



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Rod Williams, information systems manager at Citizens Medical Center, handed food collected during the hospital's drive to Wynn Duffey, Genesis of Thomas County vice president. The picture below shows a portion of the stock pile.

## Citizens Medical Center holds food drive for Genesis program

### Special to the Free Press

Citizens Medical Center, Inc. held a food drive last week to benefit Genesis of Thomas County.

The Colby hospital, Prairie Senior Living Complex and Family Center for Health Care all joined forces to make this happen with more than 7,500 items donated, including \$1,374 in cash for an approximate total of \$5,000, said Tama Unger, public relations coordinator at the hospital.

Hospital officials acknowledged and thanked Colby Salvage, Butch Herbel/Colby Community College cafeteria, Otter Manufacturing of Otter, Kan., L and C Home Health Care, Advanced Technology Auto Glass, Starbuck's, Twisters, The B-Hive, Auto Shine, Wednesday Night Women's Bowling League and all the employees at Citizens Medical Center.

"We are so glad that we have had the opportunity to not only bring our staff together in this effort, but to provide needed sup-



port for Genesis," said Amy Gourley, Human Resources coordinator and food drive co-coordinator at Citizens Medical Center.

"I graciously thank everyone for their generosity and support," Gourley said about the recent food drive.

## Wrong information appears on Thomas County tax statements

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Thomas countians are asked not to pay the 2004 county taxes that were mailed out last Wednesday from the treasurer's office — at least not yet.

"We discovered after mailing the statements that the county levy was wrong because of a decimal point that didn't get moved (during the calculations)," said Donita Applebury, county treasurer.

However, not everything in the mailing was incorrect and Applebury wanted to make sure taxpay-

ers don't confuse what is okay and what is not.

"Please don't pay taxes on the 2004 tax statement from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2004," she said. "We will be sending out new statements with the word 'REVISED' at the top of the new statement."

For those who have already paid the tax from the statement sent last week, Applebury said that when the new statements are mailed, her office will also mail refunds to those who overpaid.

Taxpayers who receive the 16-20 tax statement, which is for heavy

trucks weighing 16,000 to 20,000 lbs., those are correct.

"Also there will be no new Homestead sheets sent or the blue return envelopes," Applebury said today. "We don't have enough envelopes (for the second mailing)."

All taxpayers will get new property tax information sheets along with the "REVISED" tax statement, she said.

If anyone has questions about this error, Applebury said to call her office at 462-4520.

"We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused," she said.

## Community readies for Christmas parade

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The lights will be twinkling merrily in downtown Colby on Sunday evening Dec. 5, during the community's annual Christmas parade.

Jada Tubbs, director of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, said the theme of this year's parade is "Bringing the Holidays Home."

She said entries are being taken until 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 and can be made by dropping by or calling the Chamber at 460-3401.

There are different categories for

entries, including business, organizations, youth, religious and best-lit.

The first-place entry will receive \$50 and second prize is \$25.

Tubbs said lights aren't necessary on an entry, but they would help.

"It doesn't have to (have lights) but it would be easier to see them since it's going to be in the dark," she said.

Tubbs said the parade has always been held at around dusk and has been for more than a decade.

Entries will line up on South Franklin Avenue, by TNT Auction,

where the parade will start, and the route is down Franklin to Santa City, where the parade will end.

"Kids can go visit Santa," Tubbs said. Santa isn't the only attraction for the official beginning of the holiday season.

"The chamber will again be serving hot cider," she said, adding it will be available in front of the stage that will be set up in front of Homeland Realty and the Sports Shoppe.

Tubbs also said downtown business might be open before the parade, but she isn't sure what business those could be.

## Governor's attempt to resolve gambling issues is questioned

TOPEKA (AP)—Gov. Kathleen Sebelius tried to use a casino compact with two Indian tribes to resolve thorny gambling issues this fall, but the agreement's wide scope created too big an obstacle.

The compact would allow the Kickapoo and Sac and Fox tribes to open a casino in Wyandotte County and guarantee the state \$50 million or more annually. The agreement also would protect the new casino from competition by threatening

the state with the loss of its revenue if it did not restrict gambling elsewhere.

If legislative leaders had exercised their legal power to approve such a compact, they would have set policy on expanding gambling.

That fact made it easier for House Speaker Doug Mays to block action on the compact last week. Instead of discussing the compact's merits or gambling policy, Mays argued that such a big decision shouldn't be

left to only a few leaders.

"We'll have a debate, and it will be before the full Legislature," said Mays, R-Topeka.

Mays could block action on the compact because he is chairman of the Legislative Coordinating Council and sets its agenda. State law says the council can approve a compact when lawmakers are out of session, but Mays kept the Kickapoo-Sac and Fox agreement off the agenda for the council's meeting.

## Briefly

### Promotion committee to meet

The Colby Promotion Committee will meet Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. in the basement of Sunflower Bank, 500 N. Franklin. Holiday hours, parade and advertising will be discussed.

The committee is open to member businesses and non-member businesses alike, said Jada Tubbs, executive director of the Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce.

### Hospital Auxiliary open house

The Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary will be hosting an open house and Shoparama on Tuesday, Nov. 30 and Wednesday, Dec. 1 in the board room at the hospital from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. The gift shop will also be offering a 25 percent discount on all ornaments during this time, and all Christmas items are now in. Proceeds from these two days go to the Auxiliary to further their volunteer efforts.

### Commodity distribution is Dec. 1

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed on Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 8:30-10 a.m. at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center in Colby. Items include pork, peanut butter, pudding cups, potato flakes, raisins and orange juice. For information or questions, call 462-6744.

### No trash pickup Thursday, Friday

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be operating on Thursday and Friday due to the Thanksgiving holiday. For those whose normal trash day is Thursday or Friday it will be picked up on Saturday. Please have all trash at curb by 8 a.m. For questions call the Public Works Department, 462-4420.

### Council provides out-of-town transportation

The Thomas County van, driven by volunteers, will be attending the out of town Western Plains Arts Council performances. Any person with

a council membership may ride the van on a first-come first-served basis. A donation will be required, said Rosalie Seemann, one of the coordinators. Anyone wanting to ride in the van may call the Senior Progress Center to reserve one of the 8 seats between 8 - 10 a.m. the week before the performance.

The van will always leave from the Senior Progress Center and Seemann will be the primary driver with Vicki Waldschmidt as backup driver. For questions, call Seemann at (785) 586-2240.

### Names sought for 'Heart Tree'

Organizers of the "Heart Tree" are once again seeking names of children who could benefit from having their wish realized during the holiday season.

The "Heart Tree" was established three years ago in remembrance of Dr. Jeff Jennings, who died suddenly at the age of 29 and prior to Christmas in 2001. The tree symbolizes Dr. Jennings' love for the holiday season, coordinators said. Anyone who might know of a child in need is asked to call Jennifer Van Eaton at Sacred Heart, 462-2179.

### Area 'Blue Star' ceremony announced

Do you have a son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter or a spouse currently serving in active-duty military?

The Goodland Elks Lodge #1528 will be holding its third Blue Star Flag Ceremony on Nov. 28 to honor the families of those military personnel by presenting them with the "blue star flag" for their windows. Contact Zona Price at Box 146, Goodland, Kan. 67735 or call her at (785) 890-6251 for more information.

### Genesis to give out holiday baskets

Genesis-Thomas County is again planning to give out food baskets to help needy families during the Christmas season.

If you or a family you know can use a basket please pick up a request form at the Genesis-Thomas County office at 350 S. Range on Wednesdays or call (785) 462-7930. Baskets will be available for pick-up on Dec. 11, 2004.

Colby  
Levant  
Brewster



## Cold weather to remain

**Tonight...**Partly cloudy. Scattered flurries after midnight. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds around 10 mph becoming northeast 10 to 20 mph after midnight. **Tuesday...**Mostly cloudy with scattered flurries. Areas of fog. Much colder. Highs in the mid 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. **Tuesday night...**Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 20. North winds 10 to 20 mph. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. **Wednesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. **Thanksgiving Day...**Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s.

### The numbers

Sunday's high, 37  
Low this morning, 30  
Year ago today, 31 and 18  
Records for this date, 75 in 1924 and -5 in 1917  
Precipitation past 48 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.03  
November total, 2.35 inches  
November snowfall: 2.5 inches  
Soil temperature, 39

### The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

