

Merry Christmas!

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COLBY
FREE PRESS

Thursday

December 23, 2010
Volume 121, Number 199
Serving Thomas County since 1888

10 pages



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High School sophomores (from left) Troy Quenzer, Todd Kane and Curtis Sloan examined some Hamburger Helper at Walmart during an English class unit on wise spending. The students then gave the food they purchased to charities.

A donation and a lesson all at once

By Andy Heintz

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Donna Henry's sophomore English classes at Colby High School have been learning how spend money wisely while contributing to a bunch of good causes.

Tuesday, 18 groups of four from Henry's classes went to Walmart to buy items for the Walmart Angel Tree, Genesis-Thomas County food bank and Puddle Duck Preschool with \$798 they raised selling homemade treats at the high school and food at the concession stand during the varsity basketball teams' first home games on Dec. 7.

She said her students sold homemade treats - brownies, cookies, cinnamon rolls, "dirt cups" (Gummy Worms, pudding and Oreo crumbs) and "puppy chow" (a cereal mix coated in powdered sugar) - during semi-



Chris Coulter (from left), Parker Wright and Morgan Smull checked their list while buying items.

Each group was allowed just \$40 to spend, Henry said. She said this taught the kids how to estimate how much money they

were spending. Henry said the group delivered the gifts to Puddle Duck and Genesis Wednesday.

Henry said the project was part of a "Lessons on Life" series she teaches each year, with the classes learning about some life skill every two weeks. The lessons related to this project had to do with money and kindness, she said.

Henry said her students learned money skills, including mental math, estimation and counting back change while working the concession stand and buying gifts.

She said giving to charities taught students to treat others with kindness. She said she taught students other ways to show kindness, including opening doors for people and doing things like unloading the dishwasher at home even when no one asks them to.

More charges filed against alleged deer poachers

Additional charges were filed last week in an alleged poaching case in which 12 mule-deer bucks were killed in Decatur County.

Margaret Mahoney, with the Hirsch and Pratt law office, said a felony charge of commercialization of wildlife had been filed against six of seven people involved in the case, but warrants had not been served.

Ms. Mahoney said she couldn't release the names or any other charges.

In addition to five men from Wisconsin arrested Dec. 8 on charges of illegally killing a trophy-size mule deer, Ms. Mahoney said,

charges now have been filed against two Decatur County men.

On Monday, Clerk of the District Court Janet Meitl said the cases wouldn't public record until they the warrants have been served.

The felony charge is spelled out in the Kansas statute as knowingly or willingly capturing or killing wildlife for commercial purposes. That includes deer.

The five men were arrested in the Lyle area, in the northeast corner of the county near the Nebraska line. Jail records identified them as John Jacobs III, 53; Joseph R. Jacobs, 28; John

Jacobs IV, 30; Mark G. Jacobs, 45; and Paul J. Jacobs, 26. The family is from De Pere, Wis.

They were released later that day on bonds totaling \$83,500, or \$16,700 each. The men had to come up with all of the bond money in cash, not the normal 10 percent, said Sheriff Ken Badsky.

While a first appearance was scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday in Decatur County District Court, Ms. Mahoney said a lawyer for one of the men had requested a continuance.

Briefly

Trash crews to take 'eves' off

The Colby Sanitation Department will not pick up residential trash Friday on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve, Friday, Dec. 31. Routes will be picked up the day before both weeks. Have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. The department will not pick up commercial trash Friday and Saturday this week or next. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

Landfill to close for the holidays

The Thomas County Landfill will close two days this week and two next week for the holidays, but will remain open on Sundays. The landfill will close Friday and Saturday for Christmas and be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. It will close again Monday. The landfill will close down again Saturday, Jan. 1, and Monday, Jan. 3, for New Years, but will be open

Sunday, Jan. 2. For information, call 462-8139.

Smart Start looking for kids

Smart Start, a tuition-free preschool, is accepting applications for its 2011-2012 school year. The school accepts applications all year long for kids aged 3 and 4. For information, or to get an application, call 460-6067.

Courthouse elevator needs repair

The elevator at the Thomas County Courthouse will be out of service Tuesday and Wednesday so a new motor starter can be installed. For information, call County Clerk Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

Courts to close early for New Year's

The Thomas County District Court office will

close at noon Friday, Dec. 31, so the staff can complete end-of-the-year accounting. The office will open again on Tuesday, Jan. 4. For information, call 460-4540.

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 the end of the month. 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.

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 Lud-

wig said the cost is \$20 per player, and games will start the following weekend. For information, call the church at 462-2761.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool will be open for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Thursday next week. Director Kip Nelson said the pool will be closed from Friday, Dec. 31, to Tuesday, Jan. 11, due to a lack of life guards. He suggested checking the website www.colbycc.edu to see if the schedule has changed, or calling (785) 460-5476.

Instructors demonstrate 'smart boards'

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Colby School Board got a firsthand look at how Colby Middle School teachers are using technology in the classroom at its meeting Monday.

Science teacher Troy Rall and math teacher Debra Collins demonstrated some of the activities they do with their classes using a Promethean Smart Board, an interactive white board that can be hooked up to any computer.

The middle school has five Promethean boards, said Rall. Four are permanent boards installed in

classrooms. The district got them through a federal Enhancing Education Through Technology grant.

The fifth is a portable board that can be wheeled into any room. It was paid for through a donation from Karen Flanagin in honor of her mother, Florence Gilchrist, who taught at Colby schools. Flanagin and her husband, Vernon, were there to see the demonstration.

Rall said that by using a program called ActiveInspire, similar to PowerPoint, the teachers build a lesson on several flip charts. A flip chart can have notes, pictures, Internet links, video or activi-

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Dr. LaDonna Regier and her nurse, Nancy Arendt, had lots of last-minute things to tie up before the doctor ends her practice here so she can head for Africa next week. After 36 years of practice in Colby, the doctor will follow her dream of serving a poverty-ridden population as a medical missionary in Ghana, in West Africa.

Longtime doctor leaving for Africa

By Vera Sloan

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Dr. LaDonna Regier, a longtime Colby family practitioner, will close her medical practice at Family Center for Health Care today. She plans to fly to Ghana, in west Africa, next week to fulfill a longtime dream to serve as a medical missionary.

Dr. Regier said being in the medical field was something she thought about while still in high

school, and she followed that dream when she went to college. She attended the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City and did postgraduate work at Tulane University in New Orleans. The hospital she did her training at was one of several flooded by hurricane Katrina, she said.

It was when she came to Wa-Keeney to serve a preceptorship during her last year of medical

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