



COLBY FREE PRESS

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A good cause



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College student Cortney Hodgson, left, watched as JeanAnn Qureshi with American Red Cross Blood Services prepared her arm for blood donation today at the college student union. The annual college blood drive is sponsored

by the college nursing program. Tina Schrick, with the nursing program, said the nursing program has sponsored the drive for more than 20 years. This year's goal is 80 units of blood, but Schrick said more than 100 people had appointments.

Stadium project ready for bidders

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The Colby School Board approved the process to accept bids for the Dennen Field stadium project at a special meeting Wednesday.

This was the second special meeting held in a week on the project after the board learned the project must go to bid. CBS Constructors of McCook, Neb., was selected to help build the stadium by the Colby Booster Club in October. CBS Constructors' proposal was to provide a stadium for \$98,000.

At the Oct. 23 school board meeting, the board gave its consensus for the project to move ahead.

However, a couple of days after that meeting, school district attorney acknowledged the money the booster club had raised for the stadium must be given to the school district.

At that point, the money has to be treated as public funds requiring the project must have been bid. CBS Constructors did not return telephone calls before press time today.

Bid issues were resolved at the Nov. 2 special meeting, along with the project having to be taken over by the school district.

The booster club hopes to use volunteer labor to construct the stadium, and as long as the process is overseen by a district employee and covered by the district's insurance policy.

Glenn Strait of Strait Associates of Colby, the architect for the

project, said the McCook company sent him their specifications and plans for the stadium, which he adapted.

Specifications call for a 121-foot long stadium with a stair on each end, 15 rows of seating and a 30x8-foot press box on top.

There will be 1,033 seats, comparable to the current stadium. The entire cost for the stadium, including the new stands, concrete, press box and dismantling of the old stands is estimated at \$175,000.

With specifications in hand, Strait said the invitation to bid can go out.

The deadline for bids will be 2 p.m. Nov. 20. Once bids are received, and a bid tabulation form completed, they can be presented to the board at its meeting at 7 p.m. that day.

Board member Joel Powell asked if Strait included a cost for a technician from the construction company to be on site when the stadium is put together. He said he did put that in the specifications.

The booster club has been raising money for several years for the stadium, with a goal of \$100,000. The money is in a trust fund at First National Bank in Colby and will be turned over to the school district when needed.

Part of the funds are from the sale of reserved seating sold by the booster club, at a cost of \$75 per seat. Anyone buying the seats is guaranteed a seat at football games for five years, but it does not include the price of admission to games.

County's health department administrator resigns

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Thomas County Health Department Administrator Juanita Gatz's resignation was approved Monday during the Thomas County Commissioners meeting.

Gatz last day of work will be Dec. 31. In a letter to the commissioners, she said the position requires much paperwork, and the skills of a business manager and bookkeeper. She also recommended the next administrator should be that — an administrator, with those skills, as well as a medi-

cal background. Gatz started the position in January.

Another matter at the health department is a contract with the federal government. The county is slated to receive about \$14,000 for public health and safety, but Gatz sent the contract back unsigned due to various details stated in the contract over how the funds can be used.



J. Gatz

The county wants to confirm how the funds can appropriately be spent and still meet the contract guidelines. Commissioner Paul Steele said the commissioners need to talk with other county health departments to see what they have done with the paperwork.

The commissioners also heard a presentation from Joe Leroux with the Kansas Army National Guard in Norton. Leroux asked for permission to use the Thomas County landfill for a training site.

The commissioners approved the request as well as landfill supervisor Larry Jumper.

Leroux was asking for use of the land itself because the Guard doesn't have an outdoor training area.

He is an instructor for the recruit sustainment program. Leroux trains with the soldiers, giving them an idea of what basic training and beyond will be like.

Some of the training before basic can be done locally, which is why he was asking to use the landfill. He said the training is not expected until a weekend or two in February or March.

Commissioners also approved a proposal from Jim's Electric to install ventilation in

the courthouse computer room. The work will cost \$860.

In other business, the commissioners approved:

- Publication of a hearing notice to close off part of an alley in Levant.
- Road department supervisor Clair Schrock said he was told by the state it is the landowner's responsibility for weed spraying. If the owner wants the county's weed department to spray, there is a fee. However, if back taxes are owed by the landowner, Schrock has been instructed not to spray weeds until those taxes are paid.

Charitable groups seeking families

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Many charitable groups in Colby are wanting to make the holidays a special time for those needing help and some of those organizations are in need of volunteers.

As in year's past, Genesis Thomas County plans to make Christmas baskets available to families who might lack food during the season, said Marilyn Friesen, co-coordinator.

With only days left to sign up for a food basket, Friesen is urging anyone who is interested or someone who knows of a family that could benefit from this service to call 462-6343 before Saturday.

Another service to help those in need is provided by friends and family of the late Dr. Jeff Jennings, a family practitioner, who loved the holidays and children, said Jennifer Van Eaton, co-coordinator of the drive.

"If you know of a child that could benefit from having their Christmas wish placed on this special tree please call either Brette Pfeifer at Sacred Heart Church, 462-2179 or myself, 460-3684," she said.

Once the names are selected, members of the community can then purchase a gift for those children.

Santa City, an annual Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce project is also looking for people to play Santa Claus.

"If you know of someone that might be interested," said Holly Stephens, chamber executive director, "we would like to know. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing the smile that Santa puts on a child's face and Santa City is not complete without the Santa's so please call and volunteer for one or more shifts."

Those interested can call 460-3401 for details and shift availability.

Businesses and other individuals are also encouraged to consider taking part in the decorating contest sponsored by the Colby Promotions committee.

"Nominations for each category will be accepted at drop boxes located at Dillons and Wal-Mart and judged on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Organizers said this is different than in years past because residents will be casting votes for their favorite locations.

The big chill



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Grade School second graders performed during their concert, "The Big Chill," Tuesday at the grade school auditorium. The

students sang songs about snow. The next grade school programs are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 4, 5 and 7.