



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby High junior Michael Tubbs spoke about the merits of moving the Okinawa military bases during his eight-minute "affirmative constructive" speech at the Colby Invitational Debate Tournament on Saturday.

## Debate team takes second in home tourney Saturday

The Colby High School debate team took second place at its home debate tournament, the Colby Invitational, on Saturday. The Eagles had 11 wins and four losses. Scott City High placed first with 13 wins and two losses, while Garden City took third with 10 wins and five

losses. Team scores are calculated using the win-loss record of each school's top three two-man teams. Colby's two-man team of Michael Tubbs and Christina Ostmeyer racked up another first-place finish in the open division with four wins and one loss.

Tubbs was named top speaker in the division. Bailey and Ian Koerperich took fourth in the open division and Cameron McLaughlin and Tomi Miller came in fifth. Arthur Dijanic-Rogers and Billy Selley placed second in the novice division.

## Food, fuel available but some will close

By Kevin Bottrell  
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Whether it's groceries or a cup of coffee, anyone out and about this Thanksgiving should be able to find what they need at businesses and restaurants that plan to remain open. Prescriptions won't be so easy to take care of, however. Walmart and Dillon's will be open regular hours, but both pharmacies will be closed. Palace Drug downtown and its pharmacy will be closed also. Although most restaurants in Colby will close for Thanksgiving, those looking to eat out will have a few options. Village Inn will open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Starbucks will be open regular

hours from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. McDonald's will close Thursday, but open at 5 a.m. — one hour early — on Friday. The Senior Progress Center will have a Thanksgiving brunch at 11 a.m. Wednesday and then close at noon. The center will be closed both Thursday and Friday. Colby Cinema will have shows at 7 p.m. Thursday. Banks will close Thursday, including the Dillon's branch of Farmer's and Merchant's Bank. People's State Bank will also close Friday. City, county and state offices will close Thursday and Friday, including City Hall, the Thomas County courthouse, the Colby Workforce Center, the recycling center and the county office complex. The county landfill will be

closed Thursday and Friday but open over the weekend. Post offices will close Thursday and there will be no mail delivery. Mail service will resume Friday. The Colby office of the U.S. Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Agency will close Thursday as well. The Pioneer Memorial Library will be closed Thursday and Friday, but open regular hours over the weekend. Twisters and the B-Hive will close Thursday. All of schools, public schools as well as Heartland Christian School, Sacred Heart Catholic School and Colby Community College, will be off Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with classes resuming Monday.

## Hospital chief resigns

Janice McCart, president and chief executive officer of Citizens Medical Center since July 2004, has resigned, effective Friday, for health reasons. Kevin Trenkle, vice president and chief financial officer, announced McCart's resignation to the hospital staff on Friday. Trenkle said he will serve as interim chief operating officer and will work with the hospital board to plan the organization's future leadership.

"I considered it a privilege to have worked side by side with Janice these past six-plus years," Trenkle said, "and I wish her the very best as she focuses her energy on the various health issues that have challenged her these past few months. "She is without a doubt the most dynamic personality I have had the privilege to work with in my 36 years of health care administration."

## Still time to sign up for annual Light Parade

By Kevin Bottrell  
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Two of Colby's biggest Christmas events are coming up. The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce is taking entries for the 13th annual Christmas Light Parade, set for 5:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. The parade will start at Second Street and Franklin Avenue and proceed north to Santa City. Entry forms are available at the Chamber office. They must be returned by Friday, Dec. 3, said Chamber Executive Director Holly Whitaker. The theme this year is "White Christmas Dreams." Whitaker said entries are already starting to come in. Check-in will begin at 5 p.m. inside Tina Harris Physical Therapy on Frank-

## Oakley Light Parade to include country theme

Oakley's annual Light Parade will start at 7 p.m. Friday. Entries will line up at 6 p.m. at the 4-H building, and the parade will head west on Front Street and then north on Center Avenue. After the parade, come roast some marshmallows on Second Street east of Oakley Farm and Home Center. This year, for the first time, the parade will have a theme: "A Country Christmas." Entries

are being accepted until Thursday. Forms are available at the Oakley Chamber of Commerce office, 216 Center. Oakley will also have a "Best Dressed Window Contest" for businesses that want to decorate their front windows. Entries will be judged during the parade and the winner will get a trophy to display at their business until next year's contest.

lin Avenue. Entries will be judged in five categories: organizations, businesses, best lighted vehicle, rel-

## Newly elected state senators won't change political balance

By John Hanna  
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Midterm changes in the Kansas Senate are creating uncertainty about whether it will keep thwarting the ambitions of the House's conservative Republicans. Only two of the Senate's 40 seats were up for election this year, but the results of other contests will give the upper house at least five new members after the 2011 Legislature convenes Jan. 10. Most importantly, it will have a new majority leader to replace Derek Schmidt, an In-

dependence Republican who was elected attorney general. Many legislators are guessing the new senators will have the same philosophies as their predecessors, given that most will be appointed from within the same party. That would leave in charge Republicans who helped engineer this year's sales tax increase and who've tempered anti-abortion initiatives and blocked bills on other social issues. But senators can't yet predict the mix of personalities and loyalties emerging from the change. "It is unusual to have this much turn-

over midterm in the Senate," Schmidt said last week in an interview with The Associated Press. "I don't know how it will affect the dynamics in the body. Obviously, it's hard to prejudge that." Democrats and Republicans who've been willing to raise taxes to prevent budget cuts and have resisted abortion restrictions are watching because the House appears to have a conservative GOP majority. Republicans picked up 16 seats there this year, giving them a 92-33 advantage. Some House Republicans have a long list of proposals they're eager to push,

particularly with Sam Brownback, a Republican and a strong opponent of abortion and gay marriage, taking office as governor. Their list starts with anti-abortion bills vetoed by Democrats over the past decade, but it also includes a ban on state funding for embryonic stem cell research, overturning the state Board of Regents' ban on carrying concealed weapons on college campuses and perhaps even re-writing divorce laws. Conservatives also are likely to attack a statewide smoking ban and a tougher seat belt law approved this year.

If the Senate's balance of power remains as it was, many of those initiatives will die there. "That is sort of the big question that a lot of people have, will the Senate be the backstop for a lot of things that are going to come out of the House?" said House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat. "That remains to be seen. I don't know the answer for that." Senate President Steve Morris, a Hugoton Republican, says he anticipates

## Briefly

**Lutherans plan holiday service**  
Trinity Lutheran Church, 855 E. Fifth Street, will have a Thanksgiving worship service at 10 a.m. Thursday. For information, call the church at 462-3497.

**License offices to close at noon**  
The Colby driver's license office will close at noon Wednesday when the Kansas Department of Revenue in Topeka closes down the computer system — used by satellite offices when issuing licenses or identification cards — for maintenance. License service at the county treasurer's office also will be suspended. Both offices will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after, and will resume a normal schedule on Monday, Nov. 29.

**Trash routes to skip two days**  
Colby sanitation trucks will not operate on

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, or Friday. Residential trash for Thursday will be picked up on Wednesday, along with the regular route. Trash for Friday will be picked up on Monday, Nov. 29. Have tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

**Brunch to support league projects**  
The Colby Women's League will hold a Christmas brunch from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Meadow Lake Golf Course clubhouse. There will be a raffle for a handmade quilt by Anita Hills. Tickets can be purchased from any member for \$1 each or \$5 for six. All proceeds go to league projects. For information, call Sydney Strait at (785) 460-7665, or Hills at (785) 462-6208.

**First graders plan music program**  
Colby Grade School first graders will present a free

holiday program, "Christmas Around the Clock", at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, at the grade school auditorium. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel at the school, (785) 460-5100, extension 1104.

**Food bank needs donations**  
The Genesis-Thomas County food bank needs nonperishable items to fill its Christmas 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.; the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St.; the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave.; or Trinity Lutheran Church, 855 E. Fifth St. Genesis also needs money to help buy food. Donations are being accepted now as well as after Christmas to restock the pantry. For information, call

460-7930.

**Hill City artist featured at museum**  
Works by Hill City artist and teacher David Chalfant are on exhibit at the Prairie Museum of Art and History through December. His sculptures and paintings have been shown in regional and national shows. For information, contact the museum at 460-4590 or museumed@st-tel.net.

