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Gifts from the young to the old



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Members of six Thomas County Girl Scout troops, along with several Scout leaders, helped fill 100 stockings for residents at Colby Care Center and Prairie Senior Living Center on Sunday. The Scouts put cookies, candy canes, ornaments, decks

of cards and stuffed animals in each stocking. Residents also got a musical greeting card. Pictured are (from left) Scouts Cayla Carter, Jenna Ketchum, Randi Cloe, Karissa Singer, Caitlin Cline and Autumn Korthanke and leader Deb Zerr.

High school puts focus on tardiness

By Kevin Bottrell
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Colby High School has a problem with late students and Principal Don Krebs says he's determined to change it by rewarding rather than punishing.

The high school has 308 students, Krebs told the Colby School Board on Monday, and so far this year 107 of them have at least one tardy reported. That one-third of the student body has racked up 486 tardies for the first class of the day out of 646 total since school started. That's an average of six apiece.

"I have a real problem with that," Krebs said.

Krebs said part of the school's purpose is to prepare students to be responsible adults, which includes not being late all the time. Part of the problem, he said, is since district buses no longer pick up students in town, some no longer have a reliable way to get to school every day. But whatever the reason, he said, he wants to see fewer tardies.

Krebs said he took the issue to the student council. Their idea was to have early dismissal one day every month for any student who does not have a tardy, detention or a D or an F on their grades.

Krebs proposed an early dismissal from seminar – the 45-minute last class of the day – on the third Friday every month.

"I would like to look at something positive rather than punitive," he said.

The principal said there are 101 students on the D and F list, many who only have only one D.

Students who are tardy have to check in with the front desk before heading to class, he said. Those more than 15 minutes later are counted absent for that class, rather than tardy. After the first class of the day, Krebs said, tardies are handled by each teacher. They can have students serve detention to make up for lateness. Krebs said all of the high school students who have tardies are caught up on their detentions.

The council voted unanimously to allow Krebs to try out the new policy for the second semester.

"It seems to me that if we have a positive idea, we should try it," said board President Janice Frahm.

Krebs said he would announce the new policy at an assembly today.

In other news:
• Superintendent Terrell Harrison gave the board an update on

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Salvation Army needs donations

By Aubrey Spencer
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'Tis the season of giving; at least that's what the Salvation Army is wishing for this holiday season.

Sue Draper, treasurer for the Army's Thomas County unit, said about \$1,000 has been collected so far. She said the donations usually come in through the end of the year, and the amount collected determines how much the organization will be able to help people in need throughout the year.

"Last year, we collected well over \$3,000," said Draper, "and we used every penny."

This year, she said, the Salvation Army hopes to collect at least that amount, Draper said. There

is no set goal, she said; the more that's given, the more they can help, she added.

Donating is easy. Look for the Salvation Army bell ringers with a red kettle, or just mail in your donation.

Bell ringers are at Walmart, 1915 S. Range. Draper said that Walmart employees volunteer their time and the store arranges the bell-ringing schedule. Bell ringers will collect donations through Christmas Eve.

Counter kettles are located at Palace Drug, 460 N. Franklin; Colby Photo, 420 N. Franklin; Office Works, 960 S. Range; and Dollar General, 1805 S. Range.

Donations can also be mailed to the Salvation Army, 148 S. Adams, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Democrat drops out

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — The leading Democratic candidate for Kansas governor dropped out of the race Wednesday, just a few weeks after getting in, leaving his party with no strong challenger to the expected Republican nominee, U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback.

Tom Wiggans, a former pharmaceutical executive making his first run for public office, had the backing of state Democratic leaders, who touted his business experience and contrasted it with Brownback's 15 years in Congress.

But Wiggans' campaign ac-

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Women's League has long history

By Vera Sloan
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It's been 75 years since the Colby Junior Women's League organized into a formal club, now called the Colby Women's League.

No one seems to remember when the group switched names, but long-time member Pat Criss gave this version of the change:

"I think when we realized we were no longer 'juniors' is when we changed our name," Criss said. "I think when the club first organized, they just got together to play bridge, got out their good dishes to have a nice meal, and then became a club."

Melany Kriss said she doesn't remember what year the name was changed, but she remembers why.

"Junior Women's League was a federated club with dues," she said, "and the club decided they didn't want to pay those dues to belong to a national organization, so they dropped the federated membership with the high dues, and became a local club."

Kriss said she has belonged for years, and it was already the Colby Women's League when she became a member.

But no matter what name the group goes by, it's the mission



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Colby Women's League member Evelyn Saddler took time out from keeping plates filled with goodies to sample one of them herself during the annual Christmas Coffee fund raiser held by the league each December. The event was the last fling in 2009 to raise money for the group's projects.

that counts. For the past 75 years, giving to a milk fund, helping a they women have been raising struggling young library, even money to help some local cause, helping a needy woman get run-

ning water piped into her house. Now the club's fund-raising efforts go to help the community orchestra, Hospice Services, "re-entry" scholarships for women who go back to school, endowed scholarships, the Prairie Museum, and the list goes on.

The club minutes say the group organized in October 1934, when 11 members got together to play bridge and sew. They soon made plans to give to a cause, and the first fund raiser was a dance to benefit the library.

The dance was by invitation only, and members hand addressed the invitations. Admission was 25 cents for a single and \$1.10 for a couple, and they accepted donations. The orchestra cost the women \$75 and the hall was \$10.

After all the bills were paid, the proceeds of \$76 were presented to the library, and the Junior Women's League had 11 cents left over in the treasury.

The club apparently set dues in match needs, because old minutes reflect monthly dues of \$1.40, 77 cents, \$1.90, and \$1 even.

In February 1935, the club made plans to have another dance to carry on "the milk fund," but the records do not indicate what the fund was or who it was for.

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Briefly

Dance team cooking soup, chili

The Colby High Dance Team will have a soup supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Community Building before the Colby-Oakley basketball game. Donations will be taken to help cover expenses when the team travels to Memphis to perform in the Liberty Bowl halftime show Saturday, Jan. 2.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a range of adult cats, male and female, long hair and short hair, available for adoption. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

County offering H1N1 flu shots

The Thomas County Health Department will offer H1N1 shots at a clinic from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and noon to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at the department's of-

fice, 350 S. Range Ave. The vaccine will be available to all county residents. No appointment is necessary and there will be no charge. For information, call the flu hot line at 460-4599 or the department at 460-4596.

Church planning pageant rerun

The Mingo Bible Church will hold a Christmas pageant at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the church, revisiting a slide show it produced two decades ago. Everyone is invited, especially those who will recognize their (much younger) selves in the slides. Refreshments will be served. For information, call Pastor Tom Peyton at 462-2930 or Roxy Wilson at 443-0362.

Bible, lunch merge for Advent

The Thomas County Ministerial Association will hold its final "Advent Brown Bags and Bible" session from noon to 12:50 p.m. Wednesday in the Fel-

lowship Hall of the Colby Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. The theme is "Joy to the World." Larry Booth will speak. For information, call 462-6342.

Library plans long weekend off

The Pioneer Memorial Library will be closed four days for Christmas, from Thursday to Sunday, Dec. 24 to Dec. 27. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

Want to be a Master Gardener?

It's time to sign up for Master Gardener Training to be held in Colby in February and March. The deadline is Thursday, Dec. 31, and the cost is \$90. For information or to register, contact the Thomas County Extension office at 460-4582.

Fatherhood program to start soon

The Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Cen-

ter's "24/7 Dad" fatherhood program will be offered again starting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, at the First Presbyterian Church in Colby. For information, call the center at 460-8177.

Hospital plans birthing classes

Citizens Medical Center will hold a four-week series of childbirth education classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays beginning Jan. 7 for women due to deliver before May. The partner who will be with the mother during labor should attend. Classes will be held on the hospital campus. The next classes will begin April 1. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown in the Education Department at 460-4850.

