



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Knights of Columbus to raise money

By Christina Beringer

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The annual Tootsie Roll Drive of the Knights of Columbus is going on this weekend in Colby. The drive has gained support from Gov. Sam Brownback in hopes of increasing donations for people with intellectual disabilities.

"When you see Knights of Columbus

members in their bright yellow and red aprons ... please share your generosity, so aid may continue to be given to those special people," encouraged Colby Deputy Grand Knight Jerad Lange.

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Lange, along with other Knight members and eighth-grade volunteers, will be in front of Dillons, Walmart and the Oasis Travel Center handing out specially marked Tootsie

Rolls while seeking donations for their charitable cause.

Tax-deductible donations by mail are also welcome, said Lange, and can be sent to him at 445 Field St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Checks should be made payable to Tootsie Roll Program Fund.

Lange said 80 percent of their proceeds will be donated to Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas in Atwood.

"Every year, Knights of Columbus or-

ganizations from across the state conduct their annual Tootsie Roll Drives for the benefit of people with disabilities," said Steve Keil, the director of development of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas in Hays, in a letter to the editor.

"The generosity of the Knights has allowed us to offer additional support to those we serve through a variety of ways."

Keil said that with these contributions, a

Consumer Medical Fund was established to assist with medical care expenses that are not covered by Medicaid, such as dental expenses and adaptive equipment.

"So, as the area K of C's gear up for this annual fundraiser," Keil said, "we would like to take the time and wish all of them the best of luck and encourage everyone to stop and support their efforts."

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## Contribution to help Colby college students

The student retention strategy group at Colby Community College got a \$5,000 boost from AT&T Tuesday.

Colby Community College President Stephen Vacik thanked Steve Hahn, president of AT&T Kansas, at a check presentation event in the Student Union on the college campus.

"AT&T and Colby Community College realize that when students opt for higher education, it is critical to have support systems in place to help them adjust and keep them here to finish their degree," said Vacik.

Hahn said AT&T's primary mission is keeping students in school, getting their diploma and preparing them for the workforce.

He noted that many first-time freshmen in college are also first-generation college students, and they may not have a support network.

AT&T supports and encourages

programs that help them succeed and Colby's college addresses these issues.

According to Doug Johnson, director of Student Support Services for the college, the Student Success Seminar is a class for first-time, full-time students with an emphasis on discussion, leadership and student involvement.

"Attention is focused on a student's ability to make quality decisions in their relationships, stay organized and prioritize high-value activities," Johnson said.

To supplement the seminar, a student leadership day was held on Sept. 14. This leadership conference focused on developing future leaders for the college. The aim was also to identify students to participate in a future peer-mentoring program for all students on campus.

For information on the Student Success Seminar, contact Doug Johnson at (785) 460-5498.

## Kiwanis Club plans fireworks

The Thomas County Kiwanis Club plans to have its yearly fireworks show this weekend.

The July Fourth fireworks, which were postponed due to this summer's burn ban, will finally go off at 8 p.m. Saturday at the city ball fields, club president Rick Dickman said.

Dickman added that law enforcement will be at the fireworks show to make sure no one sets off

their own.

The show is scheduled around a softball tournament being held by Colby Community College.

"They don't anticipate that the games will go too late," Dickman said, but he added that "we might have a few extra guests."

He said the rescheduling date for the show would be Sunday at the same time and place if rain make fireworks impossible.



## College receives \$5,000

Stephen Vacik (above right), president of Colby Community College, listened to Student Support Services Director Doug Johnson speak about student retention programs Tuesday morning in the Student Union on the college campus. AT&T's Kansas External Affairs Director Cindy Zapletal (left), presented the college with a \$5,000 check as a reward for the student retention efforts. Steve Hahn, president for AT&T in Kansas, and about 50 college employees, community leaders and students attended the check presentation ceremony.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

## Preparing for fall



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

Jarrod Spencer of Colby prepared the windows of Uptown Style for the autumn season on Wednesday morning. Spencer said he paints a new mural on the salon and day spa's

windows facing East Fourth Street about six times a year. This one depicts a gnarly tree whose leaves are changing colors and falling to the ground.

## State official visits with agency leader

By Sam Dieter

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Phyllis Gilmore, secretary for the Kansas Department for Children and Families, made her third stop on a tour of government service centers in western Kansas Tuesday.

The one community leader to take advantage of an invitation to meet with Gilmore and other department staff was Joy Hayden, head of Goodland's Genesis Food Bank and Salvation Army.

She met with Gilmore and about half a dozen department employees Tuesday afternoon at the department building on Country Club.

Later, Hayden described the department and the food bank as doing "the same job with limited resources."

Her discussion with department members centered on numerous challenges the food bank faces. The department usually distributes nonperishable food items to

local organizations such as the food bank, but a retirement inside the department apparently caused staffing problems, Hayden said, disrupting the flow of food to local organizations. Aside from that, she said, her food bank had a huge demand for all kinds of help.

"If you're trying to help folks, then it's good to know who to talk to," she said later.

The Wendy's in Goodland closed recently, putting 27 people out of work, which caused problems for employment along with the drought.

"The need is so great in our county," she said. "When something closes, it's like a disaster."

Hayden said that and in Sherman County, 20 percent of families are low income. She did not have yearly numbers, but she later said the food bank serves about 24 families and 167 people each

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