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Software headaches still plague county

By Vera Sloan

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County Commission Chairman Ken Christiansen said he was having a really “bad hair day” after he heard at a meeting last Friday that the treasurer’s office was still having problems with the new software system.

Treasurer Donita Applebury asked the

commissioners if she could close her office an hour early, at 3 p.m., because the crew was still having problems balancing out each day’s work. She said closing early would be a big help, at least until her office has become completely comfortable with the new system.

She said it is impossible to run the end-of-day reports as long the office is doing business. She has to wait until all transactions are done before she can close out the

day’s paid-in and paid-out accounts.

“I have been staying in my office until 1 a.m. for several days,” she said, “and I guess that is something that will have to continue until we are totally familiar with the new changes unless you are willing to come up with some overtime pay.”

She added that the process is slowly getting better and that her reports, as of Thursday, are balanced up to April 22, but she feels it’s strange that reports ran

on the old system were only two pages, whereas on the new system, it takes up to 150.

The commissioners agreed to let the treasurer’s office close at 3:30 p.m. from Monday to the end of the month, and said that if that doesn’t give her office enough time, they (commissioners) would consider closing another half hour earlier. Applebury promised that her office would return to a 4 p.m. closing as quickly as

possible

Trish Langley of Rain or Shine Custodial Services told the commissioners she needs a new push mower for the office complex and courthouse lawns because the riding mower was not good for the grass at either place. She said it doesn’t cut evenly and leaves tracks. After seeking bids, she said, she found a new mower

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Just made a new friend



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Piper Koerperich (right) and her dog Stella were among a group from the 4-H dog obedience project that visited Prairie Senior Living Center on Tuesday. The freshly bathed and

groomed dog and Edna Heier (left) seemed to have a mutual admiration attraction when she reached out a hand to pat the little guy’s head.

Gem couple to open cafe at downtown Colby location

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Shawn and Mary Larson of Gem plan to open Smoffee’s, a breakfast-and-lunch cafe, this month in the former J&B Meat Market building at 365 N. Franklin.

The restaurant will offer home-cooked daily specials, soups, hot grilled panini sandwiches and other tasty foods, they said.

“We plan on serving breakfast items like mega muffins, bagels, biscuits and gravy and breakfast sandwiches,” Shawn Larson said, “and for lunch, we’ll offer unique, tasty sandwiches. To satisfy your sweet tooth, we’ll have homemade cookies, brownies and pies.”

“It will be a gathering place for people to connect, meet and reconnect in a pleasant environment where they can sit and have a cup of gourmet coffee or tea.”

The couple said they plan to

offer senior specials on Saturday mornings, along with music an older crowd might enjoy. On Friday and Saturday nights, there will be comedy, light rock and traditional acoustic music for the younger crowd.

He added that local musicians have expressed an interest in performing at various times when the public is enjoying food and drink.

Larson said they believe they are filling a unique niche by providing a smoke-free, community-oriented venue, along with providing a service for the downtown area for breakfast and lunch.

He said they will make the location available to rent for group meetings and get together.

Mary, a Colby native, went to elementary and high school here and was on the Colby High dance team. She said she has experience in the food business.

Shawn, from Denver, has spent

the past eight years working in the coffee-equipment business,0 selling to new and existing businesses all over the United States, and in the custom table-top manufacturing business. He also helped his family in the restaurant business in Denver.

The name Smoffee’s is the combination of their featured drinks, smoothies and coffee, and uses the first initial of their names plus the word coffee, Larson said.

They couple said they want to be active in the community and plan to offer delivery to downtown businesses soon.

Shawn added that they are looking forward to getting to know the people of Colby and they invite everyone to come and check the place out.

Opening day is undetermined, but they hope to be going within the next two weeks, the couple said.

Beginner trio



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Fourth graders Miles Hoagland (from left), Abbie Kummer and Alex Beitz were a featured trio at the fourth and fifth grade band concert Thursday at the Colby Grade School auditorium. When the fifth grade band performed later, the fourth graders – who play recorders – got to stand by and watch the instruments they are interested in for next year.

Briefly

Postal carriers collecting food

The National Association of Letter Carriers will hold a food drive Saturday. Leave nonperishable food items on or by your mailbox and carriers will pick them up. All of the items will go to Genesis-Thomas County food bank. For information, call Eileen Harris at the Colby post office, 462-7904.

Gem Lions to dish spaghetti

The Gem Lions Club plans a spaghetti supper from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday to raise money for Bill Dewey of rural Gem, who lost his wife Jennillee in a home fire early March 29. The Lions ask everyone to come help.

Band plans concert in the park

The Colby High School band will hold their last concert of the year at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Fike Park.

For information, call director Joey Nichols at 460-5300.

Pay property taxes by Monday

The second half of 2009 property taxes is due to the county treasurer’s office by Monday. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Mailed taxes must be postmarked by Monday. For information, call Treasurer Donita Applebury at 460-4520.

Junior golfers to meet, practice

The Colby junior golf program will have registration and a parents’ meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday at Meadow Lake Golf Course. The meeting will end with the program’s first practice. For information, call Miles Ladenburger at 460-7687.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck

dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. The building may be accessed by an elevator near the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

Treasurer to close at 3:30 p.m.

The Thomas County treasurer’s office will close at 3:30 p.m. until Monday, May 31, while employees work on software conversion. Treasurer Donita Applebury said the office will go back to the regular 4 p.m. closing time earlier if possible. For information, call the office at 460-4520.

Red Cross needs your blood

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Community

Building. To schedule an appointment, call (800) 733-2767.

Methodists plan summer camp

The Colby United Methodist Church will have enrollment for its Summer Youth Program from 4 to 6 p.m. next Monday and Tuesday, May 17 and 18, at the church. The program, for children age 3 through sixth grade, will run Monday to Wednesday each week from June 7 to July 7. For information, call the church at 460-2761.

