



10 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Wednesday

October 8, 2008

Volume 119, Number 160  
Serving Thomas County since 1888

## Electronics next target of recycling

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansan.com

Old computer monitors in the garage?  
Dead televisions in the attic?  
Fax machines in the back room?

Soon Colby will have a place to recycle all that eletrojunk.

The Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization plans to open up a center for recycling electronic equipment, which will be sent to a vendor connected with the federal prison system.

The agency operates general recycling center at 720 E. College Drive, but the electronics program will have its own building at 1190 Country Club Drive, said Lynette Koon, program administrator for the organization.

The idea is to keep pollutants, especially heavy metals like mercury and cadmium, out of landfills, Koon said. Many elements and compounds in the electronics can get into groundwater, but some can be recycled. A lot of the equipment will be disassembled.

She said the state Department of Health and Environment will allow the center to collect desktop and laptop computers, central processing units, computer parts (cords, keyboards, mice, internal/external drives, circuit boards), projectors, camcorders, radios (any type), tape recorders, speakers, satellite receivers, microwave ovens, calculators and adding machines, game consoles, game cartridges, toner and ink jet cartridges, cathode-ray tube monitors, liquid crystal display monitors, scanners, fax machines, copy machines, telephones, answering machines, pagers, personal data assistants, video cassette recorders, televisions and most any computer equipment.

"This is part of a two-year pilot where we are helping the (department) to study electronic waste in Kansas," Koon said.

During the first two years, she said, the state will pay up to \$150,000 in recycling and shipping fees. The program will cover Thomas, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sheridan, Logan, Gove or Scott counties, Koon said.

People from outside the eight-county region can use the center, she said, but they'll have to pay a recycling fee. Fees start at \$2 for smaller items, to \$5 for computer monitors and \$10 each for microwave ovens.

Unlisted items will be 10 cents a pound with a maximum fee of \$20 per item, Koon said.

The organization hopes these fees will cover the shipping and recycling costs not covered by the state. The electronic gear will go to UNICOR, a recycling agency run by the federal Bureau of Prisons and Federal Prison Industries

Inc.  
"If recycling fees exceed \$150,000, the organization has the option of shutting down the collection process and not accepting anything else until the new year starts or charging fees to everyone in order to cover the expenses," Koon said.

After the two-year pilot project ends, she said, it's assumed that everyone will be paying shipping and recycling fees when they bring items in.

The center will be open for collection one day a week in Colby.

"We will take a trailer to one of the other seven counties on Tuesday to collect electronic items ... and Wednesday the center will be open in Colby," Koon said.

She is optimistic that the center will be collecting a lot of items by spring.

"I think that everything that isn't sold in the garage sales is going to go to us," Koon said.

## Storm put power-line work on hold



STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

A Midwest Energy crew from WaKeeney was busy last week connecting power lines out of two substations east of Colby to make service along U.S. 24 more dependable. The crew added a short stretch of 6,800-volt wire to the line, which also

carries a high-voltage town-to-town circuit. Contract crews rebuilding the big line were called away last month to repair damage from Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, but will return to finish the job, said Midwest spokesman Bob Helm.

## Now just hold still a minute



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Eli Hutton sat in his mom Jana Hutton's lap as Cindy Finks, an audiology technician for the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, used a tympanogram to check his ears. The instrument is used to check for things like impacted wax, perforation and fluid in the ear, Finks said. Eli was one of 25 preschoolers to take advantage of free developmental screening Tuesday.

## No-Obama tour plans Colby stop

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansan.com

A group of conservative activist will bring their national anti-Obama campaign to Colby a week from Monday.

The "Our Country Deserves Better" Political Action Committee's tour will stop here on Monday, Oct. 20, to hold a rally and news conference about why citizens should not support Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate for president.

The rally and news conference in Colby is part of the groups "Stop Obama," pro-McCain/Palin tour at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 20, at Fike Park downtown, said spokesman Joe Wierzbicki.

The Colby stop comes after rallies in Santa Fe and Raton, N.M., and Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Denver in Colorado, with the next two stops in Kansas City and St. Louis.

The group claims an Obama victory would mean higher taxes, weakness on national defense, an "empty" energy policy and lax border enforcement. The group also says that Obama will appoint liberal judges "who will undermine the Constitution."

The organization lists eight prominent conservative figures who have roles in the group:

- Howard Kaloogian, a former California legislator, and chairman of the group.
- Sal Russo, an Reagan administration official, listed as chief

strategist.

- Deborah Johns, mother of a Marine who served three tours in Iraq, and activist.

- Lloyd Marcus, a musician, conservative activist and spokesman for black anti-Obama voters.

- Mark Williams, a talk show host and political commentator.

- Kelly S. Eustis, another activist, who ran for town office at age 19, eCampaign co-ordinator.

- Wierzbicki, a Republican political operative who is co-ordinator of the group.

- Betty Presley, treasurer, a campaign treasurers for Republican organizations.

Colby citizens may be familiar with some of these people.

Kooligan served as assistant Republican leader in the California state Assembly in 1994-2000 and launched the successful recall campaign against Gov. Gray Davis, which eventually led to Democratic Gov. Davis being the first official to be recalled in state history.

Johns is the mother of a Sgt. William Johns of the U.S. Marines, who has served three tours in Iraq and was the leader of the "Move America Forward, You don't speak for me (Sheehan) Tour." She has appeared on major news networks.

Williams said he believes Obama's energy plan should focus on using our own natural resources, including oil, to help our country become energy independent.

See "TOUR," Page 6

## Briefly

### Rain Monday silences sirens

Bad weather Monday prompted Thomas County officials to put off the monthly test of the tornado sirens for a week. The test will be at 10 a.m. this coming Monday, Oct. 13. The sirens are tested on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. When there is bad weather of other significant events going on, the test is pushed back to the next Monday, said Susan McMahan, county emergency management director. For questions, call her at 460-4516.

### Square dancer twirl Saturday

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club of Colby will be meeting and dancing from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Everyone is invited.

### County giving flu shots

The Thomas County Health Department will be offering flu shots at the department office from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22; Tuesday, Nov. 4; and Monday, Nov. 10; and from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday and on Monday, Oct. 20. Cost is \$25. No reservations are needed.

### College program starts Oct. 13

Colby Community College will offer a Certified Nurse Aide class beginning Monday. Debbie Schwanke, public information officer, said classes will be in the Health Science Building, room 809 and clinicals at the Prairie Senior Living Complex. The class, to be taught by Shelly Rodenbeck and Deanna Schmidberger, both registered nurses, is worth five college credits. For costs, registration and a complete schedule, call Mary Herbel at (785) 460-5427.

### Shelter dogs, cats need homes

The Colby Animal Clinic has several kittens — said to be "really cute" — available for adoption and two full-grown labs — one chocolate and possibly purebred, and one black and white. Both are very friendly and would make good pets. Call the clinic at (785) 460-8621 or stop by 810 E. Fourth and take home a new pet. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

### Single seniors plan potluck

A new group for those 50 and over who are widowed, divorced, never married or have a partner in a nursing home is forming in Colby for fun and fellowship.

The second gathering of the group, More Fun Together, will be a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St.

Bring a dish to share; table service and beverages will be provided. The church is handicapped accessible; enter through the east door. For information or a ride, call (785) 462-6342.

### Knights selling Tootsie Rolls

The Colby Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Tootsie Roll drive in conjunction with Helping People with Intellectual Disabilities Days this weekend. Knights will be in front of Wal-Mart and Dillon's to hand out candy and gather donations. The money goes to the Knights' state council. Eighty percent will be used to help the Prairie Developmental Center in Atwood and 20 percent to the special Olympics basketball tournament at Fort Hays State University in March and for religious education of those with mental disabilities. For information or Tootsie Rolls, call Jerad Lange at (785) 460-1130 or Tom Pardee at (785) 460-0356.

