



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Using a white board and a projected computer map of Colby, Cpl. Ron Alexander of the Colby Police Department outlined part of the mock hostage crisis during a drill Friday at the Colby Fire Station. Several city departments joined the police and the

fire departments in the scenario, figuring out ways to coordinate their efforts in the event of a real hostage incident or other major emergency.

City trains for hostage situations

By Andy Heintz

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A man with a rifle takes a hostage at a Colby business. A shot has been fired on the second floor. Police surround the scene, the city calls in all its resources — and they need to work together.

Representatives of the city public works, administration, finance, fire and police departments got together Friday at the new fire station for a “tabletop” hostage scenario so when and if the real thing comes down, they’ll know what to do.

Fire Chief Bob McLemore said the scenario was meant to get everyone working together and thinking along the same lines so the agencies will be ready. Everything took place in the meeting room at the station, with no field simulations.

McLemore said the main goal was to figure out how the other agencies could help the police handle an incident. He said the

fire and public works department decided they could block traffic so more police officers would be able to help surround the shooter.

The chief said the fire department thought it might put a crew on standby at the station in case the police needed help or the man started a fire. He added that the firemen can’t do much until the area has been made safe.

Police Chief Randy Jones said the finance department would have to record all the costs for anyone asked to help in an emergency. That might include contractors, sheriff’s and police departments outside the area and the Kansas Highway Patrol, he said.

“They have to track everything, including food and water,” the chief said.

Jones said the senior police officer arriving on at the scene becomes the incident commander. He said this officer takes charge unless someone of a higher rank comes and relieves him.

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Democrat candidate faces tough race

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Kansas Democrats’ presumed nominee for governor will show how serious he is about his campaign with the amount of his own money he’s willing to put into it.

Tom Wiggans emerged as a candidate last week, appointing a treasurer for his bid. A former pharmaceutical company executive, he returned to Kansas from California early this year and is making his first run for public office.

He appears to have no chance of defeating U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, the presumed Republican nominee, unless he builds up a positive image with Kansans, and quickly. Doing that will require hundreds of thousands of dollars in the first months of his campaign, and the quickest way to raise it is to reach into his own pocket.

“If he puts in \$2 million or \$3 million of his own money, and builds up his positives and his name recognition across the state, then you could say he’s a serious candidate,” said Joe Aistrup, a Kansas State University political scientist. “but it’s going to take a massive infusion of his own wealth.”

Democrats needed a candidate because Gov. Mark Parkinson has said he’s not running next year. Many Democrats had seen Parkinson as the party’s natural heir to term-limited Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. He was elevated from lieutenant governor to governor in April when she resigned to become secretary of health and human services under President Barack Obama.

Later, the buzz among Democrats focused on state party Chairman Larry Gates, but he also declined.

Meanwhile, Brownback has been building his campaign and raising money for months. He’s expected to face only token opposition in

the Republican primary in August.

And history in Republican-leaning Kansas is on Brownback’s side with no Democratic incumbent in the governor’s race.

Democrats have never elected Kansas governors back to back. One reason is that each new year of a Democratic administration — with Democrats filling plum government jobs — helps to temporarily heal divisions between conservative and moderate Republicans.

“If you’re the least bit politically active, and the party doesn’t have the governor’s job, you realize the effect it has in every department in the state,” said former Republican state Chairman Tim Shallenburger, who lost the 2002 governor’s race to Sebelius. “I think we’re all ready to have a Republican governor.”

Republicans like Shallenburger are confident Brownback has reached out enough to mod-

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That’s a lot of brittle



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Linda Van Horn cooked more than 40 pounds of peanut brittle for the Kappa Upsilon Christmas cookie and candy sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the United Methodist Church in Colby. All of the proceeds will be donated to causes in town.

Extension offers bug and disease class

Farmers face insect and disease problems that never go away, including leaf rust and Hessian fly in wheat, plus some that are sporadic, including ear rots in corn and stem borers in sunflowers.

Farmers and commercial sprayers can learn what to do about both types at an insect- and disease-management school a sponsored by Thomas County Extension and the Sunflower Extension District from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Thomas County 4-H building in Colby.

“We will be offering commercial applicators continuing education units with seven hours for the 1A certification,” said Clint Mil-

liman, Thomas County extension agent.

The all-day school has been designed to allow farmers to attend the sessions which interest them, he said. The morning session will cover both insect and disease management of corn, grain sorghum and soybeans.

Following a free lunch, the afternoon session will cover regulations and insect and disease management for sunflowers and wheat.

Register by Tuesday so organizers can make lunch arrangements. For questions, e-mail milliman@ksu.edu, or call the Extension office at 460-4582.

Check This Out:
(Your grandchild's name here!)

says there are only

32 Days
Until Christmas

(Your Name Here)
Call 462-3963

Briefly

Order pies now from Heartland

Heartland Christian School plans a bake sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Walmart parking lot. Pumpkin, apple and pecan pies are available by preorder, said Deena Bandy, so call her at 460-6419 to reserve yours.

Women’s group plans fund raiser

The Colby Women’s League will hold its 13th annual Christmas brunch from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at Meadow Lake Golf Course and Restaurant. Donations will be accepted to benefit area groups and charities. For information, call Anita Hills at 462-6208.

County to close Thursday, Friday

The Thomas County Courthouse, Office Complex and landfill will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday, and the transportation van

will not run. The landfill will reopen Saturday. For questions, call Kristi Mann at the county clerk’s office at 460-4500.

Trash days change for holiday

The city sanitation truck will not be running on Thursday or Friday because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Trash will be picked up Wednesday for people on the Thursday route and Saturday for people on the Friday route. Have cans to the curb by 8 a.m., said Public Works Director Chris Bieker. For information, call 460-4420.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has six 8-week-old black and white mix puppies and one 8- to 12-week-old kitten available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have cur-

rent shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Food bank needs donations

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

Legion seeks deployed soldiers

The Colby American Legion Auxiliary is looking for soldiers deployed overseas to send holiday “care packages” to. If you have a family member or friend serving overseas, send information on where the auxiliary can send them a care package to Me-

gan Quenzer at nmquenzer@st-tel.net or 443-3611 or Abby Barnett at abbyjo_82@yahoo.com or 694-1626 by Saturday. The auxiliary is accepting donations for things to go in the packages until Dec. 6, when the packages will be put together. For information, call Quenzer or Barnett.

For latest flu info, call 460-4599

A hot line for questions on seasonal influenza and the H1N1 flu strain will be available throughout the flu season at (785) 460-4599. The Thomas County Health Department says information about the status and availability of vaccines, priority groups and the like will be available at this number.

