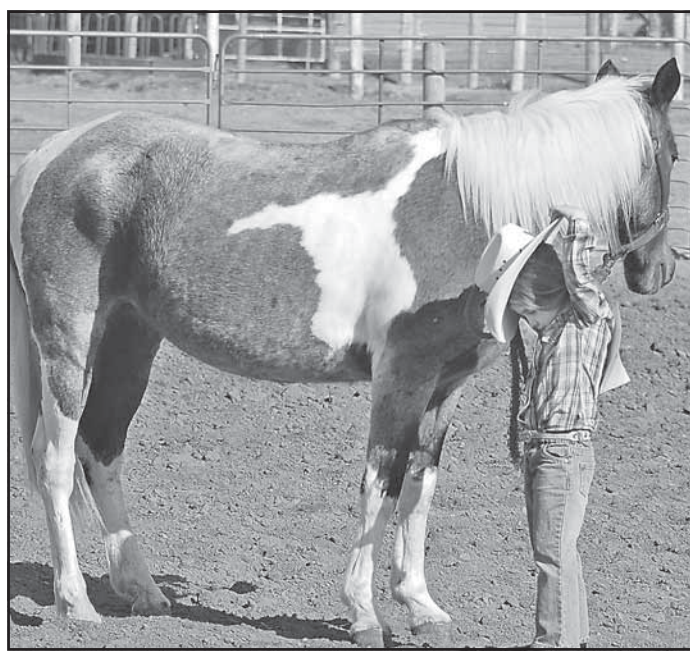




COLBY FREE PRESS

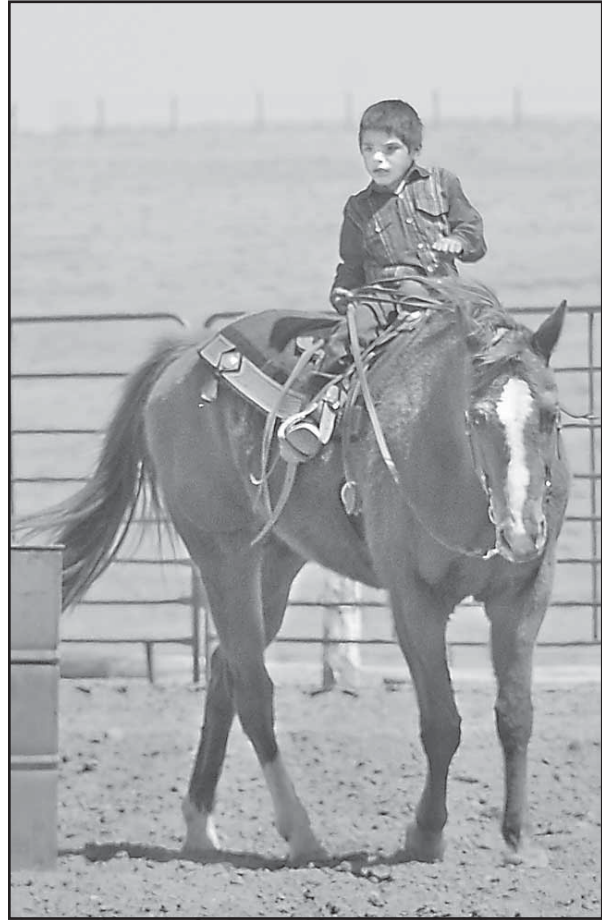
8 pages



Sunny Saturday draws small riders

Ryler Carter, (above) adjusted her hat while holding on to her paint, Splash, Saturday morning at the College Farm Kickoff Horse Show, and Amanda Jaeger, 6, took it slow (above left), guiding her paint Arizona around the poles. About 20 kids, including Eli Hutton (below left), many of them local, were at the show. Emeline Hutton (below) showed her horse off to judge Amanda Rice in the English Pleasure class. For more about the show, turn to page 8.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Clean up planned countywide

The City of Colby and Thomas County commissioners have declared a countywide cleanup for next week, hoping to encourage people to spruce up yards and public places.

The city is encouraging homeowners and businesses to clean up their yards and other public areas next week, May 6 to 10, for the annual Cleanup Week. Colby city crews will pick up residential trash that people leave along the street, and other towns are planning their own clean ups. The county landfill will take most trash for free next week.

City trash crews will be working regular routes, but have other workers to handle cleanup debris and larger items. Landlords, businesses and owners of commercial property need to haul away their own trash. Televisions, comput-

ers, electronics and construction or demolition items will not be picked up, officials said, but the pickup does include appliances, furniture and other large items.

Small items of trash must be put in boxes or bags weighing less than 50 pounds. Tree limbs should be tied in bundles weighing less than 50 pounds and less than four feet long, a city press release said. Remember to always remove your tipper cans from the street or sidewalk after your trash has been picked up.

The city crews will work regular hours, but volunteers are encouraged to join the cleanups, including individuals, businesses, service clubs and church groups. Groups may be asked to clean

See "CLEANUP," Page 2

County alters employee rules

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkans.com

The Thomas County commissioners made some changes to how county personnel work and who they report to at their end-of-the-month meeting Tuesday.

The commissioners, County Attorney, Kevin Berens, County Clerk Shelly Harms and Gayla Davis, a custodian, spent a total of 35 minutes in closed-door session. When the meeting was opened back up, the commissioners voted to make the Senior Progress Center the duty station for Jim Harms, the county van driver and Shelly Harms's husband.

Commission Chairman Paul Steele said that the county has a policy against nepotism. He said Jim Harms's supervision will now be under the register of deeds, not the county clerk's office.

The commissioners also decided to issue Davis a county credit card and make it clear she reported directly to them. Steele said later that Davis already understood she reported directly to them, but "it had been forgotten by some other staff."

In other business:

- Steele gave an update on the floor plan for the proposed new county jail and office building, which would replace the Law Enforcement Center and courthouse, after meeting with Judges Richard Ress and Glenn Schiffner and Court Reporter Marilyn Bailey. He said the new building should probably include a full basement in case a regional courtroom or other use is found for the space. The commissioners spent some time looking at the floor plans.

- Ashley Schriener, assistant dep-

See "COUNTY," Page 2

Student art places in contest

A Colby student was among 10 from across western Kansas honored for their work in the 2013 1st Congressional District High School Arts Competition.

Keanna Keck, 18, a senior at Colby High School, won second place for her painting. About 50 people were at the awards ceremony April 6 at the Deines Cultural Center in Russell.

In all, 130 works of art by students from six high schools in the district, which covers most of Kansas, were entered in the competition.

Keck said her painting, "The Perfect Getaway," was inspired by two of her favorite trips: one to Washington and the other to Rio de Janeiro. The painting shows a house in a garden with the door

open, revealing some tropical plants inside. She said completing it was a long-term project.

"It took me about a year and a half actually," she said, "because I started on it last school year, and then I kind of worked on it over the summer."

She plans to go to the University of Kansas after she graduates to study art and interior design and business.

For overall awards, the top honors went to Hill City High School student Amanda Kessler and Wheatland High School student Tristan Rathgerber.

Kessler won "Best of Show" for her drawing "Jaguar King," which will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year. Rathgerber received honorable mention.

Colby High student Keanna Keck held up her painting, "The Perfect Getaway," which won second place in the 1st Congressional District competition.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Laureate selected

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas has named a Leawood woman as the state's new poet laureate.

The Kansas Humanities Council announced Wednesday that Wyatt Townley is the 2013 to 15 Kansas Poet Laureate. Townley, a fourth-generation Kansan, says she hopes to use poetry to help Kansans explore the concept of home.

The *Lawrence Journal-World* reports (bit.ly/YfhBUH) that Townley is the first poet laureate selected by the Humanities Council, which took over the program from the now-defunct Kansas Arts Commission.

She's a founding board member of The Writers Place in Kansas City, Mo., and has appeared at writers' conferences and literary festivals in the Midwest and Northeast. She takes over the post from Lawrence resident Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, who was the 2009 to 2012 Poet Laureate of Kansas.



8 04879 13898 3