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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

New software big headache for county

By Vera Sloan

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New software systems are not always what they're promised to be, it appears, and the \$175,000 system purchased by Thomas County early this year is no exception.

Commissioners met with representatives from three county offices about three hours after adjourning their regular end-of-the-month meeting on Wednesday. After hearing complaints about difficulties with the system, the commissioners asked for a special meeting at 3 p.m. to discuss problems encountered by the county treasurer, county clerk and the road and bridge department.

By the end of the session, after an hour on the phone with the president of the firm which sold

the system to the county, they got a promise that employees would get better training and the firm would "make it right" for the county.

Although representatives from Computer Information Concepts, the vendor for the new software, were in the courthouse last week to do training, employees said, issues seemed to have gotten worse instead of better.

Treasurer Donita Applebury said her office had "lost" fund accounts, there were errors in the bank balance and she was beginning to feel like she was in a maze and couldn't get out. She added that she and her deputy had been in the office until after 9 p.m. trying to figure out how to input data they should have been trained on.

"We have lost data somewhere, our e-mail contacts are gone and

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City to debate Embark loan

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby City Council will hold a public hearing Tuesday to get people's thoughts on whether to loan \$100,000 to Embark Health, the end-of-life services company trying to get a call center going here.

The begins at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Little Theater, downstairs in the Community Building.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city already loaned the firm \$483,899 to renovate the former Inlow Interiors building. Embark manager Junelle Hills said the company is making pay-

ments to the city on that loan, but if the business has met its job projections in four years - 130 jobs created - the rest of the money owed will be forgiven.

The Thomas County Economic Development Alliance board has asked the city to approve the \$100,000 loan for operations. The money will be used for payroll and operational costs only at the Colby facility. The interest rate to be determined by the city with full principal and interest due on Dec. 31.

The money would come from the city's sales-tax fund, which is set aside for economic devel-

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Police called out to domestic incident

By Kevin Bottrell

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A domestic disturbance involving a rifle which forced the evacuation of a section of Summer Sun Avenue on Tuesday night ended quickly and quietly with the man surrendering to police.

Police Chief Randy Jones said the dispatch office received a 911 call at 10:53 p.m. The caller hung up the first time, he said, and when dispatchers called the number back, they got a 16-year-old. The child told the dispatcher the parents were arguing and that their father had a gun.

Officers were dispatched to

the home. Jones said they were able to see through the windows and determine that the man had a high-powered rifle. There were five people in the house, a man, a woman and three children. Other officers arrived and talked to people in the neighboring homes. Jones said they urged neighbors to either evacuate or get to a basement.

"A high-powered rifle can go through several houses," he noted.

The chief said officers were able to get the man on the phone and once they did, he followed their request to put the weapon down

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Bunny Hop Day at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart preschoolers Taden Fikan and Beckett Dixson (above), Riley Phillip (left) and Amanda Jaeger and Olivia Williams (below) had pails full of Easter eggs after their Bunny Hop Day egg hunt on Thursday. The preschoolers made bunny ears and trooped outside on the nice spring day to find eggs hidden around the lawn in front of the school. Teacher Sharon Shirley said Tom and Carol Wallsmith of Levant sponsor the hunt every year.



Briefly

Landfill changes hours

The Thomas County Landfill has changed to summer hours. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. For information, call 462-8139.

Visit kindergarten Tuesday

Colby Grade School will have visitation for incoming kindergarteners and parents at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Colby Grade School Auditorium. For information, call the school at 460-5100.

Get prom dresses this week

There will be a spring formal dress sale from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. Proceeds will go to Genesis Thomas County and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. For information, call Sue Draper at 460-6332.

Birth classes start Thursday

Citizens Medical Center's four-week series of childbirth education classes has been delayed a week. They will be from 7 to 10 p.m. beginning Thursday at the hospital for women who are due to deliver before August, along with their labor support partner. There is a \$50 fee for materials. For information, call Jeanene Brown in the hospital's education department at (785) 460-4850.

Kindergarten program Thursday

The Colby Grade School kindergarten will present "A Day in the County" at 7 p.m. Thursday in the grade school auditorium. For information, call Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

Win a vacation from Heartland

Heartland Christian School will hold a rock-paper-scissors tournament at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 10, at

the school. Tickets are \$20 per ticket or six for \$100. First prize is a five-day, four-night trip to Mexico. For information, call the school at 460-6419.

Sheriff to hold auction

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office will hold an auction at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 10, at the Law Enforcement Center. Items can be viewed Tuesday, April 6, at the Law Enforcement Center. For information, call the sheriff's office at 460-4570.

Church to hold conference

The Rexford Community Church will hold its annual mission conference at the church Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11, at the church. The theme is "Let the 'Son' Shine in 2010." For information, call Rex Carswell at (785) 687-4361.

Swim Club plans April meeting

The Colby Swim Club will hold a parent meeting

and fun swim at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 11, in room 809 of the Health Science Building at Colby Community College. The swim will follow at the college pool. For information, call Sondra Finley at 460-2955.

Department to distribute food

U.S. Department of Agriculture surplus commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. next Monday at the Retired Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Distribution is first come, first served; people are asked not to show up at the office before 12:30 p.m. For information, call 462-6744.

