



10 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Friday

December 10, 2010  
Volume 121, Number 192  
Serving Thomas County since 1888

## Singing his praises



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Heartland Christian School students Lander Niblock (left) and Isaiah Grace sang a brief duet at Thursday's concert, "God's Christmas Promise," at the school.

## Rexford 2-year-old killed near Wathena

A 2-year-old Rexford boy was killed early Thursday when his father's semi-trailer rig went into the ditch on U.S. 36, hit a tree and caught fire in the eastern Kansas town of Wathena.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Michael Peterson, 38, Rexford, was driving east on U.S. 36 coming down into Wathena about 3:30 a.m. when his truck left the road on a slight curve, drove into the south ditch, struck a tree and caught fire.

The front end of the tractor was smashed and several parts were scattered into the yard of a house south of the road. Troopers said the engine landed nearly 20 feet from the cab.

Peterson made it out of the truck, but his son, Ky-

ler Peterson, was trapped inside. He reportedly said he tried to get to find a fire extinguisher, then tried to get back into the cab to find his son, suffering severe burns.

Peterson was flown to Heartland Hospital in nearby St. Joseph, Mo., with severe burns and other injuries; as of Thursday afternoon he was still in intensive care.

Troopers at the scene said the boy died on impact. Peterson had been wearing a seat belt but his son wasn't. Peterson had been pulling an empty cattle trailer to St. Joseph.

Schmitt Funeral Home in Quinter, (785) 754-3321, will be handling the arrangements.

## Sheriff says seized money could help build better jail

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press  
vsloan@nwkansas.com

The Thomas County sheriff and county commissioners revisited the topic of jail space and the lack of space at the Law Enforcement Center at the commissioners' meeting Monday.

Sheriff Rod Taylor told commissioners the sheriff's office has about \$300,000 in drug forfeiture money that could be spent to help improve the jail situation.



Rod Taylor

The commissioners said their goal is to hold the property tax levy steady. Commissioner Paul Steele said time would allow the county to save up money for the project. He said that had worked in the past.

Steele said the board did not favor spending money to buy an existing building, but would consider increasing the size of and making improvements to the current building. He said they would agree to an attempt that would keep them from going to the taxpayers, and were in favor of coming to some sort of an agreement that would allow the sheriff to use drug money, and money the county had set aside, to avoid a burden on the taxpayers.

Taylor was asked to begin his research by finding an architect with experience in jail design and housing for law-enforcement needs. The center houses not only the jail, but the city police and county sheriff's departments. It's so crowded that

the sheriff, for instance, has to share an office with a deputy.

The sheriff said he lives in fear of the plumbing blowing out in the present jail. Two faucets needing to be replaced cost about \$1,000 each, he said.

County Attorney Bruce Flipse told commissioners his office had received a new date from the district judge for the delinquent tax sale. The sale will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 14, in the courtroom of the Thomas County courthouse after three consecutive weeks of publication in the official county newspaper.

Road supervisor Clair Schrock told the commissioners he had received bids from two heating and air conditioning contractors for heating and cooling at the 4-H building. He said the building

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## Museum to open new exhibit

A new permanent exhibit will soon be ready for viewers at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

"Over Here! Over There!" is an exhibit of uniforms, arms, photographs, war souvenirs, flags, equipment, documents and stories donated by area families who had ties with veterans and who had memorabilia from World War I to Desert Storm," said Ann Miner, education director at the museum. She said the biggest number of artifacts is from World War II.

The exhibit will open Tuesday, Jan. 18, in conjunction with the opening of an Ann Frank Center traveling exhibit, which will run through Tuesday, Feb. 15.

"Fourth- through 12th-grade classes in all Thomas

County schools will be admitted to the exhibit for free," Minor said. "It is necessary for schools to give prior notice, and classes must be accompanied by a teacher."

You can call the museum at (785) 460-4590.

Anne Frank was a German Jewish teenager who was forced to go into hiding during the Holocaust. She and her family, along with four others spent 25 months during World War II holed up in small rooms above her father's office in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

After being betrayed to the Nazis, Frank, her

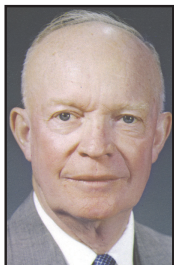
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## New documents shed light on speech

By John Milburn

The Associated Press

ABILENE (AP) - Newly discovered documents from a cabin owned by President Dwight D. Eisenhower's speechwriter are shedding more light on the evolution of the former general's historic farewell address nearly 50 years ago, and his fears that America's burgeoning military prowess was driving its foreign policy.



D. Eisenhower

The documents, portions of which appeared on the Eisen-

hower Presidential Library's research website before their public unveiling Friday, are expected to shed more light on the origins of the term "military-industrial complex" - phrasing used by Eisenhower in the speech to warn against unbridled military development. The phrase began as "war-based" industrial complex before becoming "military" in later drafts.

Grant Moos, son of Eisenhower aide Malcolm Moos, discovered the papers - covered with pinecones, dirt and other debris - in a cabin in Min-

nesota.

"We are just so fortunate that these papers were discovered," said Karl Weissenbach, director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene. "We were finally able to fill in the gaps of the address. For a number of years, it was apparent that there were gaps."

The papers show how Eisenhower and his staff spent two years preparing for his goodbye to the nation and why he decided to include his concern about how America's military and the defense industries had come to dic-

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## Volunteers helps children get family gifts

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press  
vsloan@nwkansas.com

Eighteen adult volunteers, including six Retired Senior Volunteer Program workers, helped more than 90 kids from preschool to fourth grade buy Christmas gifts for their families at Santa's Workshop on Saturday.

"It was once again a wonderful and fun-filled event for all who were involved," said Melinda Olson, director of the Thomas County Community Foundation, which sponsors the program. "The kids got to do the shopping by themselves with a friendly 'elf' on standby if they need help."

The fifth annual gift-buying opportunity for children who want to shop for their family on their own was made possible through donations and gifts from businesses and individuals, Olson said. She said the proceeds, which amounted to \$1,750, will help Thomas County charities.

Olson said everyone at the foundation wanted to express a big heartfelt thanks for everyone who helped make this year's Santa Workshop a success.



Thomas County Community Foundation Helper elf Melissa Stramel helped an excited little shopper with her special purchase from the Santa Workshop table on Saturday. Over 90 children, from preschooler to fourth graders, were on hand to buy gifts by themselves to put under the tree for their families.

## Briefly

### Sorority offers tables of goodies

The Kappa Upsilon sorority will hold its annual cookie and candy sale from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Members have made more than 320 dozen cookies and pounds of candy. Proceeds will go to service projects in the area. For information, call the church office at 462-2671.

### Library to open for weekend

The Pioneer Memorial Library will be open regular hours Saturday and Sunday. It was closed part of the day Thursday and all day Friday for staff training. For information, call 460-4470.

### Piano students planning recital

Pat Ziegelmeier's piano students will give a Christmas recital at 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the sanctuary of the Colby United Methodist Church. The program

will feature solos and duets. For information, call Ziegelmeier at 462-7808.

### Seniors plan potluck on 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. For information, call 462-6342.

### Sacred Heart plans music show

Sacred Heart Catholic School will put on a program of Christmas music at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, in the school gym, featuring second through fifth graders. For information, call the school at 460-2813.

### Hill City artist featured at museum

Works by Hill City artist and teacher David Chal-

fant are on exhibit at the Prairie Museum of Art and History through the end of December. For information, contact the museum at 460-4590 or museum@st-tel.net.

### Youth league to meet next month

A parent-player meeting for Youth League Basketball will begin at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Coach Matt Ludwig said the cost is \$20 per player, and games will start the following weekend. For information, call the church at 462-2761.

### Massage class needs clients

The Therapeutic Massage Program at Colby Community College is offering massages by students in the Massage Clinic I class from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. For an appointment, call (785) 460-5427. The fee is \$5. Gratuities will be put into the

Massage Therapy Club fund to help students pay for the National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, said Debra A. Waites, director of the program.

### College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. Monday to Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; from 5 to 9 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Friday. Open swim is from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday and Thursday; 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; and 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



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