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## Accident claims life

A Colby woman and her daughter were thrown from their sport-utility vehicle when it went into the median on Interstate 70 and rolled near Burlington, Colo., on Thursday, killing the mother and sending the daughter to a Denver hospital.

Sgt. Mike Baker of the Colorado State Patrol said Joanne Stephens, 57, was driving west with her daughter Aubrette, 23, when the 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee

rolled into the median about seven miles east of the first Burlington exit.

Joanne Stephens was pronounced dead at the Burlington hospital, Baker said, and Aubrette Stephens was taken to St. Anthony Hospital in Lakewood, Colo., with serious injuries, where she was listed as being in fair condition today. They were not wearing seatbelts.

## City audit shows finances in good shape

By Sam Dieter  
Colby Free Press  
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The Colby City Council got a good report on the city's audit for the fiscal year 2012 at its meeting Tuesday night.

Kayln Ritter and Michelle Spence, certified public accountants from Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, presented the audit to the council. Ritter said the city was required to have the single audit in addition to the normal financial statement audit generally required by cities, because it spent more than \$500,000 in federal money last year.

The city had a cash balance of \$19,369,476 and \$16,573,729 in debt at the end of last year, she said. The firm recommends the city have at least three months' worth of cash reserves on hand, and they have more than that.

The city met state statutes for each of its funds, Spence said later.

State statutes require that the city have no negative amounts in its end-of-the-year cash balances for city funds, and the funds have to stay under the published bud-

get. The city kept to both statutes, except for a grant fund that will be reimbursed from the government.

They reported no major issues, but made some minor recommendations.

Library Director Melanie Wilks handed out pictures of the remodel done at the library last spring to start her report, saying the work had to be done by April 18, 2012.

The report included a list of events at the library, including the Valentine's day "Chocolate and all that Jazz" show attended by 160 people.

She said Children's Librarian Judy Kleinsorge went to Long Island to learn how to make the library a "family place library," which provides information and education for kids and parents and family support.

Pippa White gave a performance about the orphan train that that brought orphans out to western Kansas in the 1800s for middle school kids last November.

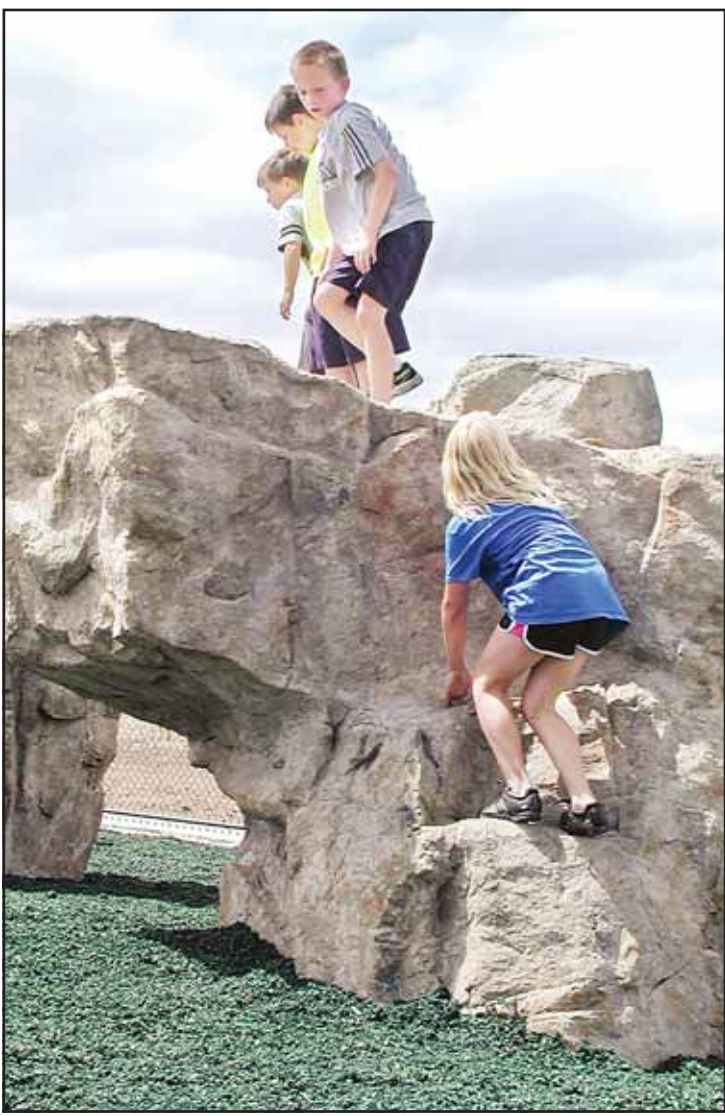
In other business, the council:

- Agreed to give \$850 each to the Western Kansas Child Advo-

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## Playground goes green



It took a crane about 100 feet high (above) to unload 1-ton bags of rubber mulch Wednesday at the playground by the Aquatic Park. A group of kids and parents from Heartland Christian School (below) prepared the ground to spread the mulch, the final project before the playground opens Saturday. After the mulch was spread, Brady Wiedeman, 5, (left, from left), Bryant Wiedemann, 7, Bryce Myers, 9 and Ava Mull, 9 tested the climbing rocks.

BRENT WIEDEMAN/ F&M Bank  
SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



## Helping tornado victims



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Brothers Josh Allen (left) and Richard Allen dropped some of their groceries off with Peggy Quintero (in truck) Thursday afternoon outside Walmart. Quitntero and her friend Tiffany Thomas borrowed a truck from Kelly Lampe of St. Francis and plan to take the supplies people donated to the victims of Monday's tornado in Moore Oklahoma. Their friend Anica Wilson (left) kept them company.

## Google to add islands to street view

By Jason Dearen  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO – Few have explored the remote volcanic islands of the Galapagos archipelago, an otherworldly landscape inhabited by the world's largest tortoises and other fantastical creatures that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

Soon it will take only the click of a mouse or finger swipe on a tablet to explore some of the Galapagos Islands' most remote areas, surrounding waters and unique creatures.

Mountain View, Calif.-based Google sent hikers to the Galapagos with Street View gear called "trekkers," 42-pound computer backpacks with large, soccer ball-like cameras mounted on a tower.

Each orb has 15 cameras inside it that have captured panoramic views of some of the most inaccessible places on the Galapagos. Crews from The Caitlin Seaview Survey worked with Google to capture 360-degree views of selected underwater areas too.

"We spent 10 days there hiking over trails ... and even down the crater of an active volcano," Raleigh Seamster, the project's leader for Google Maps said. "And these are islands, so half of the life there is under the water surface. So (we brought) Street View underwater to swim with sea lions, sharks and other marine animals."

Google is processing the footage and is trying to stitch it together. It hopes to post it to Street View later this year.

The cameras captured the nesting sites of

blue-footed boobies, the red-throated "magnificent frigatebirds," swimming hammerhead sharks and, of course, the island's giant tortoises.

Scientists working with Google are exploring the footage for other species and hope to update the pictures regularly throughout the years as they study the effects of invasive species, tourism and climate change on the island's ecosystems.

"We hope that children in classrooms around

the world will be trying to discover what they can see in the images, even tiny creatures like insects," said Daniel Orellana, a scientist with the Charles Darwin Foundation.

"We can use this as an education experience for children, and there is a huge opportunity for rare discoveries."

Orellana and others supervised the Google trekkers and helped guide them to remote areas either off-limits to tourists or rarely visited because they are hard to reach.

## After school program gets grants

The Colby Grade School after-school program, which ended for the summer on May 16, got some extra help recently from several grants.

Kathy Vaughn, a retired teacher, was hired part-time to run the program, along with several others. The program was set up in February to give students something to do after they get out of class.

The school got a grant for just under \$600,000 from the 21st Century Community Learning Center, Vaughn said, but the number of kids who signed up has made it hard to pay for.

A total of 185 kids from kindergarten to fifth grade from area grade schools enrolled in the program this spring, and about 110 were showing up each day. The school had guessed that 125 at most would enroll, based on surveys done in the fall.

"We thought it would be more," Vaughn

said, "but we did not anticipate that many, which was a happy problem."

Several employees were brought on to run the program as more kids enrolled, Vaughn added. She said Megan Carmichael with the Thomas County Coalition helped the school write a grant application to the Thomas County Community Foundation. The foundation gave a total of \$3,000 out of the Patricia A. Embree Trust Fund, the Peter Henry Fund and the Afterschool Program Fund.

Vaughn said \$2,884 of that money will be used for snacks and supplies, the rest for a "family night" to give parents and teachers strategies and tools to encourage good behavior in their kids.

