.

Hansen's lecture focused on the polarization of voters and politicians alike. Using a series of graphs based on surveys of people's political beliefs, he spent much his lecture showing that voters and politicians alike have been drifting apart since the 1940s, and that the middle ground shared by both parties has disappeared.

Still, Hansen said, "What I'm going to argue is this might not have much effect at all."

He said he feels that elections tend to bring people together. And as for politicians, sometimes the need to get something done will cause them to cooperate.

"That's because, year in and year out, it's the same kinds of things that affect the outcome of presidential elections," he said. "They're things that are really set in place."

These factors include presidential performance, with both the economy and foreign affairs, incumbency, how partisan voters are and the positioning of the can-

didates on issues.

Hansen said he thinks that Obama's biggest single advantage will be the fact that he is an incumbent. In 10 out of 13 elections since Franklin Roosevelt took office, he said, the incumbent has won.

Obama's main challenge, on the other hand, will be recent economic woes, for which he, and not challenger Mitt Romney, will take the blame.

But in terms of foreign policy, he said, "The Obama administration has been very, very successful or very, very lucky."

The killing of Osama Bin Laden last year, the draw down of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and last year's revolts in the Middle East will help in an area that is traditionally considered a weakness for Democrats.

He also said he feels that more and more voters are seeing things from the Democrats' point of view, especially young people and Latinos.

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## Leader steals \$16,300 from Colby Cub Scouts

By Sam Dieter  
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A former Cub Scout leader plead guilty last month to stealing more than \$16,300 from the kids he claimed to serve.

Gary Schuette, who led Cub Scout Pack 140 in Colby for about four years, plead guilty Aug. 29 to using the Scouts' money for personal expenses. In return, the two felony counts he had been

charged with were reduced to a misdemeanor. District Magistrate Judge Rick Ress sentenced him to a year in prison, but ordered that he be allowed to serve probation instead.

Another provision of his probation allows him to apply to have the conviction expunged after the five years is up, assuming he does not get in any more trouble, court papers showed.

Schuette's actions were discovered when his pack was too broke

to pay for popcorn which the Scouts sold during a 2010 fund raiser. He will have to pay back \$16,309.85 to the Scouts, about \$4,200 of which will go to the Coronado Area Boy Scout Council to cover the popcorn that the Colby pack could not pay for. The rest will go back to the pack.

He must pay back this money seven days before his probation ends, a year from Aug. 29.

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## U.S. ambassador killed in consulate attack in Libya

By Esam Mohamed  
and Maggie Michael

The Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya – The American ambassador to Libya and three other Americans were killed when a mob of protesters and gunmen overwhelmed the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, setting fire to it in outrage over a film that ridicules Islam's Prophet Muhammad. Libya's new president apologized today for the attack, which underlined the lawlessness plaguing a

region trying to recover from months of upheaval.

Ambassador Chris Stevens, 52, died as he and a group of embassy employees went to the consulate to try to evacuate staff as a crowd of hundreds attacked the consulate Tuesday evening, many of them firing machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

By the end of the assault, much of the building was burned out and trashed. Stevens was the first ambassador to be killed in the line of duty since 1979.

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SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Dr. Mark Hansen (center), a professor at the University of Chicago and senior advisor to the president there, spoke with members from the audience of about 300 people Wednesday night who turned out for his lecture at Colby Community College. Hansen is a Colby native, son of John and Joyce Hansen, who graduated from Colby High School and studied briefly at the college.

