



Embark equipment may be sold to public

By Andy Heintz
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City Manager Carolyn Armstrong told the city council that she wants to talk to the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing about the city having a one-day sale where the public can buy the furniture and equipment inside the building formerly owned by the now-defunct Embark Health on Tuesday at the City Council building.

The department gave Embark a \$485,000 Community Development Block Grant through the city to buy and remodel the building. She said the city and the department will have to agree on prices for the various items in the building in order for this sale to take

place. Bieber said Technology Director Mike Albers is working on figuring out the prices for the various items that he will present to the department for approval.

Bieber said he hopes the money made off the sale of the items in the building will be enough to recover the city's attorney and shipping costs related to Embark. He said shipping costs were from furniture moved from Daytona Beach, Fla., the other area the company was based, to Colby. Bieber said most of the attorney costs had to do with city attorney John Gatz foreclosing on the company on the city's behalf.

Albers said the equipment and furniture in the building includes over 30 computers, Internet protocol-based phones, desks, office chairs from Home Depot, flat pan-

el televisions and other items.

In other business, the city:

• Agreed to have its workers install six tornado sirens in Thomas County that will be paid for by the county. County commissioner Paul Steele said each siren costs \$1,894.

• Approved a multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan presented by the county. Steele said the plan was a narrative of what to do in various emergencies like a tornado, snowstorm or flood. The plan was drawn up by EFM Consulting, a business management firm based in Lawrence, for \$26,000. The firm was paid with a federal grant the county received.

• Approved requesting an extension of water rights for a well at

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How many 4-Hers to change a tire?



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Diann Gerstner of the Thomas County Extension office told a story about a stubborn flat tire on a trip to a June 4-H camp counselor training session at the annual 4-H banquet last Thursday. After a pot-luck dinner, Gerstner and Extension Agent Clint Milliman presented the 4-H awards for the year along with prizes such as hoodies and pins.



NANCY RUNDEL/Colby High School

Colby High School debate team members Madison Tubbs and Amy Schroeder strategized during a practice round at the school.

Colby High debate team excels as season winds down

By Kevin Bottrell
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The Colby High School debate team has seven competitions and two first place wins from Michael Tubbs and Christina Ostmeyer under its belt going into the last part of the regular season.

The students competed at Garden City on Thursday and Friday, where they won second place in sweepstakes—a team score based

on the record of the school's top three two-man teams.

Freshmen Colton Rundel and Ian Koeperich won third place in the novice category. Tubbs and Ostmeyer—as a two-person team—took first place in the novice category in Great Bend and first in the open team category in Hays.

Coach Nancy Rundel said the students have been doing a great job. They have debated in Lyons, Dodge City, Liberal, Hays

and Great Bend in September and October, racking up second, third and fourth place sweepstakes placings.

There are 30 students on the team this year, Rundel said, and so far four have qualified for the state tournament: Tubbs, Madison Gawith, Hannah Matchell and Cameron McLaughlin. Rundel said a student must have a 50 percent win record or better

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Governor elect begins his transition to Topeka

By John Milburn
Associated Press

TOPEKA — Sam Brownback began his transition back home to Kansas on Wednesday, setting up shop in the Statehouse and meeting with the governor he replaces in early January.

After 16 years in Washington — two representing the 2nd District in the House and 14 in the Senate — the 54-year-old Republican returns to face looming budget challenges and an economy stuck in low

gear. "I love this state, I really do," Brownback said in an interview with The Associated Press after being declared the winner Tuesday. "But we've got to get government out of the way. There is reason to be optimistic."

Brownback met with Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson on Wednesday to discuss handing over the reins. Statehouse crews were converting two leg-

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Still time to get lunch tickets

The deadline is almost here for getting reservations for the Colby Diplomats' annual fall luncheon. The deadline is on or before Monday. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased from Peg Tole at the Farmers and Merchants Bank at 240 W. Fourth St., or mail to Tole at 610 W. Webster, Colby, Kan., 67701.

The luncheon is from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the

Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave.

Tickets will not be mailed, Tole said, but there will be a check-in upon arrival, and reservations are not accepted without payment. There will be no sales at the door.

This year's program theme is a historical one to go along with the 125th anniversary of Thomas County. Wedding dresses from the past and present will be modeled

during the luncheon and county residents have been asked to send in wedding photos (old or new) to decorate the church.

"Several wedding dresses will be modeled, and one gown, circa 1940 will be in the modeling lineup," said Tole.

She encouraged all who want to attend the event to be sure to get their reservations made by the Monday deadline.

Family expert to speak at Heartland Christian School banquet on Friday

Sandra P. Aldrich, president of Bold Words Inc. of Colorado Springs, will be the featured speaker at Heartland Christian School's "Partners for the Future" annual fund-raising banquet Friday night.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a catered meal in the school's gymnasium.

Aldrich has had appearances on "Focus on the Family," the "700 Club," "Midday

Connection," "Prime Time America" and other network broadcasts.

She speaks throughout the U.S., Canada, Germany and England, presenting the serious issues of life with insight and humor.

Aldrich has spoken at military base presentations, single-parent events, college conferences business meetings, edu-

cational workshops, couples retreats and other events.

She is author or co-author of 18 books, several of which have been translated into other languages. Aldrich says that although her education has taken her through a Master of Arts in literature and communications, her "Ph.D. from School of Hard Knocks" is what has made her an

in-demand guest on hundreds of television and radio programs.

Her books include "Bless Your Socks Off: Unleashing the Power of Encouragement," "Men Read Newspapers, Not Minds: and Other Things I Wish I'd Known When I First Married," "From One Single Mother to Another: Heart-Lifting Encouragement and Practical Ad-

vice," (which has been updated after 13 printings), and many other titles.

Her topic Friday will be about encouragement, family and education, school officials said. For more about Aldrich, go to www.sandraaldrich.com.

Tickets for the banquet are available for \$15 by calling the school at (785) 460-6419.

Briefly

Food bank needs donations

Genesis-Thomas County is in need of non-perishable food to fill its Christmas food baskets. Donations can be dropped off at the Genesis office, 350 S. Range Ave. Suite 13 from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays; Leroy's Printing, 560 N. Franklin Ave.; Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1065 W. Fifth St.; First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St.; Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave.; and Trinity Lutheran Church, 855 E. Fifth St. Genesis also accepts money donations to go toward food. For information, call 460-7930.

Red Cross to collect blood

The American Red Cross will have a blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday at Golden Plains High School in Rexford. Schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org or the Golden Plains office at 687-3265. Walk-ins are welcome.

Church to hold craft fair benefit

Trinity Lutheran Church will hold its annual Craft Bazaar from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the church, on the corner of East Fifth Street and Country Club Drive. There will also be a quilt drawing on Sunday, Nov. 14. All proceeds go towards the church's mission projects. For information, call the church office at 462-3497.

Dance Saturday at golf club

There will be a singles and couples dance from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Course clubhouse. Granny Z will provide music. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

Get blood work this week

The Thomas County Wellness Committee and Citizens Medical Center are continuing to offer dis-

counted laboratory blood work and baseline EKG tests through Saturday at the CMC Specialty Clinic. For more information, call Jeanene Brown at 785-460-4850.

Come to church for turkey, fixin's

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will serve an old-fashioned Thanksgiving dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at the church. The menu includes turkey, ham, dressing and mashed potatoes. Donations will be accepted. For information, call the rectory at 462-2179.

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. For information, call 462-6342.

Township sets road meeting

Summers Township will hold a special meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Office Complex on Range Ave. All township residents are invited to come discuss equipment upgrades and a right-of-way agreement with the county. For information, call Bert Stramel at 443-0052.

