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Tragic death draws crowd of mourners

By **Stephanie DeCamp**
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Every seat was taken inside Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin on Wednesday as friends and family came together to mourn the loss of Teri Morris, who died on Saturday, Feb. 9, in Colby.

Teri was found near death in her home that day after firemen responded to a call about a fire. She was taken to Citizens Medical Center, where she later died. Her 9-month-old baby, Addilyn Jolie, was found with Morris' ex-boyfriend, William Andrew Shank, 24, of Garden City, when he was arrested in Logan.

Addilyn was unharmed and is now with relatives. Shank has been charged with first-degree murder in her case.

The baby cooed and laughed through the funeral, bringing smiles and tears alike to her family. Russell Rodenbeck, Teri's boyfriend, was there with her parents, Lee and Glenda Chase, of WaKeeney, brother Jeremy Chase of Hays and sisters Jerica and Jolynda Chase.

The Rev. Paul Garrison of the First Southern Baptist Church in Hill City, where Teri grew up, officiated, and she was laid to rest in the Oberlin Cemetery.

The crowd jammed into the chapel included family, friends, classmates, coworkers and many

rows of uniformed emergency medical workers. Teri was meat department manager at the Colby Walmart and had volunteered as an emergency medical technician for three services, including those in Thomas, Trego and Cheyenne counties.

Teri was a tomboy, said Garrison, and according to relatives, owned only one dress. She grew up in Hill City and Oberlin, where she graduated from Decatur Community High School in 2003. She later got an associate of arts degree at Colby Community College and her emergency medical technician-I certification.

"What's required of Christians," said the minister, "is to serve others — and she lived that out."

Garrison read Psalm 23, which begins, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want," and told those gathered that it wasn't a prayer for Teri in heaven, but rather one for them.

"The minute Teri took her last breath," he said, "she opened her eyes in heaven."

Garrison encouraged everyone to write down all of their memories of Morris so the family might compile a book for Addilyn to read when she's older.

"Your memories will help her realize who her mother was," he said, "and comfort her when she needs it."

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Fort Hays holds student recognition

Students entered their names for a prize drawing (above left) at Fort Hays State University's annual student recognition event Monday night at Colby High School. Later, in the auditorium, Jon Armstrong, assistant director of admissions for the college, reached into a basket to draw for a \$400 scholarship (above). Fifty-one students showed up with their parents to get awards and talk with faculty over pizza later, including Jacob Shnabel, a Goodland High student, and his mom Marjorie (left).

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Chair-ish Your Library



MELANY WILKS/Pioneer Memorial Library
While shopping downtown, Margaret Muehlkamp took some time to look at one of the chairs on display, this one in the window at Plum Creek.

Banks, state offices will close for holiday

Most banks and state offices, all federal offices and the Thomas County courthouse will be closed Monday for Presidents Day.

There will be no mail service and all post offices will be closed. The county landfill will be closed, as will the county office complex with the exception of the Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau offices. The courthouse and U.S. Department of Agriculture offices will be closed as well.

Colby city offices will be open and trash pickup will be on the normal schedule. The regional recycling center and the K-State Northwest Experiment Research and Extension Station also will be open.

Colby Public Schools, Brewster Schools, Heartland Christian School and Sacred Heart Catholic School will have class as usual. Students at Colby Community College, Golden Plains and Triplains schools will get the day off.

Most business and restaurants, except those normally closed on Monday, will be open, as will convenience, drug and grocery stores. The F&M Bank branch at Dillon's will be open regular hours, but other banks will be closed.

Clinic here announces location change in March

By **Kayla Cornett**
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Colby Medical Services announced it will be moving a couple blocks south next month and should be in business at the new site Monday, March 4.

The clinic will be closed Thursday and Friday, Feb. 28 and March 1, a letter and flier sent to patients said, and will reopen at its new location, 1005 S. Range Ave., on March 4.

"We apologize for any inconvenience this may

cause you," the flyer said, "and look forward to serving all your healthcare needs at 1005 S. Range Ave."

The clinic will be moving from the building which housed Colby Medical and Surgical Center, operated by the late Dr. Victor Hildyard, a long-time Colby physician. The new clinic was built by Dr. Gary Slavens, who was brought to town through Citizens Medical Center, and Dr. Jeff Morrison of Vision Source. He later decided to open his own clinic, Docs on Call.

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Chair art on display for auction

Old wooden chairs turned into works of art, ranging from functional to fantastic, are on display for a silent-auction fund raiser called "Art Friendsy: Chair-ish Your Library."

Librarian Melany Wilks said Mary L. Smith, president of the Friends of the Pioneer Memorial Library, came up with the idea during a vacation stop when she saw wooden chairs from a school being sold. She brought them back to Colby and discussed the idea with the group.

The next step, she said, was to go to area artists and ask if they'd be willing to decorate a chair for the benefit. Ten chairs are on display at businesses including Personal Touch beauty salon, Stramel Law Firm, Plum Creek and Inlow Interiors.

Two were done by students of Trish Starbuck in her fifth-grade art class at Colby Grade School. The boys, Da'ontai Robinson, Mason Wright, Bryson Metcalf and Riley Kraft, decorated the spirited "Colby Eagles" chair. Four girls, Kailey Shields, Hallie

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