



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

## Last ballots counted

Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms and commissioners Ken Christiansen (center) and Paul Steele talked Friday about which provisional ballots would be counted at the official canvass of election returns. Commissioner Byron Sowers was out of the picture to the right.

Provisional ballots are those where the voters has some irregularity in registration. They were held out of the of the count until commissioners could decide whether to count them. Thomas County had 104 this year, mostly people who had moved since they registered.

Later, Susie Grill, deputy county clerk, (right) and Kristi Mann, assistant deputy clerk, fed the approved ballots into a counting machine. In the end, only seven were rejected.



# Obama plans to close prison on Cuba base

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama's advisers are quietly crafting a proposal to ship dozens, if not hundreds, of imprisoned terrorism suspects to the U.S. to face trial, making good on his promise to close the Guantanamo Bay prison, but requiring creation of a controversial new system of courts.

During his campaign, Obama described Guantanamo as a "sad chapter in American history" and has said generally that the U.S. legal system is equipped to handle the detainees. But he has offered few details on what he planned to do once the facility is closed.

Under plans being put together in Obama's camp, some detainees would be released and many others would be prosecuted in U.S. criminal courts.

A third group of detainees —

the ones whose cases are most entangled in highly classified information — might have to go before a new court designed especially to handle sensitive national security cases, according to advisers and Democrats involved in the talks. Advisers participating directly in the planning spoke on condition of anonymity because the plans aren't final.

The move would be a sharp deviation from the Bush administration, which established military tribunals to prosecute detainees at the Navy base in Cuba and strongly opposes bringing prisoners to the United States. Obama's Republican challenger, John McCain, had also pledged to close Guantanamo. But McCain opposed criminal trials, saying the Bush administration's tribunals should continue on U.S. soil.

## Banks, other offices to close for holiday

With Veterans Day on Tuesday, all federal offices and banks will be closed. There will be no mail delivery and the window at the post office will be closed, though the inside crew will sort mail in back.

Thomas County offices, including the courthouse, county complex and landfill, will be closed and the country transportation van will not run.

However, all Colby city offices will be open regular hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All Colby schools, including the public schools, Heartland

Christian school and Sacred Heart Catholic School, will be holding regular classes and all classes and regularly scheduled events will be held at the Colby Community College.

The Senior Progress Center in Fike Park also will be open regular hours.

A Veterans Day parade will start at 4 p.m. at Fike Park and go through downtown to the Thomas County Courthouse, where a ceremony will be held. Members of the Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club will be selling poppies during the parade.

# Auction raises cash for hospice

By Andy Heintz

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The 13th annual "Dream, Act and Believe" Banquet and Auction on Saturday raised money to help Hospice Services help ease the way for people at the end of their lives — and their families — in Thomas County.

Money raised at the event is being used to help patients pay for medical expenses, said Melinda Cheney, a member of the Thomas County Advisory Board for the agency, which is based in Phillipsburg and has an office at 438 N. Franklin Ave. here.

As of Monday, she said, the agency wasn't sure how much the event had raised after expenses.

Cheney said the agency serves patients in their homes and in nursing homes. Many needs are paid for with money raised through special projects, such as the auc-

tion. The auction, at the City Limits Convention Center, is the main event in Thomas County.

The evening opened with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., then dinner at 6:30 and the auction at 7:30. Tickets were \$35 a person.

This year's auction featured a "Stash of Cash." Anyone could buy one of 100 keys from an advisory board members for \$10. One of the keys would open a box containing \$500.

Peg Tole of ended up choosing the right key and winning the \$500.

People also were able to buy raffle tickets, either three for \$10 or 10 for \$20. Tickets were drawn throughout the evening.

Winners were allowed to choose from items donated by businesses and individuals, Cheney said.

Prizes included a 16-ounce rib-eye dinner for two donated by On the Bricks Cafe of Goodland, \$50 in Chamber Bucks donated by

Homeland Realty and Auction, a watch set donated by Colby Automotive, two eight-inch round ice-cream cakes from Dairy Queen, and a \$35 gift certificate for the Menlo Grill.

Buying a ticket did not mean you would automatically win an one, Cheney said, since the raffle was based on luck of the draw.

The items that sold for the most money at the auction included 12 bags of seed corn for \$1,700, and 32-inch flat-screen Samsung television with an LG surround-sound system that includes a DVD player and radio, which went for \$1,300.

The seed corn was donated by Jeff Terrell, an independent representative of the Pioneer Seed Co., and the television by Beringer Hardware, Sears, Kansas Quick Lube and other cash donors. Another item that sold for a hefty sum was a limo ride to McCook, Neb., that included a dinner for six at the Coppermill Restaurant,

with a food and drink allowance of \$300.

This package sold for \$1,300; it was donated by Vision Source, H&H Auto, the Coppermill and cash donors.

Other items sold at the auction included a half-day spa package donated by Uptown Style and Day Spa, a prime-rib dinner for six donated by MC Auto Outlet, a dinner and movie package donated by Montana Mike's, City Limits, Twisters, John and Coleena Woods, and Colby Cinema and Arcade, and a Rough and Tough Boy's Basket, featuring an assortment of Hot Wheels, trucks, "moon sand" and games donated by Hospice Services and cash donors.

Guests stayed to party in the convention center once the dinner and auction had ended.

Cheney said 245 people turned out, about the same as last year.



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Chris Soehner played the role of auctioneer at the Hospice Services dinner and auction on Saturday.

## Briefly

### After Five at F&M Bank

Farmer and Merchants Bank plans a fall fiesta for the Colby Chamber of Commerce's monthly Business After Five this week. Chamber members are invited to enjoy Mexican food and beverages from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the bank on Fourth Street.

### All-school play Thursday, Friday

The annual Colby High all-school play, "Iphigenia," will be performed at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday at the high school auditorium. A Greek pasta dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. before the Friday performance. Tickets for the play only are \$5 for adults and \$4 for Colby School District students and children. Tickets for the dinner theater are \$10 and \$8. For information, call Nancy Rundel at (785) 460-5300.

### School board calls meeting

The Colby School Board will hold a special meeting at 7 a.m. Thursday at the district office, 600 West Third St. A possible closed-door session to discuss personnel issues is the only item on the agenda, said Superintendent Terrel Harrison.

### Turkey Trot 5K set for Saturday

The Colby Recreation Department plans the second annual Turkey Trot 5K at 9 a.m. Saturday. Participants predict their time, then try to match it, so they don't need to be fast, just able to finish. Late registration will be at 8:30 a.m. race day at the Community Building. Send or drop off registrations at the recreation office in the Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St., or call (785) 460-4440 for information.

### Coffee hour at vet clinic Friday

Swartz Veterinary Hospital will hold a Colby Chamber of Commerce coffee hour at 10 a.m. Friday at 1775 W. Fourth St. There will be coffee and cookies and a chance for Chamber members to get a look at the hospital's new addition.

### Author to speak at Heartland

Christian author Sean McDowell will speak at the Heartland Christian School's "Partners for the Future" Endowment Banquet at 6 p.m. Friday at the school. Tickets, \$15 each, may be purchased until Wednesday at the school or by calling (785) 460-6419.

### City looking for referees

The city Recreation Department needs officials for Mens Basketball League, which runs on Sunday afternoons through February. Call (785) 460-4440 to sign up.

### Outdoor water will be expensive

Colby water meters will be read on Thursday, Nov. 20. All water used between then and Feb. 20 will be used to figure indoor use for next year's sewer bill. This means any outdoor use during the winter, such as lawn watering or washing a car, might drive up your sewer bill for the entire year. For questions, call 460-4400.

### Genesis looking for food, money

Genesis-Thomas County is looking for food and money to buy items to put in Christmas baskets, which will be distributed to those in need of help during the holidays. Donations can be left at Genesis from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays or at LeRoy's Printing, or Sacred Heart Catholic, First Presbyterian, Colby United Methodist or Trinity Lutheran churches. Send checks to Genesis-Thomas County at Box 214, Colby, Kan. 67701. For information, call (785) 460-7930.

