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# COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Wednesday

November 11, 2009  
Volume 120, Number 176  
Serving Thomas County since 1888



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

## County deals to delay software cost

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When you don't have enough money to take advantage of a good deal, then the answer is to bargain with the seller. That's just what the Thomas County Commissioners did on Monday, when representative Debbie Mattheis from Computer Information Concepts of Greeley, Colo. presented her company's software conversion plan to the commissioners.

Earlier in the year, the commissioners had granted the new software program to CIC because it is more department-friendly to all departments in the county, and it was the best for the price.

However, the dilemma came when CIC presented the purchase contract for the year 2009, on Monday.

"Kansas law says if we make a purchase in 2009, then it must be taken out of the 2009 budget year, and we don't have provision in the 2009 budget for computer updates of the full purchase price," said Commissioner Paul Steele. "If we can make it in two contracts, and pay for the hardware out of this year's budget where there are already provisions for \$50,000, and make the remainder of the contract for the year 2010, then we can do business."

During a speakerphone conversation with company headquarters in Greeley, the commissioners and representatives came to an agreement that Thomas County would spend \$25,000 on hardware updates out of the current-year budget and, in January 2010, pay the remaining \$160,071 for the rest of the package.

The county will pay for mileage and rooms for the trainers. However, the training fee is included in the cost of the updates.

Dawnelle Umberger, training coordinator for Thomas County Emergency Medical Services, informed the commissioners she needed to attend moulage training in December in Garden City, where she will learn to make fake wounds look real. The technique is used for the department's disaster training.

Commissioner Paul Steele said he was concerned that the reason for the shortage of medical technicians might stem from the fact the volunteers aren't being paid enough to attract good people to the service. Steele asked Umberger to look into what the cost would be to bring the current service up to a paramedic service, which might make a difference.

Umberger said next year's budget may run into trouble because

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## Colby High School goes old school for musical

Colby High School will be performing Roger's and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the school. A second performance will be Friday with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and showtime at 7. Senior Brock Wagoner, playing Curly McLain (above photo, right) serenaded senior Caitlyn Wright, playing Laurey Williams, with "The Surrey With a Fringe on Top," at the dress rehearsal Wednesday evening. The musical follows the characters' romance in a small Oklahoma town in 1906. At the rehearsal, Senior Gray Henry as Will Parker (left photo) led his fellow students in a rendition of "Kansas City," which includes a dance routine (bottom photo). Wagoner, one of the leads in the production (right photo), sings several familiar songs throughout the production including "Oh What a Beautiful Morning." Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$8 for K-12 students.



## Teachers sell food for school supplies

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It's not a common thing to see teachers manning the counter, busing and cleaning tables and sweeping floors at McDonalds, especially on a school night. Nor do you usually find the principal behind the drive-up counter.

But last Monday was an exception. McDonalds of Colby teamed up with Colby Grade School in a rewards program where the restaurant awards points for each food and beverage receipt collected during a three-hour work period, the rush time from 4 to 7 p.m.

The points can be redeemed later for school supplies, which are available through a merchandise catalog on the McKansas website. Not only that, but students, parents and supporters can collect more receipts all month.

Rick and Gail Kueh of Hays, owners of the McDonalds stores in Colby, Hays, Russell and Wa-Keeney, said they heard about the Neighbors Program in early 2000 while traveling in Wisconsin. They decided to follow up on it so they

could do something helpful in this area, where schools were starting to struggle with their budget.

Marketing director Deena Rupp said the Kuehls investigated the program, only to learn it was available just in Wisconsin. They pursued their interest and got permission from McDonalds corporate officials to do the program in Kansas.

In 2005, the Kuehls set aside \$50,000 and rolled out the program, she said. It was an immediate success. When the Kuehls purchased the Colby McDonalds in 2008, the "Neighbors Program" was offered to all area schools. To qualify, they said, schools must include kindergarten through 12th grade or have a Head Start program associated with the schools.

Eligible counties now include Thomas, Ellis, Gove, Graham, Lincoln, Logan, Ness, Osborne, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Sheridan and Trego.

Monday night, Colby Grade School teachers from kindergarten through sixth grade got into the act, each one working a one-

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## Briefly

### Food bank needs donations

Genesis-Thomas County food bank needs nonperishable items for the Christmas Food Basket project. Donations may be dropped off at the office, 350 S. Range, Suite 13, on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., or at Leroy's Printing, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, First Presbyterian Church, Colby United Methodist Church or Trinity Lutheran Church. For information, call the Genesis office at 460-7930.

### Get your Christmas decorations

The Colby United Methodist Church is holding a Christmas decorations flea market from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, Nov. 20 in the church's fellowship hall. Decorations, greenery and other Christmas items will be available. For information, call the church office at 460-2761.

### Talent show set for Sunday

Midwest Support and Information Services will sponsor "Thomas County Has Talent," a county-wide talent show, at 2 p.m. Sunday at Frahm Theatre on the Colby Community College campus. Entry forms are available at the Midwest office at 640 N. Franklin. There is no cost to enter. For information, call Terry Drenner or Dana Schmidt at 460-1896.

### Benefit for Colby family Sunday

There will be a brunch and silent auction benefit for the Bill and Judy Kennedy family from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the Colby Community Building basement. The Kennedy family has three members with Cushing's disease and the proceeds will go to help with the costs of years of travel, treatment and surgery. For information, or to make a donation, call Sue Draper at 460-6332 or Elsie Rietcheck at (785) 855-2285.

### Candidate to speak at ceremony

Congressional candidate Sue Boldra will speak at the induction ceremony of the National Honor Society at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby High School auditorium. Boldra, a history teacher from Hays, is running for the Republican nomination in the Kansas 1st Congressional District. Sixteen high schoolers will be inducted into the National Honor Society. For information, call Linda Jones at 462-5300.

### Alliance to hold holiday service

The Thomas County Ministerial Alliance is hosting a Community Thanksgiving Service at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, in the Frahm Theater at Colby Community College. Ministers and musicians from many area churches are teaming up for the event. Donations will be accepted to help with the benevolent programs the alliance operates during the year. For information, call Jarrod Spencer at 443-2403.

### Legion seeks deployed soldiers

The Colby American Legion Auxiliary is looking for soldiers deployed overseas to send care packages to. If you have a family member or friend serving, send information on where the auxiliary can send them a care package to Megan Quenzer at nmquenzer@st-tel.net or call 443-3611 or Abby Barnett at abbyjo\_82@yahoo.com or call 694-1626. Information should be sent in by Saturday, Nov. 22. The auxiliary is also accepting donations for the packages until Dec. 6 when the packages will be put together. For information, call Quenzer or Barnett.



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