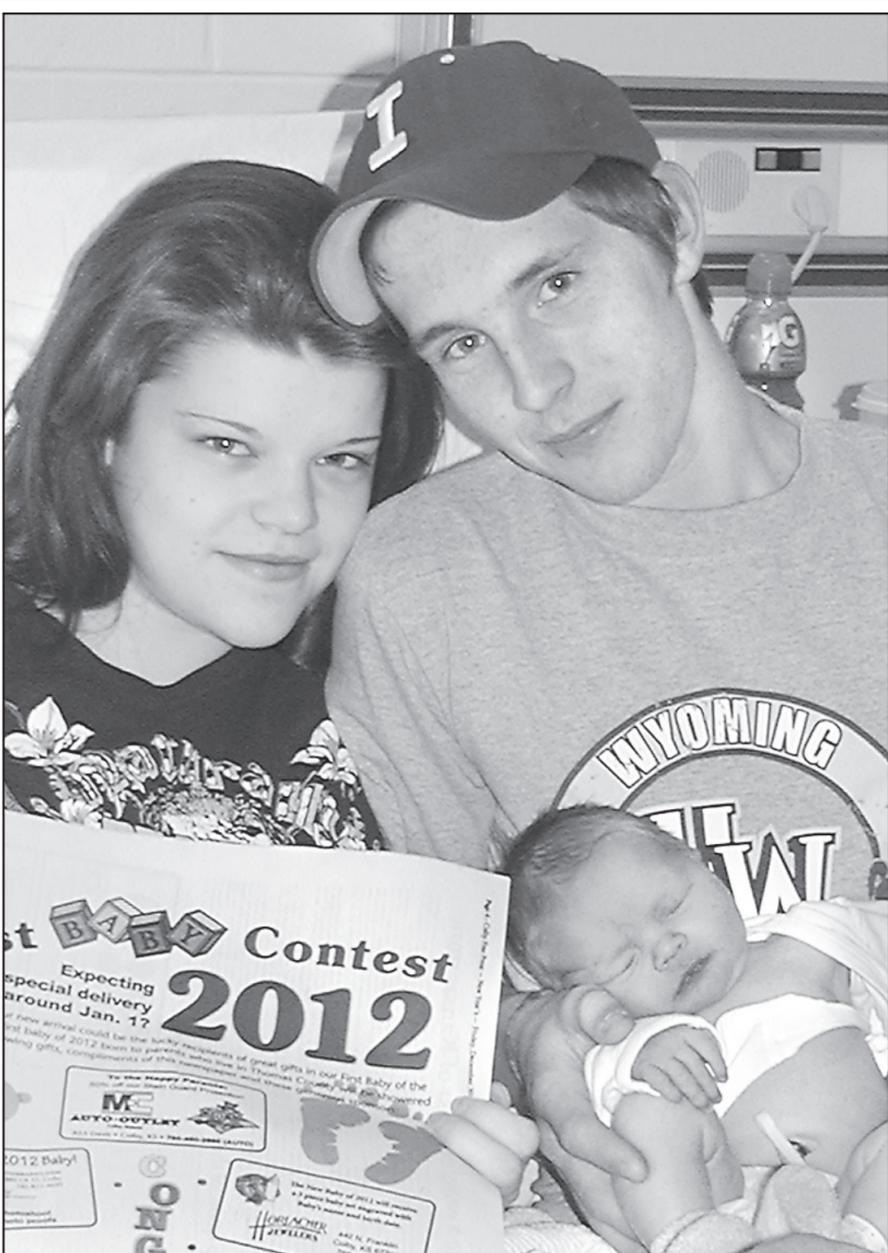




COLBY FREE PRESS

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CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

Lane Ryan DeHart dozed as his parents, Seth DeHart and Regan Stoltz of Colby, talked about his name Friday at Citizens Medical Center. Lane, the first New Year's baby to be born to Thomas County residents, won the *Colby Free Press*' annual New Year's Baby contest.

Baby checks in early to claim year's prizes

By Christina Beringer

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Cashing in his 15 minutes of fame a little earlier than most is newborn Lane Ryan DeHart, son of Seth DeHart and Regan Stoltz of Colby, Thomas County's first baby of the new year.

He wasn't the first born in the county this year, but he is the first born to a resident of the county. That makes him the winner of recognition in the *Colby Free Press*' annual New Year's Baby contest.

Lane and his parents will receive a \$25 savings account at Farmers and Merchants Bank of Colby, 50 percent off stain guard protection from MC Auto Outlet, a three-piece baby set engraved with Lane's name and birth date from Horlacher Jewelers, a free newborn photo shoot session and a CD of photo proofs from Laura Norris Photography, a free family night at Colby Bowl and Fun Center, a Wood Wick candle from Inlow Interiors, a \$25

gift card for Taco John's and a free one-year subscription to the *Free Press*.

Lane was born two weeks and a day early, at 4:05 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 6, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center. He weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Not only is he the first newborn of Thomas County parents this year, but the first for his parents. He is the grandson of Kevin Stoltz, Michelle DeHart and Mike Juenemann, all of Colby. Great-grandmothers of the baby are Peggy Humphries of Colby and Vicky DeHart of Laramie, Wyo.

Regan said they named their son after Lane Frost, a bull rider who lost his life during Cheyenne Frontier Days in Wyoming on Sunday, July 30, 1989. A movie made in 1994, "8 Seconds", told about Frost's last stand with the bull that took his life.

"And his middle name is named after his dad. Seth and Lane both have the middle name Ryan," Regan said with a smile as she and Seth shared a glance.

Pilot takes over Bosselman's here

By Kayla Cornett

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The Bosselman Travel Center in Colby was sold to Pilot Flying J on Thursday, along with six other travel centers in the Midwest.

By today, signs from the big one on Interstate 70 to doors and trash cans had been changed to the new brand. The manager, a hold-over from Bosselman's, said more changes were on the way.

Pilot Flying J announced last week that the centers in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota would be open for business as Pilot Travel Centers. Plans for the sale were announced in November along with plans to expand Bosselman's truck repair shops (Boss Truck Shops) to 20 other Pilot Flying J travel centers across the nation. Bosselman says it's keeping that part of the business.

"Pilot Flying J is pleased to add these Bosselman Travel Centers to its network," said President Jimmy Haslam. "Bosselman facilities are well run, have always had a strong focus on serving the professional driver as well as the traveling motorist and already offer many of the same amenities....

"We have no doubt that these



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

The Bosselman Travel Center in Colby changed its name and signs after being sold to Pilot Flying J on Thursday.

travel centers will transition smoothly into the Pilot Flying J network. In addition, with the implementation of CSA 2010, Pilot Flying J and its drivers will benefit from expanding Boss Shops at its locations across the nation."

Compliance, Safety, Accountability 2010 was launched in December as a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration initiative

designed to improve safety for large trucks and buses.

The travel center in Colby already has a list of amenities for drivers, including five private showers, 90 parking spaces, eight diesel fuel lanes and a Wendy's restaurant, but Pilot Flying J says it has more plans for the location.

The firm will offer diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) at the pumps, a type of fuel that protects the environment from exhaust fumes. It's required by the Environmental Protection Agency for new semi-trucks and farm equipment.

General Manager Bill Rohr said the company plans to enhance the showers and offer a loyalty program similar to what was already offered by Bosselman.

The showers now can be entered with a key, but the new ones will have a keypad so they will be automated. Rohr said this change means a driver won't have to deal with anyone at the counter.

Monday, Rohr said he didn't not know if the Colby location will receive a truck repair shop and said there is no schedule for the changes.

"Right now, we're just changing to their computer system and cash registers," Rohr said. "Once all of that is done, we'll start on all the upgrades."

Grant to boost walk plan

By Christina Beringer

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Colby may be on its way to becoming the most walkable community in Kansas — a major goal for many residents and organizations in town, as well as for partnerships that have been formed throughout the state.

With plans and development underway for a walking trail near the city's new swimming pool, another component of the plan has begun thanks in large part to

a grant received by the Thomas County Community Foundation.

In early December, said Director Melinda Olson, the foundation received word that Colby will be one of only seven towns across the state to receive \$25,000 from the Kansas Health Foundation as part of their Healthy Community Design initiative. The Thomas County foundation applied for the grant to help the Thomas County Healthy Communities Coalition, which is spearheading a plan for walking trails and other outdoor improvements.

"TCCF is happy to help the coalition and Thomas County attain these much-needed funds from the Kansas Health Foundation," Olson said. "The grant is a tremendous asset as we develop citywide efforts of improving sidewalks and creating avenues to increase biking and walking opportunities.

"We hope to change the norm of people hopping in their car all the time, to influence a culture change and provide ways of becoming healthier and happier."

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Century of grime off of dome

By Tim Carpenter

The Topeka Capital-Journal

TOPEKA (AP) — Jim Rinner's scaffold-acquired view of the Statehouse's interior dome offers a rare, up-close perspective of mural paintings, plaster details and copper embellishments encircling the space.

Grunge obscured all but the boldest features of decorative elements until the network of tempo-

rary stairs and platforms brought cleaning crews within reach.

"This copper in the inner dome hasn't been touched since it was originally put up there," said Rinner, project manager at J.E. Dunn Construction. "One hundred years of dirt and grime."

This round of interior renovation has included repair to large murals and plaster works that have been subjected to water damage. Copper covering iron beams

and wrapping segments inside the dome has been transformed from a murky black to shiny tan.

"We do some tinting, highlighting so you can see more of the character of it," Rinner said. "Then we do a clear varnish on top. That will protect it for years."

He said autographs left by visitors who climbed circular stairs in the dome will be lost in the resto-

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Colby man rises to challenge, writes play that's now published

By Christina Beringer

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After answering a spur-of-the-moment request to write a short play in December 2009, Everett Robert of Colby has landed a contract to have his one-act children's play, "Allie in Wonderland," published by Heartland Plays Inc.

Written as a sequel to Lewis Carroll's classic story, "Alice in Wonderland," Robert said, his version is set in modern times with a "tween" Alice hooked on her computer, iPod and cell phone. But now the cooler, older character goes by "Allie" and her imagination has been sucked dry.

Desperate to help Allie regain her creativity and restore life into Wonderland, the rabbit brings the girl back while she's out searching for a signal on her cell phone.

The story takes place in Wonderland as a fictional entourage of characters tries and convince Allie that her imagination is vital to their world.

"The idea to write the play was brought about when the grade school and intermediate school principal in Hill City told me he was offering extracurricular opportunities to his students," said Robert. "Bill Goodwin is a good friend of mine, so I offered to write a play to give the kids something to perform. Bill gave me about a month's deadline, and said if I couldn't get something approved soon, then he would have to purchase a play."

Robert came through and the play

was performed in March 2010 by students at Hill City Middle School, directed by Goodwin and his wife Tonia.

Robert said his major obstacle was coming up with a play that could involve a good mixture of male and female roles. He said most of the students interested in acting are girls, and that his story fit the need, since most of the characters could be performed by either gender.

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EVERETT ROBERT COLLECTION
The Mad Hatter and the March Hare were discussing tea at a tea party thrown for Allie in a 2010 Hill City production of a play written by a Colby man. One of the types of tea they brought up was "kara-tea," the playwright says.

