



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Director to resign next month

By Christina Beringer  
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With early elections taking place in the regular board room of the Thomas County Courthouse, commissioners conducted their end-of-month meeting in the break room of the basement Wednesday, where they accepted the resignation of Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan.

McMahan's last day in the office will be Dec. 5. February would have marked five years in the position for McMahan, who filled the vacancy left by Jim Engle.

After the meeting, she said that her husband, John McMahan, has accepted a transfer with the Kansas Highway Patrol to the Lawrence area near the Topeka Turnpike. The transfer, she said, is difficult to get. He has to be there by Dec. 14, so they are hoping to find a home and move in the first part of December.

She said that since her job here is state regulated, commissioners must appoint an interim director if they are unable to hire her

permanent replacement before she moves.

Interest in the position has already been expressed to commissioners, the clerk and to McMahan, they all said. However, McMahan said since she has job descriptions from the state and from the county and her job is so extensive throughout the county, she encouraged commissioners to spend some time observing her work before they hire a new director.

She said that one person she talked to was especially surprised at the amount of continued education that is required by law for the position. One class, she said, requires 80 hours every two years: half in the classroom and half on-line.

An Emergency Operations Plan with Emergency Management was approved. It had been slated for approval at the Oct. 15 meeting, but commissioners directed Emergency Assistant Director Autumn Arasmith to strike a paragraph before they could accept it.

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## Cultural center complete today

By Christina Beringer  
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Following an aggressive campaign to seek funding and support, find a contractor and begin construction, members of the Wild West Historical Foundation have successfully met their goal of completing the 8,000 square foot Buffalo Bill Cultural Center in Oakley by today.

The building is complete, a volunteer said this morning, but the parking lot is being paved today, she said.

Totalling about \$1 million and located south of Interstate 70 off exit 70, on U.S. 83 and Second Street, the cultural and visitor center's groundbreaking was only six months ago on May 3, when Miller Construction in Goodland was awarded the contract.

Now, the facility is ready for its inaugural event and ribbon cutting, which will be ushered by Gov. Sam Brownback during the Second Annual Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic from Thursday to Sunday, Nov. 15 to 18. Coordinators plan to open the center on Nov. 12 and have a grand opening Nov. 30, said Raelene Keller, secretary and treasurer of the foundation.

"Oakley hosted the inaugural event last year," said Keller, "... and the committee is working hard to make the second event just as successful. We feel fortunate to share the beautiful new facility and hope it is one of many events to come."

Funds are still being raised, Keller added, since there are some interior items still needed, parking

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MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

## Colbyites get into the Halloween spirit

So you thought you knew all about the headless horseman? Well, throw your preconceptions out the window, for the Headless Horsewoman (above) rides again – not in some spooky forest at midnight, but down Franklin Avenue on a warm, sunny Halloween afternoon. She wouldn't confess her name, and her horse was in disguise as well, with makeup covering a star and adding blood-red stockings. Volunteers passed out candy to children from the back of their cars (left) which had been decorated to look like houses on Halloween, as part of Trunk or Treat Wednesday evening in the Church of Christ parking lot. The church-connected activity was organized as a safe alternative to usual Halloween trick or treating. Below, Bryant Wiedeman (left), Jacob Wetter, Lara Murdock and Allison Catlin enjoyed a Halloween party put on by the Farmers and Merchants Bank Mavericks Kids Club last Thursday at the Colby Bowl and Fun Center. Thirty-five kids participated and Hoss, the club mascot, even showed up in costume.



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



ASHLEY MOSER/Farmers and Merchants Bank

## Wild West auction



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Duane Heble (left) and Wally Severson were all dressed up in their Western attire Saturday for the annual Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Auction at the City Limits Convention Center. This year's theme was Wild West.

## Pond here will get trout

Colby's Villa High Pond will get an influx of trout for the winter fishing season.

David Spalsbury, a fish biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, said the state plans two stockings of 500 fish each this winter.

Trout season starts today and runs until Monday, April 15. He said the second stocking will probably be in February.

Anyone 16 or older needs a special permit to fish for trout, he said. The limit is five fish per day, or a possession limit of 15 trout.

Trout permits cost \$12.50 and are available at licensing agencies, including the Thomas County clerk's office at the courthouse, at wildlife department offices or online on the department website, and at vendors such as the Colby Walmart.

Kids 15 or younger do not need a permit, but are limited to two fish a day without one. Permits are good for one year. Trout permits for 2013 go on sale Dec. 15.

Kansas residents 16 to 74 or nonresidents 16 and older also need a fishing license.

## Presidential politics reignites

By Nedra Pickler and Steve Peoples  
The Associated Press

ROANOKE, Va. – Presidential politics reignited in the wake of natural disaster today, with the candidates beginning their full-throttle closing arguments with new vigor on the same pocketbook

concerns that have dominated the campaign from the start.

President Barack Obama, Republican rival Mitt Romney, their wives and running mates were blitzing across the country in the busiest day of campaign events yet. The six principals were hitting seven swing states left up for grabs that will determine on

Tuesday which man will occupy the White House for the next four years.

After avoiding criticism of Obama by name for a full day in

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