

Happy Thanksgiving!

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Extension agent Diann Gerstner demonstrated how to make a perfect pie crust, how to fit the crust to the pan and how to make it look pretty during the Harvest of Holidays demonstration Thursday night at Pioneer Memorial Library, sponsored by Thomas County Extension.

Man awaits trial on cocaine charge

A New Jersey man who was arrested just outside of Colby has plead not guilty to possessing more than 500 grams of cocaine and is now awaiting trial in U.S. District Court in Wichita.

Rolando Rodriguez, 39, of West New York, N.J., was arrested by Trooper Jason Duffey on Oct. 28 while traveling east on I-70 near mile post 49 – four miles west of Colby. Records show he was booked into the Thomas County jail on charges of possession of illegal drugs, conspiracy to commit a felony, unlawful use of a communications facility and no drug tax stamp.

On Nov. 9, a federal grand jury in Wichita is-

sued an indictment for Rodriguez, alleging that he intentionally possessed "more than 500 grams for a mixture which contained a detectable amount of cocaine," with intent to distribute it. He was taken to Hays on Nov. 11 and then to Wichita for his arraignment on Nov. 12 before U.S. Magistrate Karen Humphreys. Steven K. Gradert, assistant public defender for the federal court in Wichita, has been assigned as Rodriguez' attorney.

According to court documents, Humphreys granted the prosecution's request for pre-trial detention

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Kiwanis Club wants toys for needy area children

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press

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If you're looking to brighten a child's Christmas this year, the Colby-Thomas County Kiwanis Club has you covered with the Toy Tree.

The club runs the benefit, which allows people anonymously donate toys to area children, each year. Sean Hankin, Kiwanis member and Colby assistant fire chief, said the Toy Tree is already up at Dollar General. Each of the 50 ornaments on the tree lists the gender and age of a child. The kids

names are kept confidential.

Anyone who wants to make a donation can take an ornament and buy an a toy, then leave it at Dollar General with the ornament attached.

When the Genesis-Thomas County food bank makes up its list of families each year, ask each family to decide if they want a toy for each of their children. Hankin said they have 233 toy requests this year, 133 boys and 90 girls.

"That's up dramatically from last year," he noted, adding that the club had about 150 requests last year.

Hankin said people usually

don't take all 50 ornaments and the Kiwanis Club buys the remaining toys. He said the club holds fund raisers, such as selling concessions at the county fair, throughout the year to help pay for the program.

Hankin said all the toys need to be in by Friday, Dec. 3, so the club knows how many it needs to buy. Once they have the toys, the club will wrap them and put them with the baskets that will be distributed by Genesis on Saturday, Dec. 11.

For information, call Hankin at 460-4454 or Tina Harris, who chairs the fund raiser, at 462-8008.

Agents give holiday party tips

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
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From the looks of the goodie-laden holiday table at the Thomas County Extension "Harvest of Holidays" program Thursday night at the Pioneer Memorial Library, it was a good harvest.

A plethora of dips, sauces, cheese balls and the recipes to go with them were the delight of those who don't count calories,

yet the table held many items for those who are good at watching their intake.

Melinda Daily, family and consumer services agent from Wallace County, said that basically, from Halloween to the Super Bowl, our focus is eat, eat, eat, but if we schedule healthy snack foods, our diet can be the winner.

She said it's a good idea to survey a buffet table before filling your plate, so you know what

you want and don't overfill your plate. It's and to keep high calorie items out of sight and out of reach, she said, and when choosing a treat, pick a small piece: at the first few bites are what satisfies, so taking a small helping to start out with.

At holiday functions where food is served, socialize rather than going back for seconds. Curb your hunger before a holi-

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Community joins for Thanksgiving



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Between 190 and 200 people attended the College Drive Assembly of God's annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday at the Colby Community Building. Several area churches held dinners the same day. Community Thanksgiving services at the Colby High School auditorium Sunday evening, sponsored by the Thomas County Ministerial Alliance, were open to all.

Military not objecting to wind farms

By John Milburn

The Associated Press

TOPEKA – Wind energy development in Kansas is facing less military resistance than similar efforts on the West Coast, largely because of effective coordination between developers and government agencies, an Army attorney said Monday.

Speaking to the Joint Committee on Kansas Security, Stanley Rasmussen praised a law approved this year that requires city and county leaders to meet each year with military officials to discuss activities taking place on Army and Air Force bases.

He said most of the best areas in Kansas for wind

development are far from regular flight patterns for military aircraft near training areas and installations.

"So far it hasn't been a major issue," said Rasmussen, regional counsel for the office of the assistant secretary of the Army.

Rasmussen said aside from the chances of aircraft hitting the turbines, there are also issues of radar signals being blocked. The blades can block, reflect or diffuse the radar signals, impeding the ability to track aircraft.

The problem has been a factor in the Pentagon's

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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.

Trash routes to skip two days

Colby sanitation trucks will not operate on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, or Friday. Residential trash for Thursday were to be picked up today, along with the regular route. Trash for Friday will be picked up on Monday. 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.

Lions cooking flapjacks, sausage

The High Plains Lions Club will hold its annual pancake-and-sausage feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Colby Community Building. For information, call Virgil Jones at 462-1106.

Kids can shop for mom and dad

The Thomas County Community Foundation will sponsor Santa's Workshop from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. The event gives children in preschool to fourth grade an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for moms, dads, guardians or grand-

parents for \$4 each. Each child may buy up to four gifts. Proceeds will be used for foundation grants. For information, call the office at 460-9152.

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. 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.

