



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Fund raiser gives money to family

A fund raiser at the Colby Pizza Hut on Tuesday raised money for the family of homicide victim Teri Morris, including her daughter, Addilyn, and her fiancé, Russell Rodenbeck.

"A lady called wanting to do something nice for the family," said Megan Ryan, general manager of the restaurant.

She said Pizza Hut donated 20 percent of all sales on Tuesday to Rodenbeck and Addilyn, who will turn 1 on May 24. She said she did not know the name of the woman who called, but did say that lots of customers called or came to the restaurant Tuesday asking about the fund raiser.

Morris, 27, died shortly after

she was found wounded in her burning home in Colby on Feb. 9. William Andrew Shank, 24, was charged with first-degree murder, aggravated arson and aggravated burglary on Feb. 25 in connection with her death.

Morris was born in Hill City and grew up there and in Oberlin. She was an emergency medical technician for Thomas County along with Rodenbeck, and had been a manager at the Colby Walmart.

Ryan said the restaurant is allowed to do fund raisers once every three months.

"When people call and ask," she added, "we can usually set them up."

## Museum here holds reception for Gem native

By Sam Dieter

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About 20 people came to a reception Saturday afternoon at the Prairie Museum of Art and History for a show by Gem native Jennifer Higerd – and to see Higerd's ceramics exhibit, "The Roots Run Deep" which has been displayed in the Museum since the start of March.

Later, a friend of Higerd's, a teacher in Goodland, brought about 20 high-school students from North Carolina, here as part of an exchange program, to see the exhibit, a series of unusual ceramic pieces hung on the four walls of the museum's meeting room.

Christine Wagner and Jeanette Zamrzla were more curious than some at the exhibit. Wagner got permission, with Zamrzla's help, to look at what looked appeared to be an egg-shaped bowl, one of dozens hanging on the wall.

Zamrzla said she knows Higerd because they were both working on degrees at the same time at Fort Hays State University, and introduced the artist to her friend Wagner.

"This is her own form," Zamrzla said of the bowls. "What she's created here, I don't know anyone else who does this."

She said she had bought one of the bowls from Higerd, and added that she likes the fact that Higerd did not say exactly what it is.

"It gives you more space to imagine because she doesn't just tell you what it is," she said.

Higerd said she was "just experimenting" when she started making the bowls. She made a mold of a water balloon once, then poured liquid clay around it to make the first one.

"It's kind of a circle," she said, "and the circle is a cell."

Plant cells are a common theme

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## Nearby feedlots break even in March

By Sam Dieter

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Area feedlots are bringing in about the same number of cattle as they are selling, bucking a state-wide trend.

The March inventory for Kansas feedlots hit a 14-year low, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Feedlots in the state with capacities of 1,000 or more held 2.05 million head of cattle, down 7 percent from last year.

In February, the department reported, feedlots statewide took in 295,000 head, down 20 percent from last year, and sales were 345,000, down 10 percent. That was the lowest monthly placements since June 1994 and the lowest number of cattle sales for February since 1995, the department said.

Jason Timmerman, who owns Timmerman Feeders at Halford, east of Colby on U.S. 83, did not

want to say how many cattle his lot had, but did have opinions about the current state of the business.

"We're staying pretty neutral right now," he said, "as many as we've shipped, we're taking in."

Timmerman said his feedlot is full, although that's not exactly helping matters.

"The market is really tough right now; there's a lot of equity drain," he said, meaning that cattle are being sold at a loss of \$100 to \$300 each.

"That's \$10,000 bucks a semi load," he added.

Scott Foote owns Hoxie Feeders, which has lots in Hoxie and in Oakley.

"We're almost even with last year in almost all categories," Foote said.

The Hoxie lot brought in 8,000 cattle and sold 5,000 last month, he added, and has 52,000 head right now. The lot in Oakley sold and took in about 5,000 cattle and has about 36,000 this week. Since

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## College foundation holds auction

By Sam Dieter

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Roger Emigh, a world champion auctioneer from Selden, explained the selling points of a Kenworth grill donated by the Colby Police and the Thomas County Sheriff's Office.

"It comes with one get-out-of-jail free card," he said. "I could have used that about 25 years ago."

Emigh, a graduate of the college, joked with the crowd and teased the bidders at the "House of Blues" auction Saturday night at the City Limits Convention Center. He and the staff from Farm and Ranch Realty sold items donated by area businesses and individuals for the Colby Community College Endowment Fund. By the end of the night, the crowd of about 350 had put up about \$140,000 for the fund.

Farm and ranch broker Don Hazlett and salesman Mike Bailey, a world champion semi-finalist auctioneer and two-time state champion, also took the podium. Other staff and college students from the livestock judging team, dressed like blues singers for the night, also lent a hand. A silent auction went on at the same time, and dinner was served beforehand. Shantel Leitner, a musician from Atwood, sang and played guitar as the bidders came in.



The merchandise up for sale varied widely in value, including gift baskets, concert tickets, leftover prime rib from the dinner and a lawn-cleaning by the college basketball team.

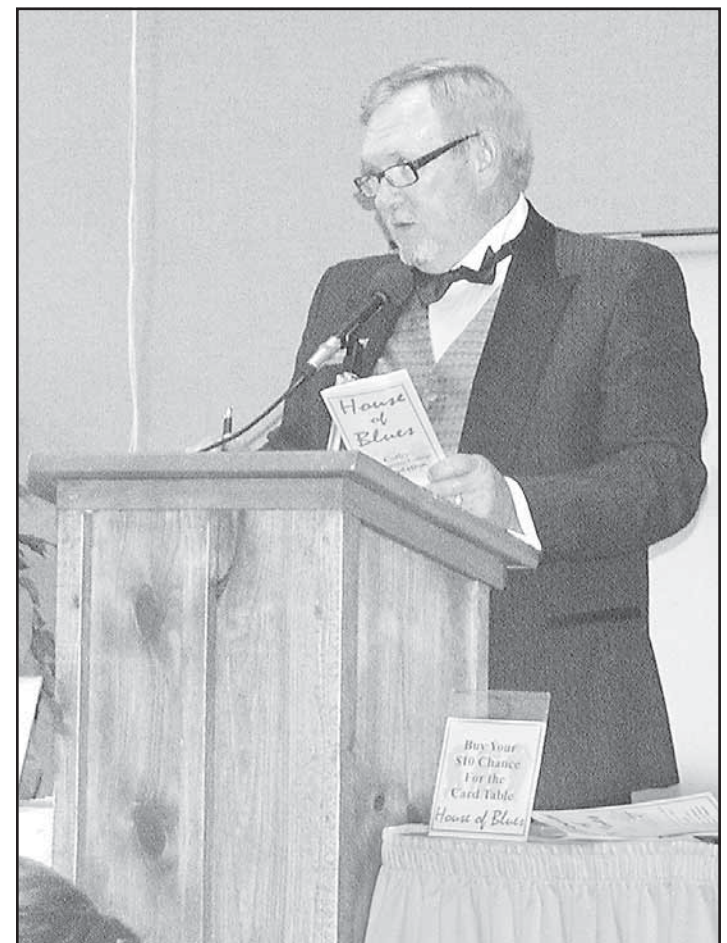
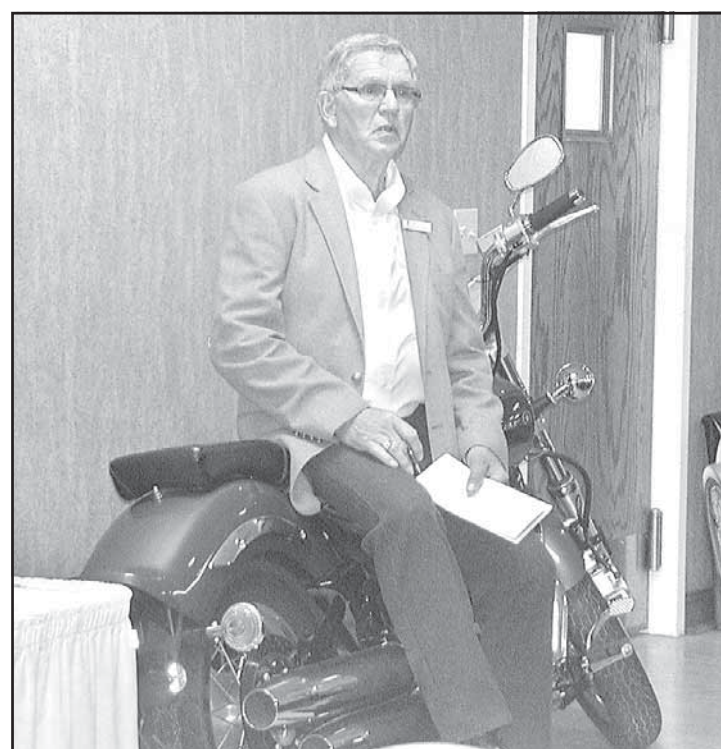
"It's the girls' team," Emigh said. "You knew that, didn't you?"

Some of the pricier items included a motorcycle, one-ounce

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World-champion auctioneer Roger Emigh sold a toy car (top) at an auction Saturday night at the City Limits Convention Center to raise money for the Colby Community College Endowment Fund. Don Hazlett, broker and auctioneer for Farm and Ranch Realty, sold paintings of farm animals at the auction (above). Members of the college's livestock-judging team held up the items while Hazlett and his co-workers helped run the auction. They included salesman Ed Currier, who rested on a motorcycle (below left), one of the pricier items up for grabs. Nick Wells (below), director of the endowment and a college trustee, introduced Emigh and the Farm and Ranch staff, who donated their time and expertise.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



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