



Pioneer Memorial Library celebrated its 100th anniversary on March 14, 2026. Founded by the Colby City Council on March 14, 1926, the library was later renamed to honor the pioneers who helped build it. The centennial celebration drew children, staff, volunteers and community members for a day of activities. A more in-depth article will appear in the March 25 edition of the High Plains News. *Courtesy photo*

Commissioners addresses mental health funding and approve resolutions

BY ALEX BARTA
HIGH PLAINS NEWS

COLBY — The Thomas County Commission addressed several items during its meeting Monday, March 9, 2026 including a presentation from High Plains Mental Health Center, discussion of county operations and consideration of several resolutions.

Commissioners approved Resolution 2026-6 to establish who has authority over the county's investment accounts. The resolution allows county investment funds to be deposited in financial institutions approved by the board and recorded in official minutes. It applies to all county investment and interest-bearing accounts, including savings accounts, certificates of deposit (CDs), CDARS accounts, money market accounts, and similar investment vehicles.

The commission also considered Resolution 2026-7, which designates the county's official newspaper for

legal publications. Commissioners officially designated High Plains News as the county's official newspaper after the Colby Free Press ceased operating as a standalone publication and merged into the new region-wide publication. The resolution also confirms and validates any legal notices or advertisements that were published in either the Colby Free Press or High Plains News during the transition period, ensuring there was no lapse in the county's official publication requirements.

Craig Poe of High Plains Mental Health Center presented the organization's 2025 annual report and discussed its 2027 budget request of \$52,033.21 as part of the county's upcoming budget process. The funding would help maintain core mental health services available to residents of Thomas County.

Commissioners discussed a proposed adjustment to an agreement with Bettis Asphalt, including requirements related to

a performance bond. After discussion, the commission approved the proposal to add a 1% bond fee of \$15,369.20.

The commission approved the purchase of a 2025 Chrysler Braun van for the purchase price of \$79,917.00 from Masters Transportation Inc. The Thomas County Transportation Van Service is usable by any citizen for rides anywhere in Thomas County for a fee of \$1 by calling 785-443-9208. The van operates throughout the county on a call-by-call basis, with rides scheduled in advance and provided on a first-come, first-served basis depending on driver availability.

A proposal regarding an assistant maintenance director position was also discussed. Commissioners requested further information on the proposal.

Additional discussion during the meeting included Aid to Local Grant applications, recognition of the county receiving a KCAMP Loss

Ratio Award, and information about a training opportunity titled "Pulse of Public Health: A Commissioner's Guide."

Commissioners renewed membership in the Colby Chamber of Commerce and approved purchase of a table at the annual chamber banquet on April 10.

Commissioners also reviewed township and cemetery annual reports.

During routine business, the commission approved accounts payable, a line item transfer, and the minutes from the Feb. 27 meeting.

The commission reviewed several informational items including the February Road and Bridge report, February Noxious Weed report, a bank reconciliation report, correspondence from Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services, and the Brewster Senior Center newsletter.

The Thomas County Commission next meeting is March 16th at the Thomas County Courthouse in Colby.

Birth Announcement

Jordan York and Apryll Fetterly of Oakley, Kansas, announce the birth of their daughter, Lilith Amelia Rose York, who was born on March 9, 2026.

Lilith weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 18.5 inches long at birth.

She is welcomed home by her brother, Xander York, age 6.

MARCH 2026 STUDENT OF THE MONTH



BRITTANY SWARTZ

Parents:
Cory and Tammy Swartz

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Brittany Swartz, a Senior at Colby High School, is the Colby Rotary Club's Student of the Month for March 2026. Some of Brittany's honors and activities include being a 4-time CHS Student of the Month, on the Superintendent's Honor Roll throughout High School, Vice President of the National Honor Society, serving on the Student Council, and being the Senior Captain for the CHS Spirit Squad. She has also won awards for her art and dance ability.

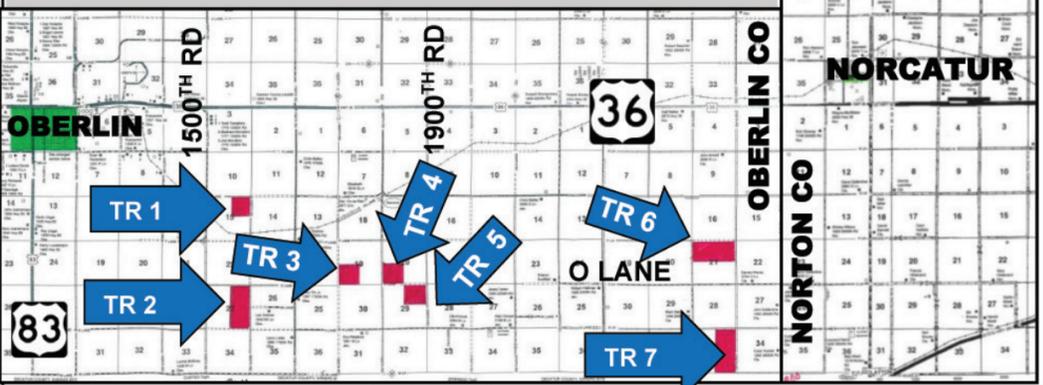
Brittany currently works at the Citizens Medical Center as a Certified Nursing Assistant and has worked at the Colby Aquatic Park as a lifeguard. During high school, she has completed over 60 hours of volunteer service at various school, church, and community activities.

Along with her high school classes, Brittany is currently taking various college classes through Colby Community College. She is exploring different future college options where she will be able to be on a dance team along with focusing on becoming a Physician Assistant.

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