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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Farewell to 2020

### College audit a welcome end to year

By Marian Ballard  
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The Colby Community College trustees heard something at their December meeting that hadn't happened in recent memory: The college got an "unmodified," or clean, report on its annual audit.

Danielle Hollingsworth of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, reporting on the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, that the accountants had found no exceptions or problems with the college's books and finances.

For an institution has used to struggle with money and which once faced many problems to fix, it was a refreshing change.

"You can see that we are giving you a unmodified opinion," Hollingsworth said. "We basically feel that there is no material misstatement within the financials and that everything is being presented fairly. That is the highest opinion you can receive, and we like to see it."

On the statement of net position — or balance sheet — Hollingsworth said the college ended with total assets and deferred outflows of resources of \$32,096,041, an increase of almost \$2.4 million over 2019. That included \$875,000 for the health insurance self-funding reserve the college started, she said.

With total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources of \$11,707,482, \$650,000 less than the previous year, the college's total net position was \$20,388,559, she said, an increase of almost \$5 million.

On the income statement, or statement of revenues and expenses, Hollingsworth pointed out an increase in net position

of \$5,293,035, nearly \$3 million more than 2019.

"A lot of that is attributed to contributions, and that was for the (Steve Lampe Athletic Center), so you do have to ... take that into consideration," she said, "but you still had a very healthy, positive increase over the prior year."

Hollingsworth went on to say there were no budget violations and no deficiencies in internal controls. A compliance audit for student financial aid received an unmodified opinion.

The auditors' governance letter pointed out a couple of instances where Return to Title IV paperwork was not completed within the required 45 days, but that, the letter said, did not constitute a compliance finding because they were not required to return any money.

She praised the management's analysis prepared by Vice President of Finance Carolyn Kasdorf.

"It's a very good recap of what happened during the year," Hollingsworth said, "so if you want to know why something increased over last year, I'm not going to go through all that, but this is a really good section to read and it will give you that information."

The board approved the audit unanimously, and Carter added his thanks for Kasdorf's work, mentioning the vast improvement in the college's financial reporting and status over her tenure. This was her last board meeting, as she has moved to a new job in Indiana.

Earlier, trustees approved a facilities and usage policy which had come up for review in October; at that time, someone noted that there was a reference to rental fees, but no indication of what

See "COLLEGE," Page 2

### Board's party thanks teachers

By Deitra Wedd  
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Colby School Superintendent Katina Brenn and Principal Chris Gardner said they had a small-group, mask-wearing, socially distanced Christmas Party for teachers and staff on the last day before Christmas break.

Brenn told the Colby School Board they had early release, with students going home at 1 p.m. Teachers came together at 1:30 for the holiday party.

"The format is a lot like our PE days, when we had teachers split out in about 21 different rooms. We had a max capacity in each room of 12 individuals and we had masks on," she said. "It was really a team-building time, a time for teachers to come together for a little bit of downtime, to have some fun together, to celebrate the fact that we got through first semester without going out on remote and celebrate all the work that they have done."

"I will tell you, what started out as small contributions, our community really stepped forward and for two hours nonstop, we were calling names on the PA for raffle

prizes and giving away things that community members came in with. So we want to really thank the community for doing that. The teachers very much appreciated everything that they did; we got a lot of thank you's."

Gardner said he wanted to thank the board for allowing that.

"I got several emails afterwards," he said, "and the bottom line of it was, it was fun and I didn't realize how much I needed that. (That) is what I got from quite a few emails. So, thank you guys for allowing that. It was really a great way to end the semester."

Brenn said teachers have worked together and collaborated a lot over the last semester, but the fact that they could come together like that and be able to laugh and relax and not have an agenda or something that they had to get done was really nice.

"You could feel the tension before that," she said. "Every time we would meet, you could just feel it on everybody."

"After just a short two hours of being together and doing that team building, you could just feel it wasn't there. It was nice to have that feeling again that we were coming together and the tension wasn't there from everything that's been going on."



The corona virus that caused numerous interruptions in life and new construction dominated much of the news in March. A contractor dredged out the bottom of Villa High Pond (above) and hauled off the muck. In March, once the bottom

dried, soda ash was worked in to make it harder for water to sink into the ground. Fish habitat was installed, then slowly submerged by runoff from winter snows.  
EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

## ... And then came March

"In like a lamb, out like a lion" is a good description for March 2020. Days after Colby City Council members toured the new county Justice Center, which was moving along nicely, various groups were selling food for fundraisers — pancakes and soup — and the Colby High FFA held its Ag Olympics.

The former Montana Mike's/Sirloin Stockade/Kansas Bar and Grill building bit the dust March 3 to make way for a new Casey's General Store, though completion and opening would be delayed for months by the growing corona-virus threat.

The city was gearing up to take bids on several construction projects as well, from improvements at Villa High Park to street and drainage work on King's Court, to the brand-new Willard Avenue, a block long, connecting Nutrien Ag on Sunflower Avenue to Country Club Drive. State emergency orders would have an impact on some of those projects, though work on the Justice Center took the biggest hit, as it was almost entirely indoors, where social

See "MARCH," Page 2

## 2020 fell in between

By Ted Anthony  
AP National Writer

GLENSHAW, Pa. — The enormous signs, selling for just \$9.99, greet shoppers at the suburban supermarket's entryway, carrying a holiday message that means something very different this year:

"GATHER," they shout, even as the state's governor urges citizens to do precisely otherwise.

To come together or to stay apart: one of the countless, sometimes excruciating dilemmas that Americans find themselves caught between as a disheartening year is finally and enthusiastically shown the door.

See "BETWEEN," Page 2



Work on the Thomas County Justice Center continued (above), with interior metal studs going up where the walls would be. The City Council toured the building, stopping in one of the two courtrooms, where workers shaped plywood on the elevated platform where the judge would sit.

A Colby landmark, the Sirloin Stockade building on South Range Avenue that became Montana Mike's, fell to a wrecking crew (below) as the land was cleared for the construction of a new Casey's General Store. Work would later stop for several weeks as the virus pandemic halted many projects.  
EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press



Weather



**National Weather Service**  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 27. South wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon.  
**Tuesday Night:** A slight chance of rain between 7 p.m. and midnight, then a slight chance of snow after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. Blustery, with a northwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.  
**Wednesday:** A 20 percent chance of snow before 7 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. Breezy, with a northwest wind 15 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.  
**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.  
**Thursday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 38.  
**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22.  
**Friday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 41.  
**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21.  
**Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 39.  
**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 38.  
 Thursday: High, 45; Low 13  
 Friday: High, 38; Low 17  
 Saturday: High, 47; Low 17  
 Sunday: High, 50; Low 24  
 Precip: Thursday None  
 Friday: None  
 Saturday: None  
 Sunday: None  
 December: 0.64 inches  
 January: None  
 2020: 17.28 inches  
 2021: None  
 Normal: 0.39 inches  
 (K-State Experiment Station)  
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
 Tuesday 8:05 a.m. 5:35 p.m.  
 Wednesday 8:04 a.m. 5:36 p.m.  
 (NOAA Solar Calculator)

# ... And then came March

From "MARCH," Page 1

distancing was more difficult for workers.

On March 5, Gov. Laura Kelly issued a disaster emergency declaration — one of several during the year — due to the potential risk of wildfires. A fast-moving grass fire later in the month east of town had firefighters scrambling to save buildings. While fires in our area for the year were mostly small, summer 2020 became one of the worst seasons on record for wildfires across the West.

On March 10, the U.S. Census Bureau launched its website and began mailing forms for the 2020 enumeration. It was launched in January in Alaska, aiming to catch people in remote villages at home. Most people were encouraged to answer the questionnaire online, with telephone or mailing back a paper copy as alternatives.

Meanwhile, that oh-so-distant enemy Covid-19 began reshaping our world, though it really hadn't had much impact on Kansas directly, with health warnings here still focusing on the flu. Oil prices dropped, the stock market took a dive, cruise ships seemed doomed to steam in circles indefinitely. The nation and state discovered that there wasn't enough personal protective equipment — masks and gloves for starters — to supply all the hospitals, let alone businesses or the public.

On March 12 — a Friday, ap-

propriately — Gov. Kelly issued an emergency declaration for the state in response to Covid-19. The next day, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued a press release indicating a sixth case of Covid-19 had shown up. That's when everything went south.

Most schools were just going on spring break, including the Colby Public Schools and Colby Community College. The college extended spring break for a week, to get set up for moving classes online. Since many of its classes were already online, the transition was easier for the college than for many, including the Colby schools, where some students had no access to computers.

The governor closed all schools on March 17, with 18 Covid cases reported in the state. Schools resorted to a combination of electronic instruction and take-home packets scrambled together in just a few days to continue classes through the spring semester.

School activities were cancelled, from musical programs through basketball's "March Madness," and the indoor spaces for them closed, including college, school and community facilities. The city discussed the possibility of closing parks, but with outdoor exercise allowed, never took that step.

Nursing homes were closed to visitors, and government offices — including Colby City Hall and the Thomas County Courthouse

— locked their doors, with some workers furloughed, then encouraged to work from home.

Moderna gave the first shot of an experimental vaccine, developed in record time, in pre-release trials to prove safety and effectiveness. The company later had the second vaccine in the U.S. to be approved for distribution in December.

For many, the biggest trauma of the March Covid Madness was ... toilet paper, which disappeared from store shelves. So did disinfectant, and meat, and flour, and just about anything you are used to picking up at the store without a thought.

Hoarding apparently was the name of the game, along with distribution problems as large chunks of the population shifted from work/school/fast food/travel mode to sit-at-home-and-cook mode.

Not only schools, but adult clubs like Rotary and Kiwanis and the barbershop groups were shut down. The library closed, as did many churches.

Conflict surrounding public worship rose as Easter approached, with public health restrictions on gathering size butting heads with Constitutional freedom of religion rights. Many churches switched to on-line worship for a time or came up with other creative ways to adapt to reality. In some areas, churches came into direct conflict with law enforcement.

Unemployment climbed quickly to record levels, with

about 23,700 initial claims for the week ending March 21, and the Kansas Legislature extended unemployment benefits and the state of emergency through the year. The increase in one week was about 1,250 percent. The House also approved allowing the courts to extend deadlines.

Citizens Health in Colby began limiting visitors, citing flu restrictions.

Along with schools, public meetings were shifted online, creating a learning curve for various boards obligated to follow parliamentary procedure and conduct open meetings.

On March 18, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued rules for mandatory quarantine and for who would qualify for the hard-to-get Covid test.

On March 23, Colby Public Schools said they would provide a free curbside "Grab 'n Go" meal service for students until May 21 (later extended to Dec. 31). Various relief packages approved by Congress for businesses, hospitals, schools and farmers were becoming available.

All those construction projects in the works? Under the governor's statewide stay-at-home order issued March 28, construction was listed as exempt. Work went on at the Event Center and Villa High, which were out in the cold, was OK, as long as there was a paycheck coming in.

# 2020 fell in between on many measures

From "BETWEEN," Page 1

They're caught between presidents, one of whom is clear that he really doesn't want to go away. They're between a ragged year of pandemic and either a vaccine or another chapter of upheaval. They're between people on one side who say the country's crashing and burning — and people on the other side who say the same thing, but for entirely different reasons.

As most years wind to their ends, people in the United States press pause on life's movie — if we can. We take stock, review successes and mistakes, make resolutions, vow it will be better this time. This year, buffeted by these December whirlwinds, Americans find themselves at a crossroads unlike any other in our history.

This time around, the republic itself is caught in that in-betweenland right alongside us — exhausted by the year, stumbling to its conclusion. Hopeful, but unsure, about what comes next. Those who find their wis-

dom in song lyrics might find one 1970s hit appropriate: "Clowns to the left of me. Jokers to the right. Here I am, stuck in the middle with you."

A year ends. Another begins. Just like always. Yet this year, this moment of purgatory when American life perches between an unimaginably scrambled 2020 and a 2021 filled with unabashed hope, is different. As the December holidays inch along, the in-between moments are many and mystifying:

- After 10 months of pandemic and lockdown, angst and anger and economic upheaval and death by the hundreds of thousands, Americans are poised to receive — or to refuse — vaccines that could mark the beginning of the end.

- As a new president prepares to take office, the current one — a disputatious man who has upended uncounted political, social and civic norms during his one term — persists in his evidence-free insistence that he won.

- The centuries-long march toward Amer-

ican racial equality lurched forward vigorously in 2020 before the momentum paused, or at least slowed — and produced some ugly backlash. What comes next?

- Cultural polarization, its flames licking high from the bottomless propane tank that is social media, has split society into what feels like a million little pieces. There's no obvious route back in 2021 — and, some have argued, there shouldn't be.

Yet fragmentation — sometimes the natural byproduct of democracy, which is messy and diverse by design — does not necessarily serve Americans well in this case.

The United States was created not around centuries of common culture. Instead, it has been stories that form the ties that bind.

2020 revealed that those tales are not as true or inclusive as some would believe.  
*Ted Anthony has written about American culture since 1990. Follow him at www.twitter.com/anthonyted*

# College audit a welcome end to year

From "COLLEGE," Page 1

those are. "The primary impetus of the policy," said President Seth Carter, "is to allow the college's facilities to be utilized for free by our gen-

eral public and by Thomas County residents."

The policy makes a distinction for those who are using the space for "individual business revenue," when there will be a charge, ranging from \$10 to \$50 an hour for a

two-hour minimum, depending on the location.

"The hope and the goal of this is to establish nominal rates that will encourage people to utilize the facilities," Dr. Carter said. "However, it will cover our people costs,

because when you open up, you have to have individuals prep the area, clean it, make sure everything is locked up after the fact."

Some uses may be denied, and political groups must have board approval, according to the policy.

# Briefly

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

## Free drive-thru Covid tests available

A state contractor, TourHealth, offers free drive-thru Covid-19 testing most weekdays in the parking lot in front of the Thomas County Office Complex at 350 S. Range Ave. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The site has the PCR test used by hospitals, so results may take several days. For information, call the county Health Department at (785) 460-4596.

## Adult-ed prep classes offered at college

Beginning Wednesday, the Colby Community College Adult Education department will open enrollment for free academic skill-building classes to help people prepare for the high school equivalency exam. Following coronavirus safety protocols, classes will use a combination of online and face-to-face formats. For questions, call Nance Munderloh at 460-4663.

## Parkinson's support group to meet Thursday

Parkinson's Families of Northwest Kansas meets at 2 p.m. every other Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby. This is a support and resource group for patients and families throughout the region. The group will meet this week. For information, call Elaine Ptacek at (785) 443-3439.

## Library requiring a mask to enter building

Pioneer Memorial Library patrons are asked to don a face mask before entering and to keep it on while inside. This library policy is in effect until further notice. For questions, call Librarian Melany Wilks at (785) 460-4470.

## Group offering monthly 'Parent Café' sessions

Options Inc. has a Parent Café from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Celebration Community Church. Talks will engage parents about what matters most to their family and how to strengthen their family by building protective factors. Free child care, refreshments and \$10 gas money offered for each parent who drives. For information, call Options' 24-hour help line at (800) 794-4624.

## Covid-19 Updates Jan. 4

County	Active	Hospital	Hospital	Deaths	Total cases	Recovered
	(KDHE/local)				(KDHE/local)	
Thomas	54	4	73	82	7	934*931
Sherman	11	22	9		545	550
Cheyenne	15	12	0		10	284*259
Rawlins		7				256
Decatur	2	9	0		1	231
Norton	21	21			25	1,165*1,179
Sheridan		26				388
Logan		18				276
Gove	6	7	79		22	335*308
Wallace		7				161
Statewide	6,903				2,879	227,745

Numbers are those posted most recently by county and/or state officials.

# LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

## TUESDAY EVENING

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
<b>BROADCAST</b>	ABC The Lion King (94, G) ★★★★★ James Earl Jones.						Local Goldbergs	Local Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline	
	CBS NCIS: "In the Wind"	FBI: "Salvation" (TV14)	FBI: Most Wanted				Local (35) Late Show (TV14)	Local Gorden		
	NBC Zoey's Extra. (TV14) (N)	This Is Us (TV14) (N)	(01) Nurses (N)				Local (35) Tonight Show (N)	Local Late Night		
	FOX Gordon Ramsay's American Road Trip (N)							Local Programs (TV14)		
	ION NCIS: New Orleans	NCIS: New Orleans	NCIS: New Orleans				NCIS: New Orleans	NCIS: New Orleans		
<b>CABLE</b>	A&E The First 48 (TV14)	The First 48 (TV14)	The First 48 (TV14)				The First 48 (TV14)	The First 48 (TV14)		
	AMC O Brother, Where Art Thou? (00, PG-13) George Clooney.						Caddyshack (80, R) ★★★★★ Chevy Chase.	Groundhog		
	ANIMAL Insane Pools: Deeper Dive: "Epic River" (N)						Treehouse Masters: Ultimate Builds (N)	Insane Pools (TVPG)		
	BET (5:00) Movie							Martin		
	BRAVO Dallas	Dallas (N)	Housewives (TV14) (N)	Watch What	Chrisley		Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley
	CARTOON Gumball	Gumball	Burgers	Burgers	Dad	Dad	Fam Guy	Fam Guy	Rick Morty	Eric Andre
	CMT Man	Man	Man	Man	Cheerleaders (N)		Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
	CNN (6:00) Election Night in America: Georgia Senate Runoffs									
	COMEDY The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	S. Park	S. Park		
	DISCOVERY Moonshiners: "Overproof" (TV14) (N)						Moonshiners (TV14)	Moonshiners (TV14)		
	DISNEY Sydney	Sydney	BUNK'D	BUNK'D	Big City	BUNK'D	Sydney	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie
	E! Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Celebrity Game Face		Nightly (N)	Celebrity Game Face	Game Face	
	ESPN College Basketball: North Carolina vs Miami						College Basketball: Kansas vs TCU (Live)	SportsCenter		
	ESPN2 (6:00) College Bball	College Basketball: Rutgers vs Michigan State					SportsCenter	SC Presents		
	FOOD Chopped (TV G)	Chopped (TV G) (N)	Supermarket Stakeout				Supermarket Stakeout	Chopped (TV G)		
	FREEFORM Pretty in Pink (86) ★★★★★	The Breakfast Club (85, R) ★★★★★	Emilio Estevez.				The 700 Club (TV G)	Simpsons	Simpsons	
	FX Pitch Perfect 3 (17) ★★★★★	Pitch Perfect 3 (17, PG-13) ★★★★★	Anna Kendrick.				Thoroughbreds (18, R) ★★★★★	Olivia Cooke.		
	HGTV Fixer to Fabulous	Fixer to Fabulous (N)	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Discovery+	Fixer to Fabulous			
	HISTORY Oak Island (TVPG) (N)	Oak Island (TVPG) (N)	The Proof Is Out There				The Proof Is Out There	(03) Oak Island (TVPG)		
	LIFETIME Rizzoli & Isles (TV14)	Rizzoli & Isles (TV14)	Rizzoli & Isles (TV14)				Rizzoli & Isles (TV14)			
	MTV Teen Mom 2 (TVPG) (N)	Catfish: The TV Show	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
	NICK (6:00) Rio (11, G) ★★★★★	Young	Young	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
	PARMT (6:00) Grown Ups (10)	(15) Grown Ups 2 (13, PG-13)	Adam Sandler, Kevin James.				Grown Ups (10, PG-13) ★★★★★			
	SYFY (6:00) Jumanji (95, PG)	The Goonies (85, PG) ★★★★★	Sean Astin, Josh Brolin.				Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	
	TBS Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	The Misery	Conan	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Conan
	TCM Dark Victory (39, NR) ★★★★★	Bette Davis.					The Maltese Falcon (41, NR)	Humphrey Bogart.	Robin Hood (38) ★★★★★	
	TLC 7 Little Johnstons (N)	My Fat Fab Life (N)					Welcome to Plathville	Unpolished (TV14) (N)	7 Little Johnstons	
	TNT The Meg (18, PG-13) ★★★★★	Jason Statham, Li Bingbing.					Batman Begins (05, PG-13) ★★★★★	Christian Bale.		
	TRAVEL The Dead Files (TVPG)	The Dead Files (TVPG)	The Dead Files (TVPG)				The Dead Files (TVPG)			
	TV LAND Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(TVPG)	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
	USA SVU: "Assaulting"	SVU: "Man Up" (TV14)	SVU: "Man Down"				Family	Family	Family	Family
	VH1 White Chicks (04, PG-13)	Shawn Wayans.					Scary Movie (00, R) ★★★★★	Shawn Wayans.	Chicks ★★	
	WGN NewsNation	NewsNation	NewsNation				NewsNation	NewsNation		
	HBO Bad Education (20, NR)		(50) Tower Heist (11, PG-13)	★☆☆	Ben Stiller.		(35) 30 Coins: "Cowboys" (TVMA)			
	MAX This Is the Sky (19, R) ★☆☆	Natalie Portman.	(07) Yesterday (19, PG-13)	Himesh Patel.			Stand and Deliver (88)			
	SHOW Your Honor: "Part Five"	Inside the NFL (N)	Shameless (TVMA)				Inside the NFL (TVPG)		Sinister (12, R) ★★★★★	

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
<b>BROADCAST</b>	ABC Who Wants to Be a (N)	Who Wants to Be a (N)	Who Wants to Be a (N)	Local	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nightline				
	CBS Price Is Right (N)	Young Neighbor.	S.W.A.T.: "Good Cop"	Local	(35) Late Show (TV14)	Local				
	NBC Chicago Med (TV14) (N)	Chicago Fire (TV14) (N)	Chicago P.D. (TV14) (N)	Local	Tonight Show (TV14)	Local				
	FOX The Masked Dancer	Name That Tune (N)	Local Programs (TV14)				Local Programs (TV14)			
	ION Blue Bloods (TV14)	Blue Bloods (TV14)	Blue Bloods (TV14)				Blue Bloods (TV14)			
<b>CABLE</b>	A&E Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Nature (N)	Nature (N)	Blue Bloods (TV14)	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam
	AMC The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★★★	Tim Robbins.					The Longest Yard (05, PG-13)	Adam Sandler.		
	ANIMAL North Woods Law: Uncuffed: "Hot on Trail" (N)						North Woods Law	Uncuffed: "Hot on Trail"		
	BET (5:00) Movie	Tyler Perry's The Oval	American Soul (TV14)				Tyler Perry's The Oval	American Soul (TV14)		
	BRAVO Real Housewives (N)	Real Housewives (N)	Salt Lake City (N)				Watch What	Housewives (TV14)		
	CARTOON Gumball	Gumball	Burgers	Burgers	Dad	Dad	Fam Guy	Fam Guy	Rick Morty	Eric Andre
	CMT Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Reba	Reba
	CNN Anderson Cooper 360	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	CNN Tonight (N)				CNN Tonight (N)	Anderson Cooper 360		
	COMEDY S. Park	S. Park	S. Park	S. Park	S. Park	S. Park	S. Park	S. Park	S. Park	S. Park
	DISCOVERY Undercover Billionaire: "Three Million" (N)						(02) Undercover Bill (N)	Mystery: "What Lies"	Undercover Billionaire	
	DISNEY Liv Maddie	Liv Maddie	Raven	Raven	Big City	BUNK'D	BUNK'D	Sydney	Jessie	Jessie
	E! Happens in Vegas (08)	Knocked Up (07, R) ★★★★★	Seth Rogen, Katherine Heigl.				Nightly (N)	Sex & City	Sex & City	



Colby Comets 4-H Club members made cards for residents at Prairie Senior Living Complex at their December meeting. ANGELA ZIMMERMAN

## Colby Comets 4-H Club

The Colby Comets 4-H Club meeting was called to order Dec. 13 at Quality Title with 12 members present.

After a short meeting, Club Leader Angela Zimmerman presented the 2020 fair awards, since the achievement banquet was cancelled. The club members then made cards for the residents at Prairie Senior Living Complex. We also put together a pair of

socks and a candy cane for each of the residents as well.

Our next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 18, at the 4-H building, and on behalf of the Colby Comets 4-H Club, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the holidays!

—Cassandra Zimmerman  
reporter

## Energy assistance applications open

The Kansas Department for Children and Families will begin accepting applications for its Low-Income Energy Assistance Program today.

The program helps qualifying households pay winter heating bills. Persons with disabilities, older adults and families with children are the primary groups assisted. In 2020, about 34,000 households received an average benefit of \$960.

"Winters in Kansas have the likelihood of bringing frigid temperatures," department Secretary Laura Howard said, "Add in the financial pressures of the pandemic, it's especially important this year that families have access to this important service to avoid financial concerns. Our staff is prepared to begin processing applications, so families have warm homes this winter season."

To qualify, applicants must be responsible for direct payment of their heating bills. Income eligi-

bility requirements are set at 130 percent of the federal poverty level. The level of benefit varies according to household income, number of people living in the home, type of residence, type of heating fuel and utility rates.

Applicants need to have made payments on their heating bill two out of the last three months. Those payments must be equal to or exceed \$80 or the total balance due on their energy bills, whichever is less.

Applications have been mailed to households that received energy assistance last year. Applications are also available at local department offices and through partnering agencies. They can be requested by calling 1 (800) 432-0043. To apply online, go to [cssp.kees.ks.gov/apsppsp/sppNonMed](http://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apsppsp/sppNonMed). For information, go to [www.dcf.ks.gov/services/eess/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx](http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/eess/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx).

Applications will be accepted until March 31.

## Golden Plains releases semester honor rolls

Here is the Golden Plains High School honor roll for the second quarter and first semester. Superintendent's honor roll is for those with a 4.0 average, while the principal's honor roll is for those with at least a 3.0 average.

### Superintendent's second quarter

**Seniors:** Danica Ritter, Ashley Stoll, Brooke Stoll.

**Juniors:** Alisha Brantley, Alejandro Gonzalez, Kassie Miller, Lauren Patmon, Morgan Wark.

**Sophomores:** Breanna Rath. **Freshmen:** Jordyn Fleckenstein, Emma Weiner.

### Principal's, second quarter

**Seniors:** Hannah Bange, Kole Butts, Austin Durham, Toby Korte, Rojelio Loya, Wade Rush.

**Juniors:** Fabian Cepeda, Amie Cheney, Jovanny Infante, Roberto Knowles, Roberto Loya, Brandon Luna, Carli Nieman, Ashton Schiltz, Ethan Shea, Ethan Weiner.

**Sophomores:** Guillermo Aragon, McHaley Carter, Jazline Manriquez, Sidney Taylor.

**Freshmen:** Valentina Bermudez, Ava Brantley, Will Brugge-

man, Jorja Juenemann, Landon Meier, Valeria Ortiz, Mia Rogers.

**Superintendent's, first semester**  
**Seniors:** Danica Ritter, Ashley Stoll, Brooke Stoll.

**Juniors:** Alisha Brantley, Alejandro Gonzalez, Kassie Miller, Lauren Patmon, Morgan Wark.

**Sophomores:** Breanna Rath. **Freshmen:** Jordyn Fleckenstein, Emma Weiner.

### Principal's, first semester

**Seniors:** Hannah Bange, Kole Butts, Austin Durham, Toby Korte, Rojelio Loya, Wade Rush.

**Juniors:** Fabian Cepeda, Amie Cheney, Jovanny Infante, Britton Knowles, Roberto Loya, Brandon Luna, Carli Nieman, Ashton Schiltz, Ethan Shea, Ethan Weiner, Joshua Yanez-Perez.

**Sophomores:** Guillermo Aragon, McHaley Carter, Morgan Durham, Jazline Manriquez, Sidney Taylor.

**Freshmen:** Tayten Barnett, Valentina Bermudez, Ava Brantley, Will Bruggeman, Jorja Juenemann, Jerit Koerperich, Landon Meier, Valeria Ortiz, Mia Rogers.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day  
**Hi-Plains Co-op**

Wheat (bushel)	\$5.65
Corn (bushel)	\$4.88
Milo (bushel)	\$6.09
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.40

## 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.

## Deaths

### Earl Eugene Moss

Earl Eugene Moss, 86, who farmed west of Hoxie, died unexpectedly on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2020, at the Sheridan County Health Complex.

He was born Oct. 11, 1933, to James W. and Orpha M. Moss at the family farm 11 west of Hoxie and attended the Bloomfield Township School. That country-school building would eventually become the home he and his wife Opal would share for over 67 years.

He attended Hoxie High School his freshman year before transferring to Menlo High School, where he graduated in 1951, and later attended Fort Hays State University before returning to the farm.

Earl played basketball at Menlo High School where the team placed third at the state tournament his senior year. He also played on the Hoxie town team.

In the summer of 1952, Earl met Opal Barnett, and they were married the next June at Opal's parents' home. To get the school house ready for them to move into, they had to auger wheat out of the basement.

Earl served as a county committee member for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (now the Farm Service Agency) and was a director of the Hoxie First National Bank, an el-

der at Hoxie Christian Church and as exalted ruler of the Hoxie Elks Lodge.

He was one of the first farmers in Sheridan County to drill an irrigation well and to use a grain cart in harvest. In 1969, he was one of the original nine owners in the Hoxie Feed Lot. He loved cards, golf and fishing, his friends and his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant son, James Allen Moss; a brother, Johnnie Moss; and a sister, Esther Woofert.

He is survived by his wife; two sons, Tim (Dana) Moss of Selden and Gary (Teri) Moss of Hoxie; a sister, Margaret (Lawrence) Muelenkamp of Oakley; six grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and eight step-great-grandchildren.

Services were Wednesday, Dec. 30, at the Hoxie Christian Church, with burial in the Hoxie City Cemetery.

Visitation was last Tuesday at the Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home in Hoxie.

Memorials may be made to the Earl Moss Memorial in care of the funeral home, Box 987, Hoxie, Kan.

Leave condolences at [www.mickeyleopoldfuneral.com](http://www.mickeyleopoldfuneral.com).

## Atwood student earns degree in December

Brooks A. Brenn of Atwood was among 1,382 graduates who received degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during a virtual graduation celebration Dec. 19.

Brenn earned a Master of Science from the Office of Graduate Studies.

The December graduates are from 42 countries, 36 states and the District of Columbia, and more than 150 Nebraska communities.

"Go Big Grad: A Husker Graduation Celebration" featured a recorded phone conversation between Warren Buffett, chairman and chief executive of Berkshire Hathaway and a Husker alumnus, and Chancellor Ronnie Green. The celebration also featured guest appearances by other notable Nebraskans, campus leaders and alumni. At the end of the event, Green officially conferred degrees to students. The celebration can be viewed at [commencement.unl.edu](http://commencement.unl.edu).

Diplomas will be mailed to graduates. New this year, 2020

graduates are able to download and share their digital diplomas. Details are available at [go.unl.edu/digitaldiploma](http://go.unl.edu/digitaldiploma).

All 2020 graduates are invited to participate in a future commencement ceremony.

For the complete list of graduates, go to [go.unl.edu/gobiggrad-dec20](http://go.unl.edu/gobiggrad-dec20).

## Post-traumatic stress book earns professor recognition

A Fort Hays State University professor was recently honored for his work to promote mental health for military veterans.

Dr. Seth Kastle, assistant professor of Leadership Studies and a retired Army first sergeant, won the 2020 Max Gabriel Veterans Mental Health Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Each year, the alliance recognizes individuals and organizations that advance its mission to improve the lives of people affected by mental illness. The Max Gabriel Award recognizes a veteran who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the mental health needs of other veterans.

Kastle was honored because of

his children's book, "Why Is Dad So Mad?" and its sequel, "Why Is Mom So Mad?" and subsequent speaking engagements after the books were published in 2016. The books focus on explaining to children why their parents act the way they do when struggling with Combat Related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and its symptoms. The second book was co-authored by Kastle's wife, Julia, also a combat veteran.

The books are available through the Amazon store on Kastle's website [www.kastlebooks.com](http://www.kastlebooks.com). They also are available at Barnes & Noble, as well as electronically through iBooks, Google Play, Kindle and Nook.

## University announces summer graduation list

Courtney Lynn Van Eaton of Colby is among 918 graduates from the University of Kansas this summer. Van Eaton earned a Bachelor of Science in Business in Accounting.

The pandemic has affected commencement celebrations for many university graduates. Spring 2020 graduates were announced in July, and fall 2020 graduates will be announced in early 2021.

The Colby Free Press

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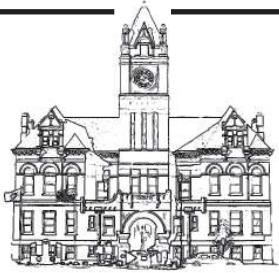
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## Other Viewpoints

### During pandemic, why abuse helpers?

The pandemic has stretched on for months. And while vaccines are on the way, it's going to stretch on for at least several more.

So what do we gain by abusing those who work to help us? Why did Shawnee County commissioners press Health Officer Gianfranco Pezzino to the point that he resigned two weeks early? Why did Dodge City Mayor Joyce Warshaw feel the need to quit after vocally supporting a mask mandate? Zooming out, public health officials across the nation have been leaving their jobs in droves.

If you're angry, if you're disappointed, that's OK. But none of these people created this situation. A microscopic virus did.

We understand the anger about businesses closing and jobs being lost. But these are also problems that would exist no matter what public health orders existed. People are not going to patronize businesses in the middle of an out-of-control pandemic. The solution is for governments to step in and make sure those businesses and workers are taken care of.

And we know: The federal government hasn't exactly been consistent on this front. Congress appears to have finally made a breakthrough on additional relief, but it likely won't be enough. Still, not one iota of this is the fault of public health experts or local officials.

Everyone's case is unique. But people already give up a great deal of time and privacy to serve the public. They do it because they care about public well-being and their neighbors and friends.

We're all fellow humans, and we're all going through this disconcerting and difficult experience together. That should count for something. And no, we're not going to agree on the best course of action all the time. But a little bit of sympathy, of understanding, of putting ourselves in someone else's shoes, should go a long way.

We have further to go, too. This winter is shaping to be an especially challenging time. Vaccines have arrived, but there won't be enough supply to meet demand for several months. We will all be indoors as the temperatures drop.

Let's resolve this holiday season to truly care for one another. Public health experts and government officials are people just like you. They want us all to be safe and well. Let's show unity rather than division.

— Garden City Telegram, via the Associated Press

### Where to write, call

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

**U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, 521 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521. Fax (202) 228-6966 Website: moran.senate.gov

**U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall**, 312 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Website: marshall.house.gov

**State Sen. Rick Billinger**, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 236-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 Rick.Billinger@senate.ks.gov

**State Rep. Adam Smith**, (120th District) State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 151C, Topeka, Kan., 66612, (785) 296-0715 Adam.Smith@house.ks.gov

**State Rep. Don Hineman**, (118th District) State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 372-W, Topeka, Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7384 don.hineman@house.ks.gov

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"SINCE YOU WERE IN GREAT BRITAIN BEFORE ARRIVING HERE, I'M AFRAID WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT YOU IN QUARANTINE FOR 72 HOURS."

## Nothing much went as planned in 2020

What a year.

If anything went as planned, I can't imagine what it was.

Well, we did go to Mexico for a planned vacation in January. But that was BP. Before Pandemic.

The thing didn't really start to snowball in the U.S. until March, when the virus really hit the fan back east.

We started to hear reports about how bad it was in New York, with pictures of refrigerated vans parked outside of hospitals to store the bodies, governors closing schools and businesses, the country headed straight for a lockdown.

By April and May, that's where we were, locked down.

Stores and offices closed. Others locked their doors and told customers to stay in their car and call; they'd be met at the curb with their food, clothing, medications, whatever.

"Nonessential" businesses were told to close. That included restaurants and bars, some retail shops, hairdressers and barbers, folks like that. But while it's easy for bureaucrats in Topeka or Washington to sit around and talk about who's "nonessential," I don't know anybody who thought their own job or business was not essential. It was essential to them, and their employees, if no one else.

The medical doctors running the show in both capitols were well-trained in public health and epidemiology, of course, but fairly



**Steve Haynes**

• Along the Sappa

innocent of basic economics. They seemed to think you could just shut down huge segments of the economy and then, when the coast was clear, start things up again on command.

It doesn't work that way. The whole, intricate machine is tied together in so many ways, a trained economist might have trouble unravelling it, let alone explaining it.

To the doctors, however, it must have seemed simple: lives hung in the balance.

But everyone heard many businesses might never reopen after being shut down. While no one seems to have studied this so far, it may well be the case. Restaurants and bars have been hit hard. There's not enough government aid to help them all.

These businesses aren't just collateral damage, though; they're people's lives. No one in government seemed to be thinking of that.

Then there's the fact that you can crank up a factory or a retail outlet again after three, six months of inactivity. But you can never recover the lost productivity that would have happened during that time, items produced, work done. That's ir retrievable.

Because the time is lost forever, the second quarter's production can't be made up in the third. Production will recover, but even with overtime, you can't get the second quarter back. Not in a small business. Not at General Motors.

And no amount of government money can make up for that loss, either.

And eventually, I fear, someone will have to pay the bill for printing all that money.

I hope we've learned something as a society. I have my doubts. Oh, if another pandemic comes along in two or three years, we might recall the lessons learned.

It's been a century since we had one this big, however, and it might well be another 100 years before the next big one. Or it might begin next month. These are random events.

But history shows that society as a whole won't remember the lessons of 2020. The next time around, doctors will focus on medical issues and leaders won't know who to listen to.

That may seem a little pessimistic, but that's how we're built. Seldom if ever do we see the big picture until mistakes have been made. We seem to operate on trial and error, and that can be expensive, sometimes fatal.

*Steve Haynes is president of Nor'West Newspapers. When he has the time, he'd rather be reading a good book or casting a fly. Reach him at steve.haynes@nwkansas.com*

## Check out facts about attorney general

A common criticism among Democrats during the Trump era has been that Republicans simply don't care about facts, that they live in an alternative reality where facts don't matter.

Many of the same people, however, have shown a striking immunity to the facts when it comes to President Trump's Attorney General William Barr, who announced his resignation the other day. According to Democrats, Barr has shattered norms and rewritten rules at the Department of Justice, brazenly politicizing the agency to further Trump's political ambitions.

This narrative depends upon the amplification and distortion of some facts and the diminution and nullification of others.

Barr has, of course, done things as Attorney General that furthered the Trump administration's interests. That's what Senate-confirmed cabinet officials are expected to do. He has, for example, advanced Trump's agenda on immigration reform, criminal justice and judicial confirmations. And Barr agrees with Trump and many others that the government's investigation of the Trump campaign's ties to Russia and associated prosecutions of Michael Flynn and Roger Stone included meaningful

### Other Opinions

• William Cooper

mistakes and irregularities.

But Barr has also, repeatedly, refused to further Trump's most important political objectives.

Despite incessant pressure from Trump, Barr did not indict a single Trump political opponent. Barr's Department of Justice did, however, indict Trump's former campaign manager and senior advisor Steve Bannon.

Barr, moreover, has publicly pushed back against Trump's tweeting about active criminal cases and openly and expressly rejected Trump's advocacy for indicting Joe Biden and Barack Obama during the presidential campaign.

And in stark contrast to Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, Barr has steered clear

of numerous other major controversies. Unlike most Republicans, Barr did not openly support Trump during the impeachment process. He has not supported President Trump's post-election litigation; to the contrary, he publicly refuted Trump's claims of widespread voter fraud. And, we now know, Barr did not publicly disclose before the election that the department has been investigating Hunter Biden's financial dealings for the last two years. This is, of course, precisely the public disclosure that Trump so fervently sought from Ukraine that it led to his impeachment.

Barr has, indeed, consistently either refused to endorse or flat out repudiated Trump's most important political initiatives.

Despite the mountain of contradictory evidence, many Democrats persist to this day with the narrative that William Barr is simply President Trump's political operative masquerading as an attorney general. The facts, apparently, don't matter.

*William Cooper, a lawyer, has written for the Wall Street Journal, Washington Examiner, USA Today, Orlando Sentinel and Washington Times, among others.*

### Write us

The Colby Free Press encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area

should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses not pertaining to a public issue.

Before an election, letters (other than responses by a candidate) will not be published after the Thursday before the polls open.

### Mallard Fillmore

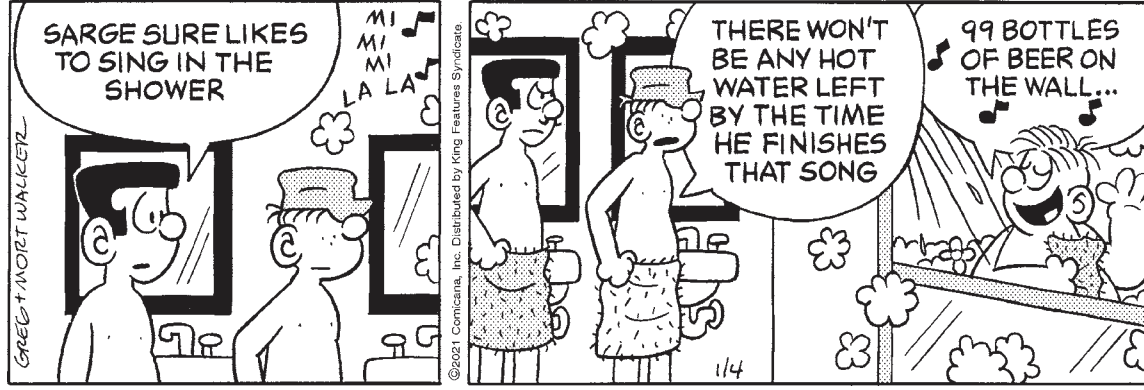
• Loren Fishman



**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



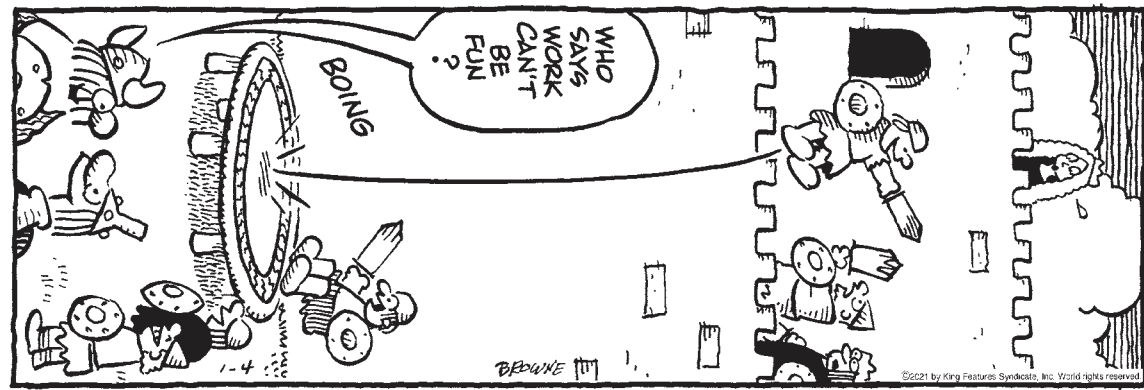
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



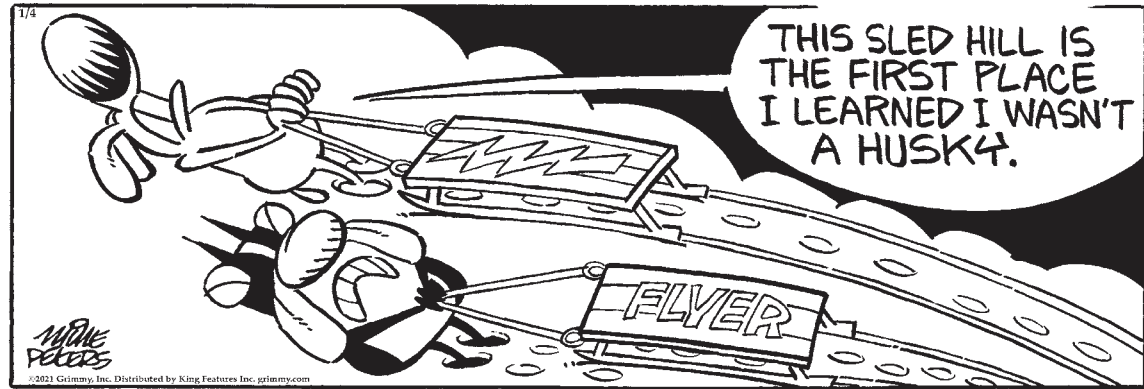
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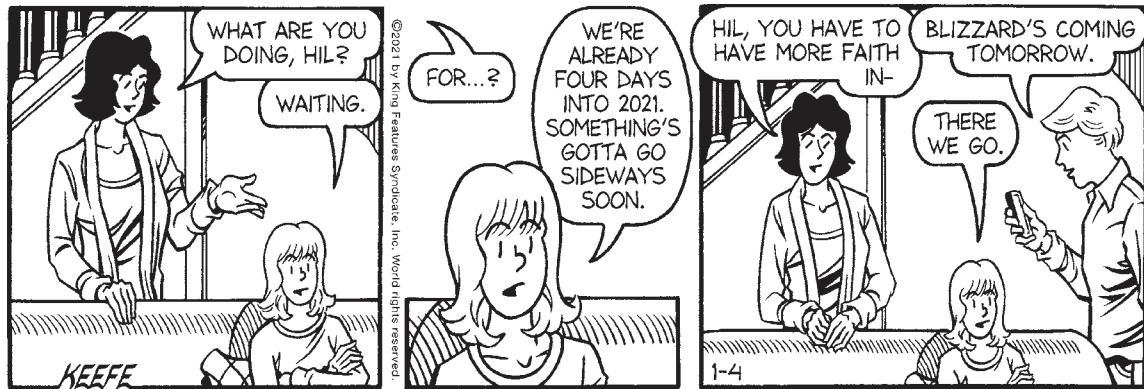
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



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**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Terry Kovel**

• Antiques and Collecting

**Paris porcelain often a mystery**



Paris porcelain is often a mystery to collectors. Sometimes it is sold as Vieux Paris or Old Paris. It was made in the 18th or early 19th century. Most pieces are not marked, but the porcelain is very white and the decorations are usually elaborate with many colors and gold trim. It was made by several Paris potteries.

A 19th-century cylindrical Paris porcelain vase decorated on the front with a painting of Cupid and Psyche sold for \$244 at a Neal auction recently. There was standing putto on the back, and the vase had a blue base with gold, shaped trim. Other pieces of Paris porcelain at the same auction were appraised at \$600 or more.

Q: I recently found a movie poster from "The Adventures of Robin Hood." It pictures Errol Flynn as Robin Hood and Olivia de Havilland looking on in the background. Printed on the bottom is "Continental Litho Corp. Cleveland O USA 8988." Looking it up, I found a few like this sold at auctions for a lot of money. How can I tell if my poster is a valuable original or just a copy?

A: Warner Bros. produced "The Adventures of Robin Hood" in 1938. Continental Litho Corp. made movie lobby posters for Warner Bros. and other companies. Reproductions of this poster have been made in several sizes. The size of the poster and copyright information help authenticate and date movie posters. The standard size, called a "one sheet," is 27 inches by 41 inches. If your poster is a different size, it's a reproduction. The value of an original movie poster is determined by the desirability of the title, the graphics and its condition. Some sell for very high prices, but reproductions sell for only a few dollars. If you think you have an original, contact an auction that sells movie memorabilia. They can give you an estimate of value or sell it for you.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer.  
 East-West vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ A J 5  
 ♥ Q 10 9 6  
 ♦ A 4  
 ♣ K J 8 7  
**EAST**  
 ♠ K 10 7 6 4  
 ♥ 4 2  
 ♦ J 7 5 2  
 ♣ 4 3  
**SOUTH**  
 ♠ Q 9 3  
 ♥ A K  
 ♦ K Q 9 8  
 ♣ A Q 10 9  
 The bidding:  
 North East South West  
 1 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass  
 4 ♣ Pass 5 NT Pass  
 6 ♣ Pass 7 ♣ Pass  
 Opening lead — five of hearts.

**Famous Hand**

Not much is written about "table feel" — the ability to sense where certain missing key cards are located. Nevertheless, it is a fact of bridge life that all players try to draw inferences from the actions of their opponents — and that some players are much better at it than others.

Take this case from the 1996 Spingold Teams. South, Bart Bramley, and his partner, Sidney Lazard, reached seven clubs as shown, and it was up to Bramley to find the way to make it. His only problem was how to avoid a spade loser. With the king of spades offside, it might appear that Bramley was destined to go down one, but he proved otherwise.

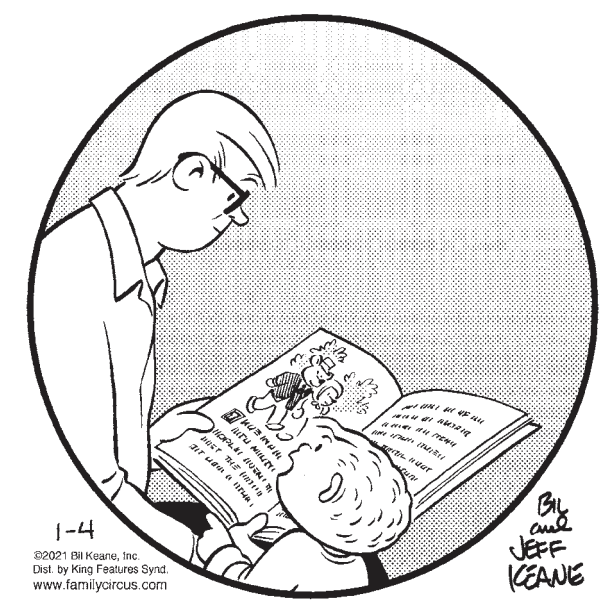
He won the heart lead with the ace, drew three rounds of trump, East discarding a spade, and cashed the heart king. This was followed by a diamond to the ace and the queen of hearts, East and declarer each discarding a spade. Bramley then ruffed the ten of hearts, East discarding a third spade, and led the queen of spades, on which West followed low.

At this point, Bramley stopped to review all the accumulated information — including what his "table feel" told him. From the standpoint of pure probabilities, East was far more likely to hold the spade king, since he had started with only two clubs and two hearts. This left him with nine cards in spades and diamonds as opposed to only five cards in those suits for West. Also, West might have covered the queen of spades with the king if he had it.

But on top of this, East had shown increasing signs of distress in choosing his three discards, and this made Bramley even more certain that East had the spade king.

So Bramley put up the ace of spades and cashed dummy's last trump, discarding his remaining spade. East, who at this point had the J-7-5 of diamonds and lone king of spades guarding against dummy's jack, elected to let go of a diamond, and declarer's K-Q-9 of diamonds took the last three tricks.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Why do all my stories have animals in them?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

		9		8	4	5		
	2		9				4	
4		7				6		8
3			2		7		6	
5								1
	9		3		8			4
2		5				4		7
	8				1		2	
		4	7	6		3		

Difficulty Level ★ 1/04

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

1	3	8	6	4	2	7	9	5
4	9	2	5	8	7	6	1	3
7	6	5	1	9	3	4	2	8
2	4	1	3	5	9	8	7	6
9	7	6	8	1	4	3	5	2
5	8	3	2	7	6	9	4	1
3	1	7	9	2	8	5	6	4
6	2	9	4	3	5	1	8	7
8	5	4	7	6	1	2	3	9

**Cryptoquip**

OKKHOZ WKVPQSOZOGVWG  
 SCZX VCHQKOEPKV VYPR EOR  
 YONP WK VYP XOQ XHVHQP:  
 EOLVPQL CX VYP HKWNPQLP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SELF-CONTAINED, PRESSURIZED SPACECRAFT UNIT IS ENORMOUS, IS IT A PLUS-SIZE MODULE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals L

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 Pond growth
- 5 Legislation
- 8 Ascend
- 12 "Spider-Man" director
- 14 Furry sci-fi critter
- 15 Most acute
- 16 Carrot on a snowman
- 17 Tempe sch.
- 18 Serengeti howlers
- 20 Rap star West
- 23 Overconfident
- 24 Nuptial vows
- 25 Salt sprinklers
- 28 Pod dweller
- 29 Harbor markers
- 30 Aachen article
- 32 Hair cleanser

**DOWN**

- 1 Ninny
- 2 — -di-dah
- 3 "Today" rival, briefly
- 4 Orderly groupings
- 5 Stead
- 6 Early hrs.
- 7 Deli sandwich request
- 8 Break a promise
- 9 Victor's cry
- 10 Slugger
- 11 Stretches (out)
- 13 Church area
- 19 Guffaws
- 20 Half a ton drinks
- 22 Ancient mariner
- 23 Drives off
- 25 Imagined
- 26 Peruse
- 27 Shoebox info
- 29 College VIP
- 31 Prefix with natal
- 33 Stage comments
- 34 Sacred songs
- 36 Capital of Italia
- 37 Crib cry
- 38 Alike (Fr.)
- 39 TV's "Warrior Princess"
- 40 Innocent one
- 43 Med. plan
- 44 U.S. Army bases
- 45 Last (Abbr.)
- 46 Guitar master Paul

**Saturday's answer 1-4**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15							16			
		17				18	19			
20	21	22			23					
24				25			26	27		
28				29			30	31		
	32	33				34				
		35				36				
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43			44	45	46
47				48						
49				50				51		

# Classifieds

To place your classified ad, mail (155 W. Fifth), fax (785-462-7749), phone (785-462-3963), or stop by our office at 155 W. Fifth St.

## Card of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who attended Lynn's funeral service on such a cold morning. Thank you Father Rich and Jeannie Solko for the service. Everyone's support is very appreciated.  
---12/23---1/4---

## Notices

**Oakley Cleaners** has resumed picking up dry-cleaning in Colby at Purdy Petals, 185 E. 4th for all of your cleaning needs!  
--5/14---TFN---

**Dish Network. \$59.99** for 190 Channels! Add High Speed Internet for ONLY \$19.95/month. Call Today for \$100 Gift Card! Best Value & Technology. FREE Installation. Call 1-866-361-2453 (some restrictions apply).  
---8/16---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

**GREAT BENEFITS**- Colby Housing Authority is a governmental agency, seeking applications for a full-time, permanent position in the Maintenance Department. Applicant must possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent; have a valid Kansas Driver's License and a driving record free of convictions for at least one year, and no felony convictions. We offer competitive pay, great benefits including optional health, dental, and life insurance, sick leave, vacation, paid holidays, cafeteria plan and KERS retirement benefits. Applications are available at the Colby Housing Authority office, 600 S. Mission ridge, Colby or call 785-460-6763 to request one by mail. This position will be open until filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.  
---12/23---1/13---

**I will pay \$30/hr** to clean my house/housekeeper. Must have references. Call Michael in Colby at 785-626-7481.  
---12/23---1/8---

**Great hourly pay!** Wanting Night Auditor for Motel 6 in Colby. Apply in person at 1985 S. Range.  
---12/23---TFN---

**Thomas County is seeking** to hire a Building Maintenance and Custodial Director with an effective start date January 2021. The Director will work under the direction of the County Commissioners, supervision of custodians, coordinate the installation, maintenance and repair work in ALL county buildings. He/she will regularly inspect work sites, execute work as necessary, maintain inventory and arrange for contractors to perform non-routine repairs. Benefits include: health, dental, cancer and retirement benefits. Salary is negotiable. Thomas County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To pick up a job application and description of duties contact the County Clerk at 785-460-4500, 300 N Court Ave., Colby, KS 67701.  
---12/17---TFN---

**Fairview Estates in Colby**, an Assisted Living facility, is looking for CMAs LPNs for all shifts and CNAs for night shifts. Every other weekend off, every other holiday off. Please call 785-462-2154 or email at fairview@st-tel.net for an application.  
---12/16---12/30---

## Help Wanted

**The Rawlins County Road and Bridge Department** is now accepting applications for a Heavy Equipment Operator. Applicant must have a valid CDL or be able to get one. Competitive pay with a great benefits package. Employees are subject to random drug and alcohol testing. Pick up an application or submit resume to the Rawlins County Shop at 12303n Highway 25, Atwood, KS. For more information contact Mark Loop at (785) 626-3726.  
---12/2---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, and service call. 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.  
---11/25---TFN---

**Cashiers needed at 24/7 Travel Stores** in Colby, KS. \$12.30/HR average with commission. Apply at 24-7stores.com/careers today!  
---9/3---TFN---

**Assistant Manager needed at 24/7 Travel Stores** in Colby, KS. \$17/HR average with commission. Full benefits including BCBS insurance and 401(k) plans. Apply at 24-7stores.com/careers today!  
---8/28---TFN---

**The Team at Kansasland Tire of Norton** has an immediate opening for a service truck operator/general service person. Must have a valid drivers license. Competitive wages, 401k, insurance, & uniforms. Experience preferred, but not necessary, we will train. Please stop by at 11101 Rd E1, Norton and pick up an application or call 785-877-5181 EOE.  
---2/12---TFN---

## Buildings for Sale

**Vap Construction, Inc. - The Strongest Name** in Post Frame Construction: Western Style Horse Barn Special. \$27,900.00 delivered and constructed. 30'x40'x12' with an 8'x40' Lean-to Shed. Includes 12' Split Slider: 2 Dutch Doors & 3'x3' Faux Bale Door with Cross Bucks; 3' Eave Lights on one side wall; 3' Cupola; Covered V-braces, Steel Walk Door, 3' Wainscoting. Constructed with 29-gauge Colored Metal, Nail-Lams on 8' centers, 30#/115mph Pre-engineered Trusses on 4' centers. For more information, call 866-492-1978 or visit www.vapconstruction.com. Vap Construction, Inc. - The Strongest Name in Post Frame Construction  
---12/17---1/6---

## Storage

**Lock N Roll Storage** units available. 10 x 24 and 15 x 30. Call 785-728-8089  
---12/16---1/6---

**Storage Units for Rent** in Colby at 1364 E. College Drive. 10 x 10 for \$40 a month with a \$40 deposit and a 10 x 20 for \$65 a month and \$65 deposit. Call 719-349-0666.  
---12/7---1/4---

## Apartments for Rent

**2 bedroom basement apartment** in Colby. Washer and dryer, A/C and all appliances provided. No smoking or pets. Call 785-460-0916 or 785-462-0274  
---7/23---TFN---

## Misc. for Sale

**Golf Clubs - Good starter set** for new golfer, Bag, 2 wheel pull cart, one metal driver, 4 woods, full set of irons and wedge, 1 putter, new golf balls and tees. \$110.00. Murray 5.50 Briggs & Stretton with bagger lawn mower. \$61.00. Also a New Casket, for someone who cant afford a costly funeral. \$365.00. Call 785-443-4221.  
---12/30---1/7---

**Meat and Bone Band Saw** with Meat Grinder - \$250.00. New - Nyet Brand 5 used tires 275 x 650 - R18 - 12 ply aggressive \$25.00 each. 785-443-4221  
---12/17---1/6---

**Beef for Sale**, available by the 1/8, quarter, half or whole. Also hamburger, steaks and roast sold separately. Premium whole beef hamburger ready now. Will take orders. Call Dale Oard 785-443-3386  
C 4/8 - TFN

**Corn-fed beef quarters** or halves. Hamburger, steak, roast, processed at American Butcher's. Call Jonny Jones 785-675-8920.  
---5/9---TFN---

## Wanted

**Failed Milo Fields** to swath and bale on shares. Purchase considered. Call Dale Oard 785-443-3386. Colby.  
---11/16---TFN---

## Vehicles for Sale

**2012 Monte Carlo Limited 48' 5th Wheel.** Very nice, W/D, 3 AC's, all the amenities. Must sell. 785-460-0916 or 785-462-0274  
---7/23---TFN---

## Seed and Feed

**2019 Irrigated corn** stalk bails, some corn. \$60.00 per ton. Call 785-694-3200  
---9/25---TFN---

**Hay for sale.** Nice grass hay, milo hay with grain and Kochia. Round bales, net wrapped. Delivery available. Call Dale Oard 785-443-3386  
---5/29---TFN---

## Services

**Handyman For Hire!** If you are in need for some repairs around your house and yard, I would be willing to work for you!!! No job is to small. I can do minor electrical, plumbing, carpentry and yard work. I charge \$15.00/hr. I can work any day of the week. If you are interested: Jim Reeves 785-626-0343.  
---9/5---TFN---

**For all your electrical needs**, Licensed and insured, call 785-821-2197 or legacyelectrics.com  
---6/12---TFN---

## Public Notice

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY KANSAS**  
In the Matter of the Estate of Frances M. Roesch, Deceased  
Case No. 2020-PR-000038

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:  
You are hereby notified that on December 15, 2020 a Petition was filed in this Court by Richard L. Roesch, an heir, devisee and legatee and named Personal Representative in the Last Will and Testament of Frances M. Roesch, deceased, dated August 26, 2005, requesting Informal Administration and to Admit the Will to Probate.  
You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before **January 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** in this Court, in the City of Colby, in Thomas County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.  
Richard L. Roesch, Petitioner  
BROWN, CREIGHTON & PECKHAM Attorneys at Law  
308 Main, Box 46  
Atwood, KS 67730  
(785) 626-3295  
ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER  
(Published in the Colby Free Press on Monday, December 21, 28, 2020, January 4, 2021)

## Services

**Rawlins County Dental Clinic** in Atwood, KS offers Comprehensive Dental Care with state of the art equipment. Dental Insurance accepted and sliding fee scale available. Call now 785-626-8290 to schedule your appointment.  
---9/29---TFN---

**Septic tank pumping and installation** - Larry's Plumbing, Colby, KS 785-462-3458.  
---1/8---TFN---

**Do Your Feet Hurt?** We can help with I-Step Technology. We also provide medicare approved diabetic shoes up to size 15 with doctors prescription by appointment only. Currier Drug, Inc, Atwood. 1-800-696-3214.  
---4/22---TFN---

## Kansas Classified Network

**Misc.**  
**ARE YOU BEHIND \$10k OR MORE ON YOUR TAXES?** Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 855-462-2769

**DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY.** Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 844-268-9386

**Lowest Prices on Health Insurance.** We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 855-656-6792.

**ATTENTION MEDICARE RECIPIENTS!** Save your money on your Medicare supplement plan. FREE QUOTES from top providers. Excellent coverage. Call for a no obligation quote to see how much you can save! 855-587-1299

**BEST SATELLITE TV** with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 316-223-4415

**Get A-Rated Dental Insurance** starting at around \$1 PER DAY! Save 25% on Enrollment Now! No Waiting Periods. 200k+ Providers Nationwide. Everyone is Accepted! Call 785-329-9747 (M-F 9-5 ET)

**BATHROOM RENOVATIONS.** EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 855-382-1221

**Medical Billing & Coding Training.** New Students Only. Call & Press 1. 100% online courses. Financial Aid Available for those who qualify. Call 888-918-9985

**Recently diagnosed with LUNG CANCER** and 60+ years old? Call now! You and your family may be

## Public Notice

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS**  
In the Matter of the Estate of Jenny Lynn McClelland, Deceased.  
Case No. 2020-PR-000035

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:  
You are notified that on December 7, 2020, a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration was filed in this Court by Elaine McClelland, an heir, devisee and legatee of Jenny Lynn McClelland.  
All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.  
Elaine McClelland, Petitioner

## Kansas Classified Network

entitled to a SIGNIFICANT CASH AWARD. Call 866-327-2721 today. Free Consultation. No Risk.

**NEW AUTHORS WANTED!** Page Publishing will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submission kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 855-939-2090

## Help Wanted



**is currently looking for dependable individuals to fill openings in its confection sunflower processing plant.**

**1. Maintenance Department:** Experience in metal fabrication, welding and torch work required. Applicants should also possess experience in equipment operations and mechanical applications.

**2. Mill Operator:** Unique position requiring individual to be mechanically inclined.

**3. Production Associate:** Involvement in multiple aspects of Production and packaging.

**Please apply in person at:**

1320 E. College Dr. in Colby, KS

## Public Notice

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION**

In the Matter of the Estate of MICHAEL GENSL, Deceased

**NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition dated December 21, 2020, has been filed in this court by Darion Meyer as a daughter of decedent and prays for the appointment of Darion Meyer and Lance Gensil as co-administrators of the estate.

You are further advised that the petitioner in this matter has requested administration pursuant to the Kansas Simplified Estates Act, and if such request is granted the court may not supervise administration of the estate and no further notice of any action of the executor or other proceedings in the estate will be given except for notice of final settlement of the decedent's estate. Should written objections to simplified administration be filed with the court, the court may order supervised administration to ensue.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited they shall be forever barred.

/s/ Darion Meyer, Petitioner

/s/ Steven W. Hirsch  
Steven W. Hirsch #12789  
HIRSCH LAW OFFICE  
124 So Penn, PO Box 296  
Oberlin, Kansas 67749  
PH: 785-475-2296  
Attorney for Estate

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Monday, December 28, 2020, January 4, 11, 2021)



**dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!** Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

**2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE**  
**\$59.99** America's Top 120 Package  
MO. **190 CHANNELS** Including Local Channels!  
for 12 Mos.  
**CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card** Promo Code: DISH100

**1-866-361-2453** Offer ends 1/31/21. **dish** AUTHORIZED RETAILER. All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper WiSling or Hopper 3 \$5/mo. more. Upright fees may apply based on credit qualification.

**"K-LAWN DEALERS EARN UP TO \$50,000 IN SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME IN A SOCIALLY DISTANCED PROFESSION."**

If you don't have a K-Lawn Dealer in your area, we are looking to add a few quality dealers to our 10-state network. Key benefits include:  
**Contact us today at 800-445-9116**  
Or visit us online at **k-lawn.com/np**  
K-Lawn Dealers earn the extra income that makes a great family life possible.

**KLawn**  
• Manage your own lawn fertilization, weed and insect control business  
• Part-time or full-time, you decide and manage your own schedule  
• Income stability for your family

**COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Colby Community College will host a virtual site visit for continuing accreditation of its associate degree nursing program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

You are invited to meet the site visit team and share your comments about the program via video conference at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, using the following information:

Link: <https://www.gotomeet.me/acen030/colby-community-college-room-1> Access Code: 439-682-053.

Written comments are also welcome and should be submitted directly to:

Dr. Marsal Stoll, Chief Executive Officer  
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing  
3390 Peachtree Road, NE Suite 1400  
Atlanta, CA 30326  
Or e-mail: [mstoll@acenursing.org](mailto:mstoll@acenursing.org).

The ACEN should receive all written comments by February 1, 2021.

## JOB OPENINGS

- Full and Part-time Personal Assistants
- Part-time Maintenance Technician



Benefits include health insurance, retirement plan, sick/vacation, and more!

**Prairie Developmental Center**  
208 S. 4th St, Atwood

Apply online at <https://dsnwk.e3applicants.com/careers/>  
Call Roger at 785-626-3688 for details.

## FULL-TIME OPENING

**HELP WANTED:** The Thomas County Highway Department is accepting applications for one full-time employee. The work will consist of maintaining county and township roads, flagging, installing signs, driving truck, snow removal, etc. Normal work hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Must be a high school graduate or have GED equivalent and hold a valid CDL or be able to obtain one within 30 days of employment. Thomas County Highway Department maintains a safe work environment; therefore, drug and alcohol testing will be required. Starting pay is \$15.00 per hour plus benefits with a possible increase after a six-month training period. Application deadline is January 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Applications are available in the Highway Department Office located at the Thomas County Shop 1260 Sunflower Ave, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. until noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Thomas County Highway Department is an equal opportunity employer

## HELP WANTED

### OPENING DUE TO RETIREMENT Oakley Public Schools

Head of Maintenance Position, Experience in plumbing, electrical, Mechanical systems and HVAC preferred.

Full-time position, with benefits. Health Insurance; Life Insurance; KERS Retirement; Paid Time Off, Uniforms, Salary Negotiable

Start Date is February 1, 2021  
Applications due no later than January 15, 2021

If interested contact Ken Bockwindel, Supt. (785) 671-4588  
Application available on our website at [www.oakleyschoolsks.com](http://www.oakleyschoolsks.com) under the District Office Tab or at USD #274, 621 Center Ave. Suite 103, Oakley, KS 67748  
Applications accepted until filled. USD 274 is an EOE.