

Hospital sets visiting restrictions

To prepare for flu season, Citizens Medical Center is asking people who might have the disease or are vulnerable to infection to stay away from the hospital.

If you have the flu or flu-like symptoms – fever, cough, runny nose, headache and body aches – the staff at Citizens want you to stay home and seek medical treatment if symptoms worsen.

Hospital staff announced restrictions on visits in a press release Monday, and plans to keep them in place until further notice. Amy Branum, infection prevention coordinator, said the timing depends on the number of patients they have seen, adding that they could be in place until May.

Other restrictions are meant for people who are vulnerable to the flu:

- Children under 12 are not being allowed into the hospital unless they need medical care. Chil-

dren will not be allowed to accompany people who are coming to the hospital to get tests done. Children will only be allowed to visit the labor and delivery unit if they are brothers or sisters of the newborn and are not showing signs of illness. They must stay in the mother's room.

- Pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems or pulmonary problems should only come to the hospital if absolutely necessary and use extreme caution when they are visiting.

Depending on which areas of the hospital and which patients you are visiting, there may be additional restrictions, the hospital said. However, the staff will make exceptions for someone visiting a terminally ill patient. They will address other visitors' concerns on an individual basis, she said.

County meets with architect

Some architectural firms are indicating interest in the county's judicial complex project, including one firm whose representative traveled from Florida in November and another from Colorado who met with the commissioners after their Monday meeting.

Robert Johnson, a partner at Denver-based Reilly Johnson Architecture, attended the commissioners' meeting after meeting with Judge Glenn Schiffner earlier in the day and thoroughly researching the project's current progress.

Johnson said his firm "does nothing but design courts and jails in the Rockies and around the Midwest." He plans to submit a response to the county's request for qualifications, due Monday, Jan. 5.

Johnson said he did not want

to make a sales pitch out of his visit to Colby but instead hoped to learn something from his visit that he could not learn from other research.

After the commissioners completed their meeting's agenda items, Johnson pulled a chair up to the commissioners' table and chatted with them for over an hour.

Initially, he questioned whether the discussion should be in a public forum, but Commissioner Paul Steele told him Kansas law required the discussion to be public.

According to Johnson's estimates, the preliminary design produced by local architect Glen Strait was small and his cost estimates too low for the design he created. Johnson said he would estimate Strait's drawing would cost

See "ARCHITECT," Page 2



Kids shop at Workshop



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
Brittany Swartz, 6, (top) picked out Christmas gifts Saturday at the Thomas County Office Complex, with some help from Marla Crumrine (left) and Jo DeYoung (center). Keesa Wright helped Roland Johnson, 7, (above) pick out some other gifts at Santa's Workshop Saturday, where kids got presents for their parents, then wrapped them with help from other grownups. There was a full house (left) in the conference room at the Office Complex, and the hallway outside and the parking lot were crowded for much of the morning.



Orchestra on stage

By Pat Schiefen

Goodland Star-News
pjschiefen@nwkansan.com

The Pride of Prairie Orchestra started off its concert season with "Christmas on the Prairie" on Saturday night at the Frahm Theatre on the campus of Colby Community College. The orchestra made up of members from Colby, Oakley, Weskan, Wallace, Goodland, Hoxie, Grainfield, Grinnell, Imperial, Neb., and Burlington, Colo. The conductor for this program was Beverly Rucker on Hoxie.

The program included traditional favorites, popular favorites such as "Frosty the Snowman," plus a little of "A Gift to Be Simple" and ended with the "Hallelujah Chorus" from "The Messiah" by Handel. Some of the pieces were arranged so that many different parts of the orchestra had small solo parts. The encore number invited the audience onstage with the orchestra for "Jingle Bells Forever." Orchestra members donned Santa hats.

The various sections of the orchestra contributed door prizes to people from the audience. The conductor's door prize included inviting the winner to direct the orchestra for the last number.

Members from Colby are Mary Shoaff and Skylar Barrett on percussion, Linda

Pabst on flute, Janet Hopson on oboe, Leanna Adams on Horn in F and Bruce Frahm on trombone.

Musicians from Oakley are Donna Engel and Katherine Spencer on first violin, Carol Ann McGuire on trumpet, Bob Kelly on trombone and Steve Golden on tuba. Those from Hoxie were Tabor Rucker on percussion and Ed Rucker on horn in F.

Weskan members are Josiah Akers and Kendra Akers on second violin and Mary Beth Akers on piano. Bo Wright from Wallace played second violin. David Younger came from Imperial, Neb., to play the viola.

Grinnell members were Leona Dickman on flute and Lucas Burmeister on trombone.

Goodland members were Becky McCurdy on cello, Birkley Barnes on clarinet, Pat Schiefen on bass clarinet, Tim Armknecht on baritone sax and Bonnie Thompson on trumpet.

Coming from Burlington were Andrew Salvador on percussion, Eileen Jones on clarinet and Alexis Juarez on trumpet.

The next orchestra concert will be on March 4.

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra's violin and woodwinds sections tuned in Saturday evening in the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. About 130 people came to watch the orchestra's Christmas on the Prairie concert.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Weather



National Weather Service

Tonight: Patchy freezing fog after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming south-west after midnight.

Thursday: Patchy fog between 7 a.m. and noon. Patchy freezing fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 57. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 33. South wind around 10 mph.

Friday: Areas of fog before 1 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 61. South wind 5 to 15 mph.

Friday Night: Patchy fog after 10 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 38.

Saturday: Areas of fog before noon. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 59.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Sunday: Rain likely. Cloudy, with a high near 45. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Sunday Night: Snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 24. Blustery. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Monday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. Breezy.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36.

Monday: High, 59; Low 17
Tuesday: High, 45; Low 16
Precip: Monday None
Tuesday None
Month: None
Year: 16.84 inches
Normal: 20.65 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Thursday 7:54 a.m. 5:21 p.m.
Moon: waning, 75 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

County meets with architect

From "ARCHITECT," Page 1

about \$17 million instead of the original estimate of roughly \$12 million, including \$2 million in improvements to the existing courthouse.

"Is the county prepared to spend \$17 million?" he asked.

The commissioners cringed at the cost estimate, particularly when Johnson added an estimate of \$250,000 in annual operating costs.

"An architect should do the building that you want," Johnson said, adding that an architect should also help the commissioners "wrestle with

the money."

Johnson also asked whether the design had included a space needs plan from each department to be housed in the new complex. Commissioner Mike Baughn said he had never seen anything like that when the previous design had been created.

"Any architect loves to sit down and start drawing, but you can't," he said, without knowing the project's needs first.

Johnson asked many questions about location options and the jail's needs, and he said he planned to visit the Law Enforcement Center following his meeting with the commissioners.

Accident hospitalizes two

Two people went to the hospital Tuesday afternoon after being hit by a semi that was trying to pass their vehicle.

They were turning into a private drive just north of the U.S. 83 Oakley exit in Thomas County, when the accident happened, at 5:30 p.m., Kansas Highway Patrol officers reported. Mason

Wolf, Jr., 58, Kansas City, Mo., was driving north and turned left into a private drive, while at the same time Leonardo Rey Collado, 51, who had been behind Wolf in a semi-rig, tried to pass him.

Collado was trying to pass in a no-passing zone, the patrol reported; he hit the 2007 Ford Fu-

sion Wolf was in, sending him and his passenger Mary Roesch, 87, Colby, to the hospital.

Officials at Logan County Hospital, where the two were taken, did not immediately respond to calls about their condition. All three people involved in the accident were wearing seatbelts.

Fire demolition bill waived

TOPEKA (AP) - The city of Topeka is paying a \$16,000 demolition fee originally billed to a family grieving the death of an 18-year-old woman in a house fire last month.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reports (bit.ly/1A9qBej) that City Manager Jim Colson said Monday that he apologized to the family of Morgan Duncan, who died in a Nov. 20 fire.

The bill was for the weeklong demolition of the home in which Duncan lived. Her mother re-

ceived the bill last week, just days before a memorial service.

Colson said he ordered an investigation, and the city concluded that the demolition was necessary to put out the fire and keep fire and emergency personnel safe.

Colson said that made the city responsible for the cost of hiring a private company to do the work.

Governor unveils budget gap plan

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) - With Kansas facing a projected \$279 million budget shortfall after enacting aggressive tax cuts, Republican Gov. Sam Brownback proposed Tuesday to trim spending and divert funds for highway projects and public pensions to general government programs.

The plan, which applies only to the current budget year, avoids reducing aid to the state's public schools, its Medicaid health care program for the needy, prison operations or state universities. Budget Director Shawn Sullivan outlined the details in interviews and said the administration believes agencies that do face cuts can find efficiencies to avoid hurting any programs.

"These first steps are a down payment in resolving the immediate budget issue," Brownback said in a statement, adding that his administration is addressing the shortfall with "good fiscal governance" while protecting education and public safety.

The plan drew immediate criticism because it would divert \$41 million from the pension system for teachers and government workers. Obligations to re-

tirees over the next two decades are only 60 percent funded, and that figure was expected to climb over time thanks to a 2012 law that increased both the state's and employees' contributions to stabilize the system's long-term health.

In his successful re-election campaign, Brownback pointed repeatedly to the pension fixes - which promised full funding of its obligations in 2033 - as a major accomplishment.

"It reneges on the commitment that was made," Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat, said Tuesday.

The governor has the authority to order budget and pension-funding cuts to avoid a shortfall for the current fiscal year, which began in July. Major state departments, save the Department of Education, will face a 4 percent cut in spending for January through June, including the Legislature.

But some parts of the plan - such as diverting \$96 million in highway funds - require legislative approval.

Brownback has not yet tackled an additional \$436 million shortfall in the budget for the

next fiscal year, nor has he proposed backtracking on the aggressive personal income tax cuts enacted at his urging in 2012 and 2013.

In a move meant to boost the economy, Kansas dropped its top personal income tax rate by 26 percent and exempted the owners of 191,000 businesses from income taxes altogether. Future rate reductions also are promised, embodying a long-term goal to eliminate state income taxes over time.

Some GOP state senators already are floating tax proposals, such as delaying future cuts or reinstating income taxes for the wealthiest business owners. Brownback hasn't publicly ruled out those ideas, but House Speaker Ray Merrick, a Stilwell Republican, has said he wants to consider spending cuts first.

Besides diverting nearly \$96 million in funds set aside for highway projects, the plan announced Tuesday would trim nearly \$8 million more from the Department of Transportation's operating budget. The shortfalls are projected for the state's main bank account, and highway projects are financed outside that account.

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the following day, space available. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Volunteers need to fill Genesis baskets

Volunteers are needed to help Genesis-Thomas County food bank board member fill Christmas food baskets. Come by at 7 p.m. Friday at the Thomas County 4-H building on the fairgrounds. Baskets will be distributed from 6:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday at the 4-H Building. For information, call Leisa Hansen at 462-3984.

Women's group selling variety of nuts

The Episcopal Church Women have fresh nuts available for the holidays: pecans, English and black walnuts, cashews and mixed nuts. Pick them up at Colby Canvas; cost is \$10 or \$11 depending on variety. For information, call Martha Hullet at 462-2505.

Army needs help ringing its bell

Thomas County Salvation Army volunteers need people to man the red kettle at Walmart through the Christmas season. To join up, call Sue Draper at 462-7511.

Drive seeks coats, hats, gloves for kids

A coat drive sponsored by Citizens Medical Center, the Colby Rotary Club and the Colby Wesleyan Church has all the adult coats it can handle, but hardly any for kids. To donate a new or slightly used child's coat, drop it off at the hospital admissions desk through the end of January. If you need coats, go to the church's Kids Closet from 3 to 6 p.m. the first and third Wednesday every month. For information or if you need help, call Megan Carmichael at 460-1214.

Corrections board to meet in Hays

The governing board of Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services and Northwest Kansas Community Corrections will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday at Whiskey Creek, 3203 Vine in Hays. For information contact Brenda Ulery at (785) 475-8113.

Faculty-made items for sale at fundraiser

Enjoy some Christmas shopping of items made and sold by Colby Community College employees from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday in the Student Union Multi-Purpose Room. Ten percent of all sales will go to support Faculty Alliance campus projects. For information, contact Shanda Mattix at 460-5464.

Church offering free lunch on Saturday

Come to the First Presbyterian Church for food and fellowship from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the church basement. The church serves a free lunch the second Saturday of each month. For information, call Leisa Hansen at (785) 460-2710.

Commodities to be given out here Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. next Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center at Fike Park. Distribution is first come, first served, but you may send a signed permission slip with another person. Bring a sack or box. Expected commodities include beef stew, cranberry sauce and juice, raisins and peanut butter. For questions, call the office at 462-6744.

Living nativity set for Dec. 21 and 22

In memory of Theron Johnson, a living nativity will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Dec. 21 and 22 at the Jane Johnson ranch seven miles north of Colby on K-25. Refreshments will be served. Donations will go to Genesis-Thomas County food bank. For information, call 462-7525.

Mingo church plans Christmas Eve service

The Mingo Bible Church will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at the church at 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve. Everyone is invited. For information, contact Pastor Tom Peyton at (785) 462-2992.

New Year's gala event will help HOPE

New Year's Eve benefit dinner, auction and dance will feature the Jimmy Dee Band at the City Limits Convention Center on Wednesday, Dec. 31, will raise money for the Northwest Kansas Foundation for HOPE, which helps cancer patients in nine northwest Kansas counties. For ticket information, contact Pat Sloan at 443-3261.



TV LISTINGS

sponsored by the



COLBY FREE PRESS

THURSDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 11, 2014

FRIDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 12, 2014

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FAMILY, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NICK, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

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Deaths

Erma J. Hein

Erma J. Hein, 85, Colby homemaker, died Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

She was born April 7, 1929, in Thomas County, the daughter of Carsen R. and Freda M. (Duden) Donn.

Her husband Eugene Hein preceded her in death in 1994.

Survivors include a son, Greg E. Hein, a daughter, Glenda J. Merideth, and a sister, Shirley (Dick) Parnell, all of Colby; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, at the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, with the Rev. Bill Gepford officiating and burial in Beulah Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral chapel.

The family suggests memorials to the Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope, in care of the funeral chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby Kan., 67701.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.kersenbrockfuneralchapel.com.

Rita M. Jones

Rita M. Jones, 91, a retired Colby homemaker, died Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

She was born Feb. 13, 1923, in Colby, the daughter of Clyde and Margaret (Flood) Young.

Survivors includes her husband, Armun Jones, Colby, and a son, Destry Jones of Holly Springs, N.C.

Graveside services were to be

at 2 p.m. today, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, at Beulah Cemetery in Colby, with visitation preceding at the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby.

The family suggests memorials to the living complex in care of the funeral chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.kersenbrockfuneralchapel.com.

Leo M. Weis

Leo M. Weis, 87, Oberlin farmer and stockman and father of Brian (Josie) Weis of Colby, died Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, at the Decatur Health Systems in Oberlin.

He was born March 27, 1927, in rural Hoxie, the son of Michael and Theresa (Ritter) Weis, and grew up in the Leoville area.

On April 12, 1948, he married Hermine Werth in Park. They lived in Jennings, and Lenora before moving to a farm south of Dresden.

Preceding him in death were his parents; a son-in-law, Russell Pope; two daughters, Charlene Vinquist and Mary Weis; five brothers, Ray Weis, Al Weis, Joe Weis, Urban Weis and Bernard Weis; and two sisters, Sister Vincentia Weis and Sister Laurann Weis.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; three other sons, John (Carol) Weis, Schoenchen; Michael (Emma) Weis, Greeley, Colo.; and Leon (Angie) Weis,

Hoxie; four daughters, Karen (Martin) Yunker, Fountain, Colo.; Cindy Weis, Katy, Texas; Carol (Mark) Richmeier, Norton; and Linda Pope, Hoxie; a brother, Ralph Weis, Dresden; a sister, Sister Bernadine Weis, Clyde, Mo.; 29 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Leoville, with the Rev. Mark Berland officiating and burial in the Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Leoville.

Visitation was to be today at Pauls Funeral Home in Selden and from 6 to 9 p.m. tonight at the church in Leoville, with a vigil service at 7 p.m.

The family suggests memorials in his name in care of the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.paulsfh.com.

Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at Colby Community College with 29 members and guests Emily Strange, Hannah Strange, Stan Strange, Andrew Toth, Earl Treat and Joan Ziegler.

Hannah Strange was recognized as the November Student of the Month and shared her school and community activities with members. She hopes to play volleyball at a university and pursue a degree in physical therapy.

Paul Brigham had the program. His guest was Earl Treat who spoke on the school he and his wife started in the Republic of Georgia. Treat is a Thomas County native and taught school in Colby, Hoxie, Selden and Rexford before moving to Fort Collins, Colo. He and his wife Jan Treat taught in a Christian school there. The church associated with the school was mission-oriented and wanted to start a school in another country.

The Treats left Colorado in 1991 and helped start several

Christian schools in Moscow. In February 1992, the civil unrest in Georgia had been resolved so they moved there. Treat said the Republic of Georgia is half the size of Kansas, located between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. It has a rich history as a trade route between Europe and Asia.

The Christian school they started was built in the middle of Tbilisi, the capital. Funding for the building came primarily from the states. Students pay tuition which covers day-to-day expenses. There are currently 265 students enrolled but the school has the capacity for 300.

Treat said international students attend the school in addition to students from the Republic of Georgia.

The Treats return frequently to visit the school and spend time with the students.

Rotary meets at noon each Tuesday at the college.

- Relda Galli

Sheep wearing sweater found

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - A sheep wearing a festive red-and-green sweater was found wandering around Omaha over the weekend.

The Nebraska Humane Society is caring for the sheep while it tries to find its owner and learn the animal's name. The sheep was found Sunday evening in an Omaha neighborhood.

Humane Society spokeswoman Pam Wiese says the sheep would

be held for at least three days before being put up for adoption. The animal appears healthy, and Wiese says it may have been a pet or someone's 4-H project.

The sheep is used to walking on a leash and doesn't seem to mind that its holiday apparel appears to have been designed for a dog.

Wiese says the sheep has a thick coat, so it likely didn't need the sweater for warmth.

Get blood testing marked on calendar

Mark your calendar now. Put a reminder in your phone, whatever it takes so you don't miss this great opportunity.

Because blood tests are important tools in monitoring our health, the Thomas County Coalition/Wellness Committee will again be working with Citizens Medical Center to offer low cost blood tests and screenings. These screenings provide information to help monitor and maintain your health.



Diann Gerstner

• Knowledge for Life

When: From 6 to 9 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 8 to 10, and Monday Jan. 12.

Where: Citizens Medical Center specialty clinic lobby.

What: Health screenings being offered:

- Comprehensive profile, including a lipid profile, glucose and complete blood count - requires 10 to 12 hours fasting: \$30.
- TSH (thyroid), recommended for baseline or if having symptoms: \$20.
- Hgb A1C (three-month glucose average), for known diabetics or significant diabetic history: \$20.
- Prostate screening/PSA (males only): \$25.
- Vitamin D level blood test, new: \$40.
- EKG, recommended for baseline: \$35.
- Spirometry (COPD, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, screening): \$30.

Explanations of these tests and screenings and why you might want to have them will be covered in a feature article coming soon. It will cover more details than I have room for in this column.

If you would still like more information, contact the hospital's education department at 460-4850 or www.thomascountycoalition.com (see the Thomas County Coalition Wellness Tab).

Another project the Wellness Committee is working on is a Thomas County Wellness Resource List, a list of all the opportunities we have in Thomas County to "move" for wellness. Why is movement important?

It is a documented fact that food portions have increased over the years, leading to an increase in calories consumed. This increase in calories started the rise in our

obesity rate.

Now information is in that Americans are much more sedentary than 20 years ago. The number of women who reported no leisure-time physical activity jumped from 19 percent in 1994 to 52 percent in 2010; in men the numbers rose from 11 to 43 percent. Thus the obesity epidemic is due to a combination of increased food portions and calories and a decline in exercise - a double whammy.

The Wellness Committee felt that if people were aware of all the opportunities for movement or exercise that more would be able to find one or more classes to try. Having tried classes, people could then find an activity they enjoy that meets their personal needs. We are still adding the final touches but it will be finished any day now.

When this list is complete, you will be able to find it on the Thomas County Coalition website (listed above) as well as our Thomas County Extension office website, www.thomas.ksu.edu.

We have tried hard not to miss anything, but it may have happened. If you know of a class being offered that isn't on this list, contact Richelle Shipley at 460-8177 and she will get it added. You can also call Shipley and ask her to email the list directly to you.

Any movement is better than none, and the more the better! Remember the minimum national recommendation for exercise is 30 minutes, five days a week.

Don't let the cold weather of winter decrease your physical activity and possibly add pounds.

Check out the Resource List and try something new. Invite a friend to go along, that always adds enjoyment as well as commitment to the activity, knowing your friend will be there waiting for you.

Diann Gerstner is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Thomas County Extension office.

Still time for flu immunization

With flu activity increasing and gatherings for the holidays, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment urges all Kansans to receive an annual flu vaccination.

National Influenza Vaccination Week, Dec. 7 to 13, is a reminder that all of us have a responsibility to prevent the spread of influenza. Kansas has identified two different types of flu viruses circulating, and, based on data from the Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network, flu is minimal within the state. However, flu activity usually increases at this time of year, peaks in January or February, and can last until May.

Five to 20 percent of the U.S. population contracts the flu yearly, and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized. Influenza or pneumonia contributed to or was the direct cause of 1,135 deaths among Kansas residents last year. Influenza and pneumonia was the seventh leading cause of death in 2013 in Kansas.

"Getting a flu vaccination is still the best way to protect yourself and those who are at high risk," said Susan Mosier, state health officer.

In addition to getting vaccinated, avoid spreading the virus by:

- Staying home when sick.
- Covering coughs and sneezes.

Washing your hands.

Nearly everyone six months and older is recommended to receive a flu vaccine every year. Vaccination is especially important for those at high risk, including young children, pregnant women, adults 65 years and older, and anyone with chronic health conditions. Those caring for, or in regular contact with, an infant less than six months of age should also be immunized.

Getting a flu vaccination:

- Can keep you from getting sick with the flu.
- Helps protect people around you who are at risk.
- May make your illness milder.

If you are at high risk and develop symptoms, contact your health care provider immediately. Treatment with prescription antiviral medication can shorten the illness and reduce the risk.

Symptoms of the flu include: fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough and muscle aches. Complications can include pneumonia, ear and sinus infections and dehydration; the flu might also worsen other conditions.

To get your flu vaccine, contact your health care provider or the health department. Go to www.kdheks.gov/flu for more flu facts.

met on Nov. 25 to make baby blankets.

In old business, the group needs to get ideas for some service projects. Ideas include caroling at the nursing homes, making cookies for teachers, making decorations and cards for nursing homes and serving pies with Holy Family Circle at the nursing homes.

Jody McCain suggested that the Lion's Club might need help serving the pancake feed on Saturday. The club did participate in that feed. The club also decided to help assemble Genesis food baskets on Friday.

In new business the next month's meeting will be the Christmas party at 4 p.m. Sunday at the 4-H Building. Each member should bring a \$5 gift and a potluck dish.

Song leader Joselyn McCain led in singing "America" and the recreation leaders led an interesting game of red rover.

- Caitlin Tinkham, reporter

'70s for the 70th day



KAYCIE CLAPP/Golden Plains
Kailee Wessel enjoyed disco dancing during the "70th Day of School" celebration Friday at Golden Plains Elementary. The kindergarten students enjoyed a day full of activities from the 1970s. Their teacher is Amy Patmon.

Colby Comets 4-H Club

The monthly meeting of the Colby Comets 4-H Club was held Nov. 17.

President Madison Zimmerman called the meeting to order and Cassandra Zimmerman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was, "What are you thankful for," with 26 members present.

Extension Agent Kurt Sexton visited the club and talked about the new weight limit rules for livestock for the 2015 fair.

4-H Council Representative Alex Zimmerman told the club that pizza sales start Friday, Dec. 19. Each member will be selling as an individual for cash incentives. Each family needs to sell three pizzas. The council will decide on which day they want for County Club days next year. The options are either Feb. 21 or March 21.

Club Leader Angela Zimmerman announced that the club got a purple seal, which is the best ribbon a club could get.

The baby blanket committee

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In old business, the group needs to get ideas for some service projects. Ideas include caroling at the nursing homes, making cookies for teachers, making decorations and cards for nursing homes and serving pies with Holy Family Circle at the nursing homes.

Jody McCain suggested that the Lion's Club might need help serving the pancake feed on Saturday. The club did participate in that feed. The club also decided to help assemble Genesis food baskets on Friday.

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Song leader Joselyn McCain led in singing "America" and the recreation leaders led an interesting game of red rover.

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Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.09
Corn (bushel)	\$3.76
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.14
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.48

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

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Free Press Viewpoint

Patriot Act needs major trimming

The so-called Patriot Act was sold to the nation as vital to preventing more terrorist attacks, then rammed through the Congress in the days and months after Sept. 11, 2001.

The bloated bill, in fact, contained many provisions with little relationship to terrorism, but extended government authority to keep track of citizens in many ways. Federal agents are authorized to issue letters seeking "business" records pertaining to both citizens and aliens, including library records, for instance. The custodian of the records couldn't tell anyone, especially the target of the letters.

While seldom if ever used, this no-warrant authority sent a chill through civil liberties circles and especially riled the American Library Association, which charged the law in effect violated people's right to read.

Other provisions, and related laws, led to a massive collection of information on telephone calls of citizens and foreigners alike. While the government claimed it was not accessing the content of the calls, not listening in, it had records of calls made, locations, destinations, length and the like.

Supposedly this allows the National Security Agency to build a giant database of calling patterns that would point to terrorist activity. In practice, no one really knows what this information is, or might be, used for, but it seems certain it might be used against Americans as well as terrorists.

In fact, many parts of the Patriot Act aim as much at opening up records of garden-variety criminals, tax cheats and others the government has long sought freedom to pursue.

Many who worry about civil liberties say the government has plenty of power in court to seek search warrants and investigate these people without the "superpowers" of the Patriot Act.

Other provisions cover bank secrecy, meaning that your bank has to confirm your identity when you open an account, compile extensive records, and rather than keeping them a secret, inform the government if anything seems suspect.

While no one in this country is complaining about unhindered surveillance of foreign communications, commonly assumed to go on all the time, many in other democratic countries find it offensive. The revelation that cell phones of national leaders had been compromised caused a stir from Germany to Brazil.

Key provisions, including the one allowing access to library records and one allowing warrants for roving wiretaps on unnamed "John Doe" telephones, come up for renewal this spring. Some members of Congress predict that won't happen, which could amount to a turning point for this misnomer of a law.

If the government wants information on Americans, let it get a warrant. If it wants bank or library information, let it get a warrant. That's what the Constitution says.

Americans need to be concerned, because with laws like this, huge, little understood, but opening many pathways for domestic spying, we could wake up one morning and find we have no rights left – except the right to be spied on.

– Steve Haynes

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the *Colby Free Press*, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mail colby.editor@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the *Free Press*, its staff or the owners.

COLBY FREE PRESS

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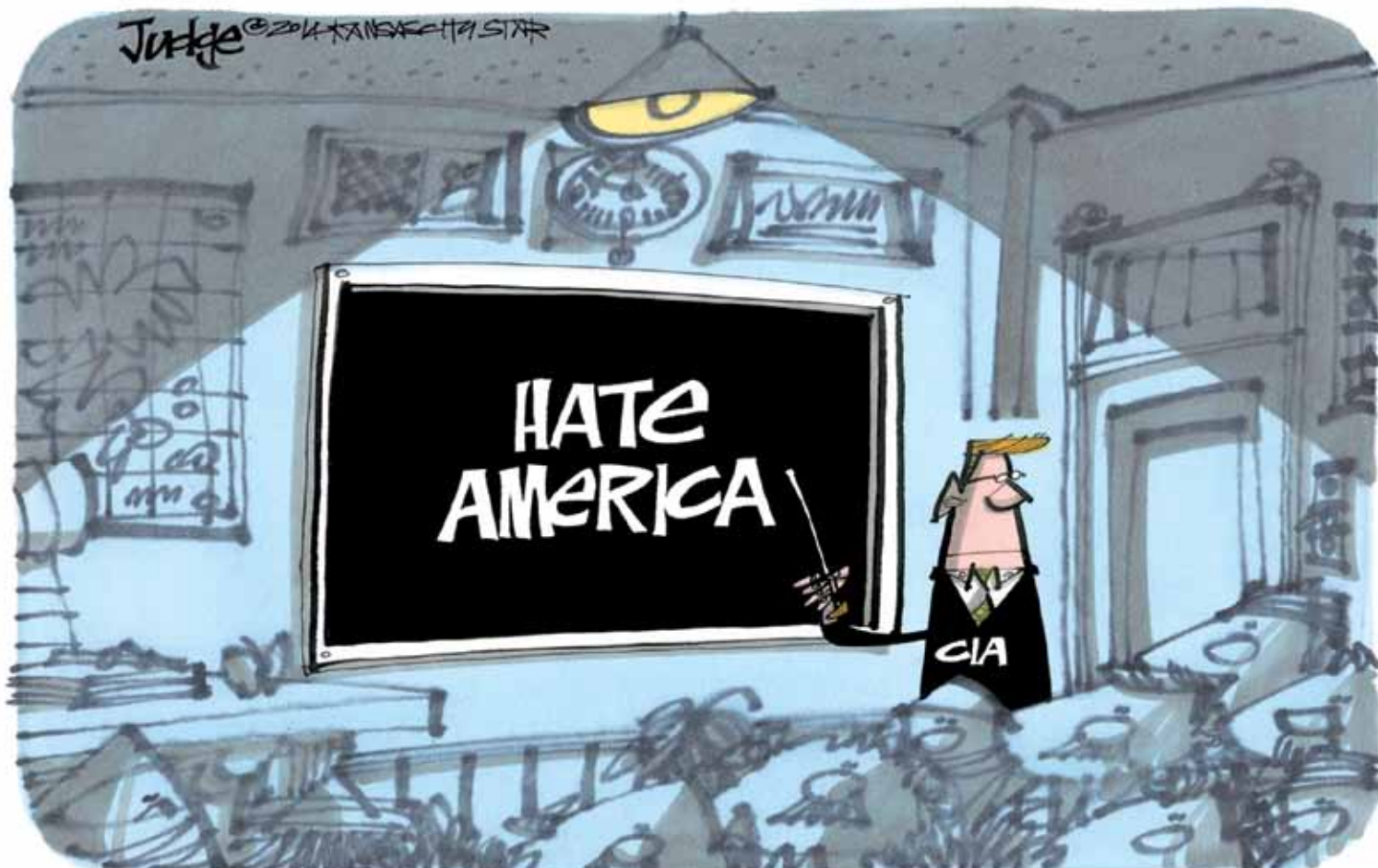
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OUR USE OF TORTURE TEACHES THE WORLD A LESSON...



Office cat starts starvation diet

Pity poor Pita. The cat is starving.

This new home isn't at all what she's used to, and she's not so sure she likes it all that well.

Poor baby. She was the princess, the joy, the center of daddy Dennis' life.

Now, she's just an overweight cat living at the newspaper office. Oh, she gets plenty of attention, but it's not like the old days.

We had been asked to find a home for Pita, a long-haired, overweight beauty. She was neutered and had all her shots.

We tried. We really did. But there isn't much of a market for an overweight used cat.

Tigger, the office cat hated her on sight. But Tigger was old and died within a few months.

Pita became the top cat at *The Oberlin Herald*.

It didn't help. It still wasn't like home.

We can only guess what home used to be like. But we do know that Dennis was a bachelor who stayed home a lot. We figure that Pita ate pretty much what he ate, and probably spent her evenings sitting with him in his recliner, enjoying some television or other not-so-strenuous activities.

Her vet records stress "no people food." But



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

just bring any kind of food into the office, and she'll be at your side, politely tapping on your leg with a paw to ask for a bite.

Her new vet, however, has put her on a strict regimen: one cup of ultra-diet cat food a day. Nothing more.

Pita is not fond of the new cat food and doesn't particularly like the new vet, who also relieved her of her front claws, with which she had been making confetti out of the spare newspapers in the back room.

I've warned everyone not to feed her any treats, since at 21 1/2 pounds, she can hardly waddle across the office.

I think, for the most part, people are trying, despite her pitiful meows at the sight or scent of anything edible. Well, one or two of us may have weakened.

However, the other day, Pita took things into her own paws.

I brought the last of my cherry tomatoes to the office for Linda's chickens. The tomatoes had been wonderful all summer – some of them still were pretty tasty – but we had grown tired of them and they were getting shriveled and not very appealing.

Chickens, however, will eat most anything, so I poured the rest of the marble-sized tomatoes – probably 30 or so – into a plastic bag and took it to the office.

Linda put it under her desk and continued working. When she was ready to go home, she grabbed the bag, and found it was leaking tomatoes.

There sat Pita with seeds in her whiskers and, I swear, a smile on her face.

Seems like chickens aren't the only ones that will eat almost anything.

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor'West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes@nwkansas.com

Be thankful for whole staff

One plane takes off with all of the administrators of a school or university. Another plane leaves with all of the secretaries and technicians. In which case does the school come to a stop? And in which case does the school run even better than ever?

OK, you are smiling. You know the answers.

It is easy to slip into bureaucratic arrogance and assign a value to staff according to their pay. This can lead us into ignoring their presence and dismissing their contributions. Some even consider staff to be nearly irrelevant to their institution.

Custodians, secretaries and even teachers are easily replaced, right? Unfortunately, we have this operational relationship backwards; it is the skilled worker who is often critical and the boss who is replaceable.

No one would dispute that a surgeon holds a critical responsibility at a hospital. But it takes skilled nurses to prepare and hand the surgeon the proper equipment. Backup equipment, from monitors to oxygen supplies, has to be maintained and kept accurate by a technician.

Custodians must thoroughly disinfect the operating room to prevent infections. And the hospital administrator is there to coordinate these services and make sure all staff have the supplies to do their jobs. So yes, institutions need good administrators.

When an electrical device goes out in a hospital, a whole chain of command may gather around to assess the problem, but it is the electrical technician, not the administrator or surgeon, who is the expert of the moment – and the only one in that group to be listened to.

Janitors are important. I was a janitor twice in my life. As a high school senior, I spent three hours after school each day cleaning the rooms in an elementary school next door. As a student, I showed teachers the vomit absorbent in the janitor closet and how to use it. Students can't learn and teachers can't teach when the odor of vomit fills a room.

Decades later, after completing my doctorate and beginning my search for a job in aca-



John Richard Schrock

• Education Frontlines

demia, I was again a daytime janitor for a short time. I was selected because I could slip in and out of formal meetings to clean up spills without disturbing the decorum of the moment. I arrived one mid-morning to have the front secretary hand me a plumbers helper and urgently point upward: "Women's bathroom. Third floor!"

This was a floor I normally did not work. On my way up, every secretary awaited my arrival and frantically pointed the way. An overcrowded party the previous night had, shall we say, clogged the system. I was, without doubt, the man of the hour, outranking even the executive director.

In 2000, I took a photo of a Shanghai high school on the one day each month when students stopped classes and everyone mopped floors and washed windows. It taught group responsibility to students: "We all made this mess; we all clean it up."

Today's Chinese schools have changed. They have hired staff to "clean it up." Now, their students are more cavalier about their trash. And more are prone to look down on what they perceive to be a lower class in a formerly classless society. Just like us.

Unfortunately, our supposedly classless society remains loaded with class prejudice. There are administrators and even teachers and professors who do not know the name of their custodians and support staff. They may even rant about an overlooked smudge, although their school is kept cleaner than their own homes.

Whether in schools or hospitals or our daily life, we are all working through this life together. Being paid more does not make a per-

son a better human. Nor does education give us a right to treat others worse. Technicians fix our cars. Plumb our houses. Remove our garbage. Clean our schools and houses.

If they are within our homes, our workplaces, our lives, they deserve to be known by name.

And they deserve our respect and our thanks.

John Richard Schrock, a professor of biology and department chair at a leading teacher's college, lives in Emporia. He emphasizes that his opinions are strictly his own.

Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774
roberts.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, 361-A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6527. Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 136-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov

State Rep. Don Hineman, (118th District) State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 50-S, Topeka, Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7636 don.hineman@house.ks.gov

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley



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Tinsley 12-10

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE
Nov. 18

9:30 a.m. – Spoke to subject about phone scam.
1:30 p.m. – Caller reported loud music. Not found.
2:01 p.m. – Caller reported loud music. Unable to locate music.
2:38 p.m. – Caller reported domestic disturbance. Disorderly conduct report filed.
3:04 p.m. – Caller reported lost medication. Reporting party found medication, cancelled the call.
4:24 p.m. – Subject reported receiving numerous phone calls, possible scam.

Nov. 19

11:20 a.m. – Funeral block.
6:34 p.m. – Forgery report filed for incident.

Nov. 20

2:20 a.m. – Caller reported domestic disturbance.
3:03 a.m. – Two Kansas Information Center hits.
4:30 a.m. – Caller reported a subject sleeping in the playground play area.
4:18 p.m. – Fourth of four forgery/theft reports filed.
6:59 p.m. – Making false writing report filed.
9:49 p.m. – Theft report filed for gas skip.

Nov. 21

8:18 a.m. – Caller reported unknown vehicle parked on property; wants it removed. Owner contacted.
1:11 p.m. – Report filed for lost handicap placard.
1:33 p.m. – Helped sheriff's office on call.
7:37 p.m. – Caller reported battery.

Nov. 22

2:18 a.m. – Driving under the influence report filed on traffic stop.
2:42 p.m. – Caller reported car struck parked car.
5:13 p.m. – Caller reported items taken from garage.
5:26 p.m. – Caller reported damage to Christmas lights.
6:06 p.m. – Clerk reported possible fight.
8:35 p.m. – K-9 deployment re-

port filed.

Nov. 23

7:47 a.m. – Attended Blue Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.
8:14 a.m. – Semi parked on highway to be moved.
9:43 a.m. – Spoke to driver about semi parked on highway.
8:20 p.m. – Narcotics violation report filed on traffic stop.
9:24 p.m. – Caller reported vehicle on wrong side of road. Located vehicle.

Nov. 24

8:46 a.m. – Narcotics violation report filed on traffic stop.
8:59 a.m. – Helped county attorney on call.
10:44 a.m. – K-9 deployment: assisted highway patrolman on traffic stop.
3:02 p.m. – Helped ambulance crew on call.
9:57 p.m. – Caller reported hit and run by a vehicle that hit a drive-through wall.

Nov. 25

7:25 a.m. – Helped ambulance crew.
7:27 a.m. – Caller reported dog at large. Owner contacted to put the dog in.
10:02 a.m. – Spoke to subject about vehicle not tagged but driven on city streets.
11:44 a.m. – Caller reported injured dog, unable to catch. Dog taken to Colby Animal Clinic.
2:45 p.m. – Caller reported dog at large. Unable to catch.
7:17 p.m. – Narcotics violation report filed.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF
Nov. 16

1:11 a.m. – Booked Ryan J. Abshear.
1:13 a.m. – Released Abshear
2:31 a.m. – Booked Manuel C. Quintanilla.
6:15 a.m. – Released Quintanilla
7:15 a.m. – Booked Arturo Valente Medina-Gomez.
9:05 a.m. – Released Toby Lucas Jones.
9:07 a.m. – Took prisoner to Larned State Hospital.
1:37 p.m. – Driving while re-

voked report filed on traffic stop at County Rds. 9 and CC.

3:31 p.m. – Booked John Lewis Stephens.

5:14 p.m. – Hit and run accident report filed for pickup striking a parked utility trailer behind 870 N. Franklin.

Nov. 17

12:04 a.m. – 911 caller reported a fire at the Free Breakfast Inn. Turned over to Oakley.

10:53 a.m. – Six semis stopped in the 1200 block of E. Fourth. One was broke down and waiting for parts.

3:26 p.m. – Released Jerry Lynn Margheim Jr.

3:55 p.m. – Served arrest warrant on Arturo Valente Medina-Gomez.

7:19 p.m. – Rawlins County Sheriff's Office advised of third party report of oil truck traveling without lights on.

8:36 p.m. – Caller reported man sending her threatening texts made against law enforcement and others.

9:39 p.m. – Booked Dee Petty.
10:32 p.m. – 911 callers reported man and woman fighting on County Rd. R. Report filed.

11:36 p.m. – Booked William D. Boehme Jr.
11:43 p.m. – Released Boehme.

Nov. 18

2:31 a.m. – Released Dee Petty.

9:58 a.m. – Caller reported van parked at County Rds. 17 and W. Vehicle towed to Law Enforcement Center.

1:53 p.m. – Arrest warrant served on John Stephens.

3:42 p.m. – Released Juan Angel Salinas.

Nov. 19

9:55 a.m. – Released John Lewis Stephens.

8:57 p.m. – Booked Oscar Dominguez.

7:55 p.m. – Booked Uriel Carrillo.

9:18 p.m. – Illegal dumping – two couches dumped at County Rds. 20 and Z.

Nov. 20

3:51 a.m. – Booked Louann M. Medrano.

4:03 a.m. – Released Medrano.
4:16 a.m. – Booked Chase F.C. Cloe.

9:49 a.m. – Traveler's aid.
2:30 p.m. – Released Cloe.

Nov. 21

10:32 a.m. – Walk through at Brewster School.

12:49 p.m. – House broken into.
12:52 p.m. – Traveler's aid.

2 p.m. – Booked Graham Lee Ellis.

5:24 p.m. – Booked Christopher Anthony Gilliland.

11:49 p.m. – Booked Britton Lee.

11:58 p.m. – Released Lee.

Nov. 22

12:09 a.m. – Booked Brandon Trotter.

12:22 a.m. – Released Trotter.
12:33 a.m. – Booked Jordan Hutchinson.

12:40 a.m. – Released Hutchinson.

4 a.m. – Booked Daniel Steining.

4:09 a.m. – Released Steining.

1:06 p.m. – Traffic control for subjects with flat tire at eastbound I-70 mile 69.

10:32 p.m. – Booked Tyler J. Newlon.

1:03 p.m. – Released Newlon.
11:13 p.m. – Booked Zachary R. Lloyd.

11:27 p.m. – Released Lloyd.

Nov. 23

7:39 a.m. – Attended Blue Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

2:05 p.m. – Released Graham Lee Ellis.

9:05 p.m. – Caller reported someone on property in Menlo.

9:16 p.m. – Booked Zachary Stephen Layton.

Nov. 24

9:12 a.m. – Assisted county attorney on call on N. Range.

10:12 a.m. – Booked Sergio Manuel Dominguez.

10:24 a.m. – Released Dominguez.

Nov. 25

10:02 a.m. – Spoke to subject about vehicle not tagged but driven on city streets.

10:54 a.m. – Traffic control for vehicle broke down on K-25 south

of Colby.

11:13 a.m. – Traffic block at K-25 and County Rd. W; moving cattle.

12:23 p.m. – Driving while suspended, expired tag, no insurance report filed on traffic stop at I-70 eastbound rest area.

1:23 p.m. – Booked Juan Antonio Zuniga.

1:34 p.m. – Released Zuniga.

2:19 p.m. – Released Zachary

Stephen Layton.

2:35 p.m. – Booked Cameron Christopher Sanders.

7:47 p.m. – Booked Natasha Besser.

7:59 p.m. – Released Besser.

8:08 p.m. – Booked Taylor Cumbee.

8:17 p.m. – Released Cumbee.

8:24 p.m. – Booked Omar Williams.

8:33 p.m. – Released Williams.

Topeka police take officers out of school

TOPEKA (AP) – The Topeka Police Department will remove some officers from the local school district because it's providing far more than its contract requires, the new police chief said.

Soon after James Brown became chief in October he informed the Topeka School District of his intentions, *The Topeka Capital-Journal* (bit.ly/1yurCQV) reported. Each year the school district signs a contract with the police department to boost its own 12-person police force.

Last year's contract called for the department to provide four officers to the school district for a fee of \$366,000; instead, it's been providing 11. Brown has pulled two officers from the district and said he plans to remove more.

Superintendent Julie Ford said her district can't pay \$366,000 a year for fewer services than it previously received. She said she was "taken aback" when Brown noti-

fied the district of his plans.

"Officers in those schools are able to establish and maintain positive relationships with students, and create an environment of trust that can last into the student's adult years," Ford wrote in a letter to Brown and City Manager Jim Colson on Friday. "What better place to promote neighborhood policing than in neighborhood schools across the Topeka community?"

Ron Brown, head of the district's police department, said he and his staff would make the best of the situation.

"The Topeka police officers are very important to the overall safety and security of Topeka Public Schools," Brown said. "If Chief Brown chooses to pull some of those officers, we will continue to do the very best we can with the number of officers we have remaining."

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2014

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- Hutchinson
- Legend
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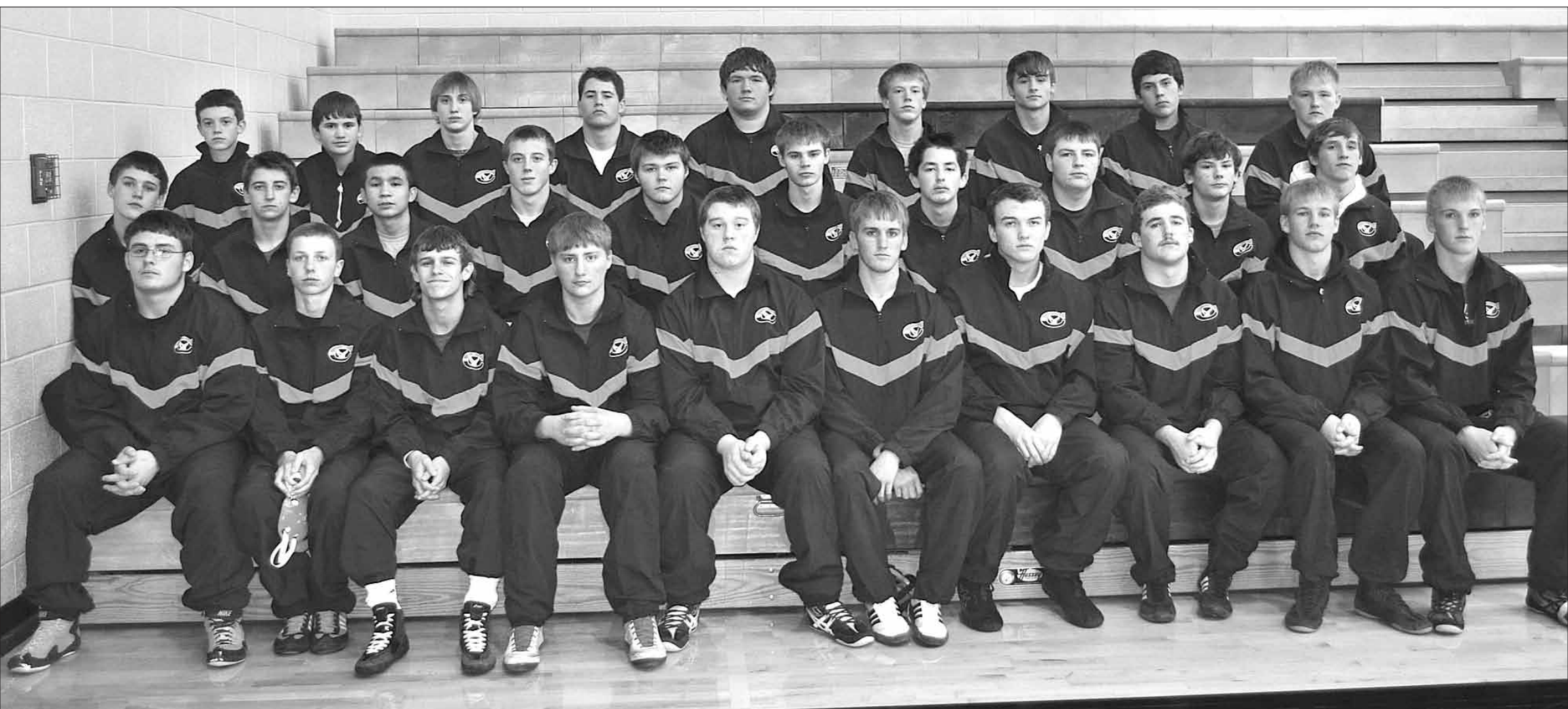
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- The top finisher in each pool will compete in a round robin format at the Community Building on Saturday afternoon battling for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.
- The second place finishers in each pool will also make a trip to the Community Building to compete for 4th, 5th, and 6th place.
- The 3rd and 4th place finishers in each pool will likewise compete on Saturday afternoon at the High School for the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th places.
- The 5th and 6th place finishers of their respective pools will also compete on Saturday afternoon at the Elementary Gym for 13th thru 18th place.
- Every team is guaranteed seven team duals.

2014 Eagle Invitational Pool Schedule


Pool A									
High School	Mat	Fri - 2:00	Fri - 3:30	Fri - 5:00	Fri - 6:30	Fri - 8:00	Sat - 8:00	Sat - 9:30	Sat - 11:00
1. Burlington	1	1 vs. 6	5 vs. 6	2 vs. 5	1 vs. 3	2 vs. 6	3 vs. 5	2 vs. 4	3 vs. 6
2. Phillipsburg									
3. Mcpherson	2	3 vs. 4	2 vs. 3	6 vs. 4	4 vs. 5	1 vs. 4		1 vs. 5	1 vs. 2
4. Colby									
5. Hays									
6. Oberlin									

Pool B									
Comm. Building	Mat	Fri - 2:00	Fri - 3:30	Fri - 5:00	Fri - 6:30	Fri - 8:00	Sat - 8:00	Sat - 9:30	Sat - 11:00
1. Chaparral	1	1 vs. 6	5 vs. 6	2 vs. 5	1 vs. 3	2 vs. 6	3 vs. 5	2 vs. 4	3 vs. 6
2. Concordia									
3. Liberal									
4. Pine Creek	2	3 vs. 4	2 vs. 3	6 vs. 4	4 vs. 5	1 vs. 4		1 vs. 5	1 vs. 2
5. Wray									
6. Goodland									

Pool C									
Elem. Gym	Mat	Fri - 2:00	Fri - 3:30	Fri - 5:00	Fri - 6:30	Fri - 8:00	Sat - 8:00	Sat - 9:30	Sat - 11:00
1. Dodge City	1	1 vs. 6	5 vs. 6	2 vs. 5	1 vs. 3	2 vs. 6	3 vs. 5	2 vs. 4	3 vs. 6
2. Hutchinson									
3. Legend									
4. Oakley	2	3 vs. 4	2 vs. 3	6 vs. 4	4 vs. 5	1 vs. 4		1 vs. 5	1 vs. 2
5. Valley Center									
6. Pine Creek II									

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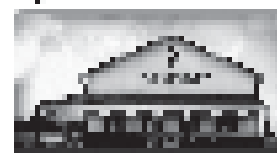
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Estate Sale - 1208 Center Street, Goodland, Friday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sat., Dec. 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Furniture, antiques, bedroom set, walnut desk, vintage glass, pressed, cut, china, lamps, jewelry, dining, living room, pictures. No Children In The House. Thanks!
---12/10---12/12---

Marie Lane Clothing Boutique Sack Sale December 11 - 13, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Small Sacks \$50, Medium Sacks \$100, and Large Sacks \$150 on all merchandise. Kansas Country Store Open House December 13, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Come see us for unique gift items.
---12/8---12/12---

Brown's Consignment Auction - Sunday, December 14th, 10 a.m. Hoxie 4-H Building. Large selection of items consigned. Small estate with furniture. Booking saleable items for January 4th, February 1st, March 1st auctions, book early for spacing. 785-675-3767 Mickey Brown.
---12/8---12/12---

O' Christmas Tree - Fraser and Noble Trees, Wreaths, Garland and so much more! We invite you to our 5th Christmas Tree Open House with cookies, cider and hot chocolate too! Sunday, November 30, 2014, 1 - 6 p.m., 3380 W. 4th Street in Colby, KS. Inquiries or to pre-order, call: Cathy Carney 785-443-3448 or Joyce Maupin 785-443-1064. Open weekdays 5 - 8 p.m. & weekends 1 - 6 p.m.
---11/20---12/10---

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---9/3---01/15---

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---12/15---TFN---

Classified ad deadlines (word ads only). Noon the day before publication (noon Friday for Monday paper). Ads going into the Country Advocate need to be in on Thursdays. Please check your ad the first time it runs. If you find an error, please call at (785) 462-3963 so it can be corrected, since we will not be responsible for errors after that first day. The Colby Free Press.
---3/1---TFN---

Help Wanted

Farm Equip Mechanic, 1 temp job, 12/20/14-4/30/15, JKD, Inc, Colby, KS. Diagnose, adjust, repair, overhaul farm equip. Drive trucks to move equip and get parts. 3 mo exp, clean MVR, emplmnt ref req'd. 45 hrs/wk, M-F. On the job training not provided. \$16.95/hr, \$25.43/hr OT. Mail resume to PO Box 975, Colby, KS 67701.
---12/10---12/11---

Help Wanted

Driver Wanted for Water Truck. Need CDL A with X endorsement. Based in Colby. Start at \$18 plus medical. Call Garret 620-255-6813.
---12/10---1/2---

Kansas Grain Inspection Service is taking applications for a sampler at it's service point in Colby. Work involves sampling trucks and railcars to obtain grain samples, and preparing them for analysis. This is a full-time position with frequent overtime. Successful applicants will receive on-the-job training to use in obtaining necessary licensing. Applicants must have a valid driver's license. Good math and verbal skills are necessary. We are a drug-free workplace. For further information, contact our Colby office at 785-462-8347 or e-mail ksgrain2@st-tel.net.
---12/10---12/15---

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---12/8---12/10---

Fitz Meats - Full or part time positions available. No prior experience needed. Competitive wages starting at \$10 per hour. For more information e-mail Ed at ed@fitzmeats.com, call 785-953-1382 or stop by for an application at 3547 Highway 40, Oakley, KS 67748.
---12/1---12/19---

Make a Career Call and "Taste The Success" Part Time Detailer, Frito-Lay, Inc. the world's snack food leader, has an immediate opening in Colby. Responsibilities include merchandising our complete line of products to existing accounts supporting lead RSR, building displays. You will be using your own vehicle to drive to store locations. Candidates must possess the following: Clean Driving Record, Weekend & Holiday Availability, HS Diploma or Equivalent Preferred. Frito-Lay offers a competitive pay of \$10/hr and flexible schedule, approximately 4-8 hrs per week. Interested candidate must apply at www.fritolayemployment.com EOE M/F/D/V
---12/1---12/12---

Help Wanted

Experienced finish carpenter wanted for full-time help at Mingo Custom Woods. Self-starter, attention to detail a must. Will train the right individual. Call first at 785-462-2200.
---12/3---12/17---

Customer Service Representative/ Teller - Peoples State Bank, Colby. Full or Part-time positions available. Requires dependability, cash handling and excellent skills in customer service. Send resume to PO Box 869, Colby, KS 67701.
---11/28---12/11---

Rawlins County USD 105 is accepting applications for Full Time Transportation Director. Benefits include full single health insurance, KPERS retirement, life insurance, and vacation, personal, and sick leave. Job descriptions are available at the district office. To obtain an application, please come to the district office at 205 N. 4th Street, call 785-626-3236 or go to www.usd105.org. Rawlins County USD 105 is an equal opportunity employer.
---11/26---12/10---

F/T Class A CDL Drivers must have clean MVR, at least 2 yr. OTR experience, DOT with alcohol and drug testing, Hopper experience a plus, home weekly, EOE. Call 785-462-0087.
---10/29---4/24---

Rawlins County EMS is now accepting full-time and part-time applications for EMT's, AEMT's and Paramedics. Applicants should be motivated, comfortable taking care of patients for long transport times and dedicated individuals to work in a rural setting. Applicants must possess a valid Kansas Driver's License and be a certified Kansas EMT, AEMT or Paramedic. AEMT and/or Paramedic must have ACLS, and all positions require a CPR certification. No residency is required. Rawlins County EMS is a Type IIA service and is the primary 911 service. Rawlins County is located in North West Kansas at the intersection of Highway 25 and Highway 36. Rawlins County offers competitive pay with a great benefits package. Applications are available to pick-up, email and/or fax. Submit an application or a resume to Rawlins County EMS Office P.O. Box 183, Atwood, Kansas 67730, Fax: 785-626-9486, or email: racoems@gmail.com. For more information please call Phone: 785-626-8052 or Cell: 785-626-6001.
---9/12---TFN---

Great Western Tire of Colby, Inc., 1170 S. Country Club Drive, is now accepting applications for all positions. Positions included, but not limited to, lube oil & tire, truck tire, service call, and alignment technicians. Experience required, but will train the right person. Valid driver's license is a requirement. Full time position includes competitive salary and benefits. Apply in person, EOE. Questions please call 785.462.2100.
---5/29---TFN---

Help Wanted

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---11/26---12/10---

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---2/12---TFN---

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---6/16---TFN---

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---11/26---12/10---

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---12/4---12/10---

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---12/10---12/15---

Houses for Sale

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---11/28---12/26---

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---12/4---12/10---

Misc. for Sale

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---12/10---12/29---

For Sale - Christmas candy, peanuts, overalls, insulated wear, groceries and more. Karl's Cash Store, Selden 785-386-4246.
---12/8---12/12---

Pheasants For Sale - Dan Lankas, Atwood, KS 785-626-6002.
---12/5---1/1---

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---12/1---12/29---

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---12/8---12/12---

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---12/3---12/15---

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---11/17---12/12---

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---10/1---TFN---

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---1/18---TFN---

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---12/10---12/29---

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---12/1---1/5---

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---11/7---3/30---

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---10/31---12/26---

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---5/9---TFN---

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Our office will be closing at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Dec. 31. We will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25 for Christmas and Jan. 1 for New Years.

We will have a paper Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday both weeks. We will not print a paper on Thursday or Friday, but the office will be open on Friday Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Season's Greetings

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Thank you for your business this past year!

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Titans pull away for win

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press
rbheadley@nwkansas.com

Waves of talent got back on track as the Triplains-Brewster boys pulled away from Heartland Christian, 64-49, in Monday night's Sagebrush Tournament opener at Brewster.

The Titans (1-1) dropped a tough 52-29 season opener to Logan Friday evening.

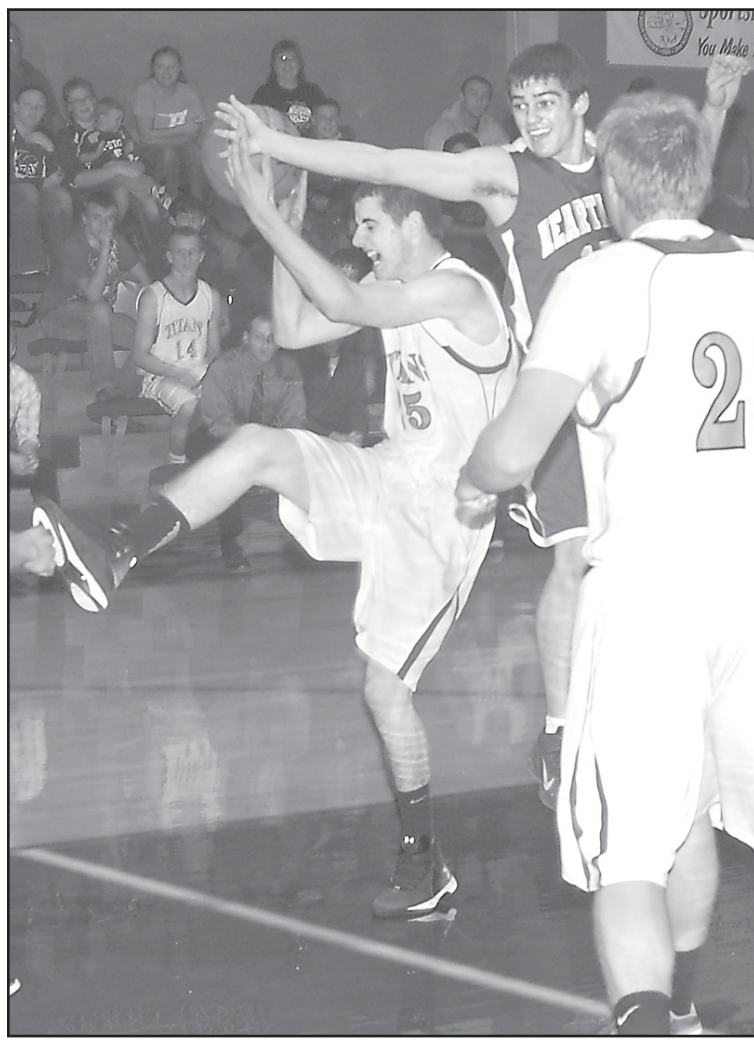
Teams often make great strides from game one to game two, and 10 different Titans hit shots to fight off a feisty Heartland Christian team playing its opener.

Junior Taylor Stramel's 19 points paced a Titan attack that often featured coach Michael Collett replacing five players with another fresh five.

Colton Berg's 29 points kept the Crusaders within striking range while earning top scoring honors for this game.

"Colton knows the game so well. He just has basketball instincts that you can't teach," coach Ruben Schneider said.

Complete scoring summaries:
Triplains-Brewster (64) — Taylor Stramel 19 points, Jaden Schmidt 8, Alvaro Ramos 8, Tad Holm 6, Coleton Rogge 6, Jace Jorgensen 5, Fred Schertz 5, Ryan Gfeller 4, Layton Werth 2, Justin Schmidt 1. **Three-point goals:** Rogge 2.
Heartland Christian (49) —



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Heartland Christian's Brennan Ziegelmeier tried his best to reach for a rebound over this Triplains-Brewster Titan during their Sagebrush Tournament game in Brewster Monday night.

Colton Berg 26, Brennan Ziegelmeier 9, Shawn Sullivant 4, Michael Maurath 4, Nick Delzeit 2, Brook Ziegelmeier 2, Lander Niblock 2. **Three-point goals:** Berg 2, Brennan Ziegelmeier 1.

The Crusaders played again on Tuesday against St. Francis, while Triplains-Brewster's next Sagebrush tourney game is Friday against those same Indians to finish pool play.

Other tournament games on Monday featured the Logan girls defeating Weskan, 55-17, as Kadee Braun netted a game-high 19 points.

The Logan boys featured three players scoring either 14 or 15 points during a 51-30 win over Weskan. Both Logan teams will play again on Friday.

Dighton defeats No. 1 'Dogs

Dighton High took charge early and defeated the 1A Division II No. 1-rated Golden Plains girls, 54-30, in Tuesday's Castle Rock Classic at Quinter.

The Bulldogs (1-1) scored a 42-25 opening win over Western Plains Friday evening. However, they fell behind Dighton 14-4 after one quarter and trailed 27-14

by halftime. The Golden Plains boys also lost 60-30 to Quinter Tuesday evening. More details will be featured in an upcoming edition.

Bottom 10 greets season's baddest football teams

While all the debate focused on college football's top four playoff teams, which teams have secured American's bottom 10 where there no pressure to play bowl games named after potatoes, poinsettias, pinstrips or fruits?

ESPN.com and reporter Ryan McGee offered this insightful list which includes a Big 12 team.

1. Georgia State (1-11)

"The Panthers presented a particular challenge to the committee on three reasons. A. 1. They didn't play (last week). Then we realized that most weeks Georgia State seemed as if they were idle even if they weren't, so it wasn't a problem anymore. 2. They managed to fall into last place in the nation in points allowed on defense, even without playing, so we viewed that as another loss. And 3. We subtracted style points because their name is confusing. We spent an hour discussing Georgia Southern being jobbed out of a bowl game before we realized that this wasn't the same team."

2. SMU (1-11)

"The committee was fully aware that we would receive some criticism for having SMU ranked No. 1 essentially all season long

and then moving them out on the final weekend. And we did consider leaving them in the top bottom spot because of their inability to properly execute the Victory Formation at the end of the game and a decidedly weak Gatorade jug effort. But the committee also recognized that the Mustangs did manage to avoid becoming the first team to finish last in both scoring offense and defense since 2005. And we were aware of the fact that there should be at least one Texas school that didn't get jobbed by a selection committee this weekend."

3. U-Can't (2-10)

"The committee penalized Connecticut (or UConn) for losing to SMU because we agreed that we likely could have also scored 20 against that defense had we grabbed the hotel cleaning staff to fill out our roster and suited up."

4. UNLV (2-11)

5. Wisconsin (10-3)

"At halftime of the Big Ten championship game, Secretary Albright recused herself from the committee process in order to call the National Guard to see if perhaps the Badgers had gotten lost en route to Indianapolis and had,

in fact, never showed up in a 59-0 loss to Ohio State."

6. The Boys From Oopsilanti (2-10). Also known as Eastern Michigan University from Ypsilanti, Mich.

7. My Hammy of Ohio (2-10) Also known as Miami of Ohio.

8. New Mexico State (2-10)

The Aggies gave 1-10 Idaho their only win, so take those Vandals' spot.

9. I-Ow!-Uh State (2-10)

Indians erase 12-point Crusader lead in fourth

Heartland Christian's response to an opening loss was terrific for better than three quarters Tuesday night.

Unfortunately for Crusader fans, St. Francis found its best game midway through the fourth period while rallying to a 60-53 Sagebrush Tournament win in Brewster.

The Indians prevailed despite an amazing three-pointers from Crusader guard Colton Berg.

Berg's 32 points total followed up his 26 against Triplains-Brewster Monday evening.

The Crusaders still saw a 12-point, fourth-quarter lead slip away.

"Our team chemistry on the floor isn't quite there yet. It's early in the season," coach Ruben Schneider said. "We still did some really good things. And I'm not taking anything away from our future opponents, but these might have been the two toughest games we'll play this season."

Tied 24-24 at halftime, Berg's 13 third-period points helped put Heartland Christian in the lead.

Junior Shawn Sullivant would join Berg in double figures with 11 points, but no other Crusader scored more than four.

They'll have one more chance at a Sagebrush tourney victory against Healy on Friday.

"Our guys have the confidence from the (state champion) success they had in football," Schneider said after Monday's game against Triplains-Brewster. "They want to have that same kind of success here."

The girls' contest on Tuesday featured a 48-25 St. Francis victory over Heartland Christian.

Freshman Abbey Schmeiser's 12 points paced the Crusaders. She also tallied 12 vs. 1A Division II No. 6 Triplains-Brewster on Monday.

Classmate Carrie Meyers added 10 points against St. Francis. Senior Cayla Carter hit one three-point shot.

Eagles earn Shootout honors

Colby High junior Chandler Comfort claimed the Hays City Shootout's "Hot Shot Shooting" contest championship last weekend.

Comfort captured the boys' title while Megan Koenigsman of Hays Thomas More Prep-Marin was girls' champ in a competition that involved all eight Shootout schools.

It was a fitting victory for Comfort, who showed great shooting

touchdown during his 17-point effort against DeSoto Friday evening. He drilled four shots from beyond the three-point arc.

Comfort added another 14 points against Hays TMP on Saturday.

Colby High also claimed three All-Academic honors which was surpassed by no other school. The All-Academic selections were seniors Hannah Strange, Aaron Faber and Sabryn O'Gara.



Colby High School

Colby High's Sabryn O'Gara and Aaron Faber (above) joined senior Hannah Strange (below) as Eagles who earned All-Academic honors during the Hays City Shootout last weekend.

K-State tops Braves

MANHATTAN (AP). — Having seen his team score 80 points four times this season, Bruce Weber realizes what the Kansas State can be offensively.

But now he stares at back-to-back games in which the Wildcats scored less than 20 points the first half.

Kansas State (5-4) answered ad-

versity Tuesday night, but Weber isn't ready to hand out awards.

Nino Williams had 14 points and 12 rebounds, Marcus Foster had 13 points, and Kansas State escaped against Bradley 50-47 at Bramlage Coliseum.

"I don't think we have one," Weber said of the team's identity crisis.



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Titans triumph in Sagebrush

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press
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Facing a whirlwind of scorers to start this Sagebrush Tournament, coach Ruben Schneider marveled at how the young Heartland Christian girls kept their focus Monday evening.

After all, the Crusaders were six girls facing 1A Division II's No. 6-rated team featuring two six-footers.

The Triplains-Brewster Titans weren't allowing any upset shockers to blow through Brewster. They survived a 48-47 thriller at Logan Friday night when senior Dara Roulier hit a jumper with six seconds left.

On Monday, senior Shayna Rogge gobbled up points faster than chocolate cherries at a chubby kids' Christmas gathering.

Rogge totaled all 20 of her points before the halftime break.

The Titans' dangerous 6-foot duo of Roulier (10 points) and junior Kelly Lamb (11) teamed to tally another 21.

Several future super Titans like freshman Koebe Lorg (eight points) then put the final touches on a 58-28 win over Heartland Christian.

However, all that didn't stop the Crusaders from playing a terrific fourth quarter.

They outscored the Sagebrush tourney home team, 13-6, as freshman Abbey Schmeiser finished a solid 12-point high school hoops debut.

"Our girls looked adversity in the eye tonight," Schneider said. "They are six girls learning a whole new offense, yet they never stopped working. They have so much potential to do good things



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Heartland Christian senior Cayla Carter (2) hustled to challenge a potential basket from Triplains-Brewster senior Alicia Barrie during Monday night's Sagebrush Tournament opener at Brewster. Other Titans pictured are freshman Koebe Lorg (24) and senior Shayna Rogge (12). Crusaders about to join Carter on defense are freshman Carrie Myers (3) and Abbey Schmeiser.

this season."

No Crusader kept a sharper focus than senior Cayla Carter, who looked past Titan defenders to drill two three-pointers.

It was Carter's basketball game since the 2012-13 season. She suffered a knee injury during track season that spring.

"She can definitely shoot it," Schneider said.

The Titans (2-0 record) take their sharp shooting into Friday's 6 p.m. pool game against St. Francis.

A win might set up Saturday's rematch with Logan to decide the Sagebrush Tournament champion.

The Saturday title game is set for 5:30 p.m.

Watch for results in upcoming editions of the *Free Press*.

Heartland Christian (28) — Schmeiser 12 points, Carter 9, Quinlee Niblock 3, Carrie Myers 2, Allie Mollendor 2. **Three-pointers:** Carter 3, Niblock.

Triplains-Brewster (58) — Rogge 20 points, Lamb 11, Roulier 10, Lorg 8, Alicia Barrie 4, Katie Hillery 2, Taryn Stramel 2, Taylyr Cheatum 1. **Three-pointers:** none.

Crusaders, Titans know what counts

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press
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Faith is a reason to appreciate every season.

That was the "strong statement" made after Monday night's intense Heartland Christian vs. Triplains-Brewster boys' basketball game.

In today's climate where loud protests are seemingly all the rage, several Titans and Crusaders quietly gathered together without waving signs or looking for cameras.

Players who'd gone toe-to-

toe and traded some tough fouls locked arm-in-arm to share a few moments of quiet prayer.

Fans and parents also appreciated the moment without — thankfully — a single loud protest.

"I'm not sure who did (suggest the prayer), but it takes a strong young person of faith to do so," Heartland Christian coach Ruben Schneider said. "I appreciated how the Triplains-Brewster players joined them. I know (Titans) coach Michael Collett very well, we grew up not far from each other. I know he is also a man of very strong faith."

Upcoming contests

A glance at upcoming sports for nearby schools:

Thursday

Wrestling: Colby triangular with Oakley, Pine Creek, 5 p.m., at Colby High School.

Girls/boys basketball: Hays at Colby, 6:30 p.m. in the Colby Community Building.

Girls/boys basketball: Golden Plains at Castle Rock Classic, TBA

College wrestling: Colby at Pratt, 6:30 p.m.

Friday

Wrestling: Colby Eagle Invitational, 2 p.m.

Girls/boys basketball: Sagebrush Shootout in Brewster. Heartland Christian vs. Healy, 6 and 7:30 p.m.; Triplains-Brewster vs. St. Francis, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Girls/boys basketball: Golden Plains at Castle Rock Classic, TBA

Saturday

Wrestling: Colby Eagle Invitational, 8 a.m.

NFL quarterback not to face charges

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton was not charged in connection with the two-car

crash Tuesday involving him and another driver near the team's stadium in Charlotte.

On Wednesday, the Charlotte

Mecklenburg Police Department said that Newton was traveling at the posted 35 mph when the other driver pulled out in front of him.

Newton was discharged from Carolinas Medical Center this morning. He was said to be sore but in good spirits.

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