



Software transition still slow for county

By Vera Sloan
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Department heads told Thomas County commissioners Monday that progress is slow in learning a new software system provided by Computer Information Concepts. County Treasurer Donita Applebury and her deputy, Layn Bruggeman, and Clerk Shelly Harms and her assistant deputy, Kristi Mann, all agreed that the amount of overtime, paper reports,

ink cartridges and copy count had more than doubled since switching to the new programs. They complained about lack of support and poor response time from the software company, noting that they are still trying to finish up the March books but are having problems with the last day's reports.

Applebury asked the commissioners if the county attorney had reported back as to whether the county could cancel the contract. The commissioners said they had not heard from him, but reassured

the departments that all the extra supplies and overtime would be covered.

The commissioners advised the treasurer and clerk to look at hiring someone with computer skills, and both responded that they have qualified employees with the necessary computer skills.

Landfill Supervisor Larry Junper told the commissioners that the engineering firm Miller and Associates is submitting a permit

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Rotary to talk radio for polio

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Hijacking a radio station is not a good thing, unless it's a group of Rotarians holding a "radiothon" to help eradicate polio from the few countries in the world where the once-dread disease is still rampant. They call the project Polio Plus.

Members of the Colby Rotary Club will take over KXXX radio throughout the broadcast day next Thursday with messages about the disease and with pleas for listeners to give money to help

rid the world of this crippling disease. Rotary has partnered with the World Health Organization in the worldwide movement.

"Rotary International and its partners have until June 30 to raise \$200 million as matching funds for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation challenge grant of \$355 million," said Relda Galli, a member of the Colby club.

Throughout the day, listeners will hear recorded messages from Rotarians about Polio Plus, about the disease, and messages from people who

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File taxes by midnight

Today is the last day to either mail your tax return or file for an extension without penalties. Returns need to be postmarked or filed online today.

The lobby of the Colby post office closes at 5:30 p.m., but workers are on duty around the clock. Tax returns – with the proper postage – can be mailed until midnight at the inside drop slot. At smaller offices such as Rexford, Oakley and Brewster, however, returns must be mailed by the final pickup time listed at the offices.

The Internal Revenue Service does allow for extensions. The agency says people who need extra time can file form 4868 online or by mail. That gets you a six-month extension, but all taxes due must be paid by today to avoid charges.



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Brenda McCants of Goodland announced her campaign for the Kansas House of Representatives at the City Limits Convention Center on Monday. McCants said she wants to protect and preserve what the state has now.

Candidate announces run

A challenger for the Kansas House of Representatives in District 121 introduced herself to Colby on Monday at the City Limits Convention Center.

Brenda McCants of Goodland, spoke about some of the issues up before this year's Legislature, including the death penalty, which she indicated should be reserved for the most serious cases.

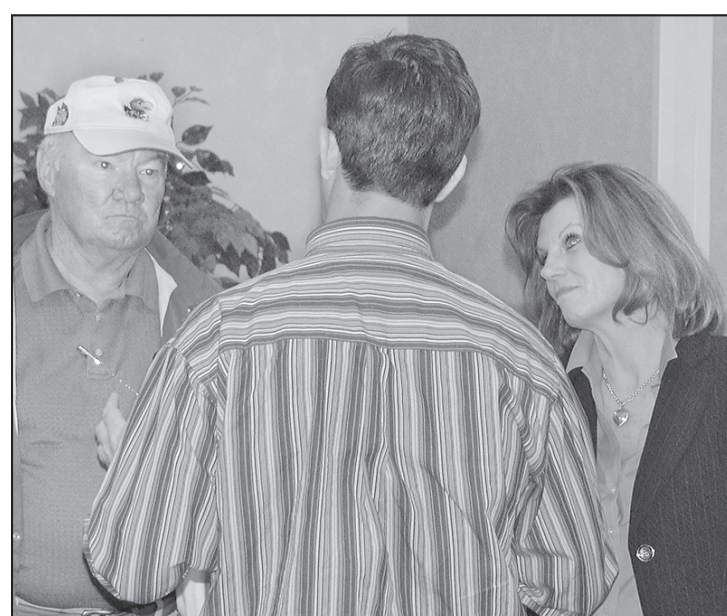
"That is very difficult for me," she said. "It would depend on the severity of the crime. That's why we have a jury of 12 people."

McCants said she plans to get ideas from voters on issues like economic development and school finance.

A group of 12 to 15 people, mostly party regulars, attended, including County Commissioner Paul Steele, former Commissioner Ron Evans and Thomas County Republican Chairman Steve Ziegelmeier.

"I do not pretend to know all the answers," McCants said, "but I will go out to those in the community who do. I want to talk to the students, teachers, superintendents. It's not what Topeka thinks, but what we think here."

On taxes, she said she wasn't eager to increase them, but thought the state might need to



After the announcement, McCants stayed to talk with Thomas County citizens including Ron Evans (left) and Steve Ziegelmeier, Republican county chairman.

look at some levies.

McCants said she has lived in northwest Kansas for 17 years. She was the fund raiser for the hospital foundation in Goodland for and now is director of development for the Northwest Kansas Technical College, planning events and campaigns.

"I have 30 years in health care and almost 15 years on and off in higher education," she added.

McCants also held campaign kickoff events in Goodland, Hoxie and Hill City, the other county seats in the four-county 121st District. A Republican, she will be running against longtime Rep. Jim Morrison, a Colby optometrist who has filed for reelection. Morrison has held the seat for nine terms, since 1992.

Prize for the winner



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

Golden Plains junior Dani Weed kissed the pig at the Junior Carnival on Friday, March 26. She was the "winner" of the "Kiss the Pig" contest at this annual event. Dani is the daughter of Michael and Michelle Weed of Colby. The juniors said they appreciate the generosity of the businesses that contributed to the carnival and all the people who attended.

Briefly

Get paperwork help at hospital

For National Health Care Decisions Day, Citizens Medical Center has set aside time to help people fill out "advanced directives" for end-of-life decisions, and have them notarized free from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday at the hospital. Advance directive allow people to say how they want to be treated if they are no longer able to speak for themselves. For information, call Kelly Kriegshauser or Cassandra Britt at (785) 460-4858.

Museum selling more bricks

The Prairie Museum of Art and History is selling more decorative bricks for their front walkway. Individuals and organizations can get their names on bricks in a variety of sizes. The deadline is Friday. Proceeds go to the museum. For information, call 460-4590.

Dance tryouts Friday, Saturday

The Colby High dance team will hold tryouts for

next year Friday and Saturday, with a clinic at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the school gym and tryouts 8:45 a.m. Saturday at the Community Building. Current students and incoming freshmen may try out. Information packets are available at the middle and high school offices. For information, call coach Denita Rodgers at 460-1325

Youth group to wash cars

The Colby United Methodist Youth Fellowship middle school group will be washing and cleaning cars inside and out at from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Kansas Quick Lube. They will also be selling hot dogs, chips and soda. The proceeds will go to the youth fellowship. For information, call the church at 460-2761.

Poker to benefit violence agency

Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services plans the "Aces Against Assault" poker

tournament at 1 p.m. Saturday at Twisters Bar and Grill. Registration will be from noon to 1 p.m.; buy in is \$30. For information, call Tracy Ellegood at (785) 672-5033.

Trooper to teach self defense

Colby Community College is offering a women's self defense class at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Room 106 of the Student Union, taught by Trooper Tod Hileman of the Kansas Highway Patrol. The Thomas County Farm Bureau will provide refreshments and door prizes. For information, call Shanda Mattix at 460-5464.

City to start grass route

The Colby Public Works Department will begin picking up grass clippings on Monday, April 26, said Public Works Secretary Anita Powell. Clippings must be at curbside by 8 a.m. on your regular trash day, in a separate tipper can from your household trash. For

information, call the department at 460-4420.

Training offered in Brewster

The Brewster Recreation Department and the K-State Extension Master Gardeners will offer landscape training sessions at 7 p.m. the next four Thursdays at Hunter Hall in Brewster: tonight, "Your Community, a More Colorful Place," with Colleen Rall, a master gardener; next week, Extension agent Clint Milliman, on composting and Earth Day; April 29, Kansas Healthy Yards and Communities by agent Dana Belshe; and May 6, Trees for Northwest Kansas by Jim Strine, state forester. For information, call the Goodland Extension office at (785) 890-4880

