

8 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

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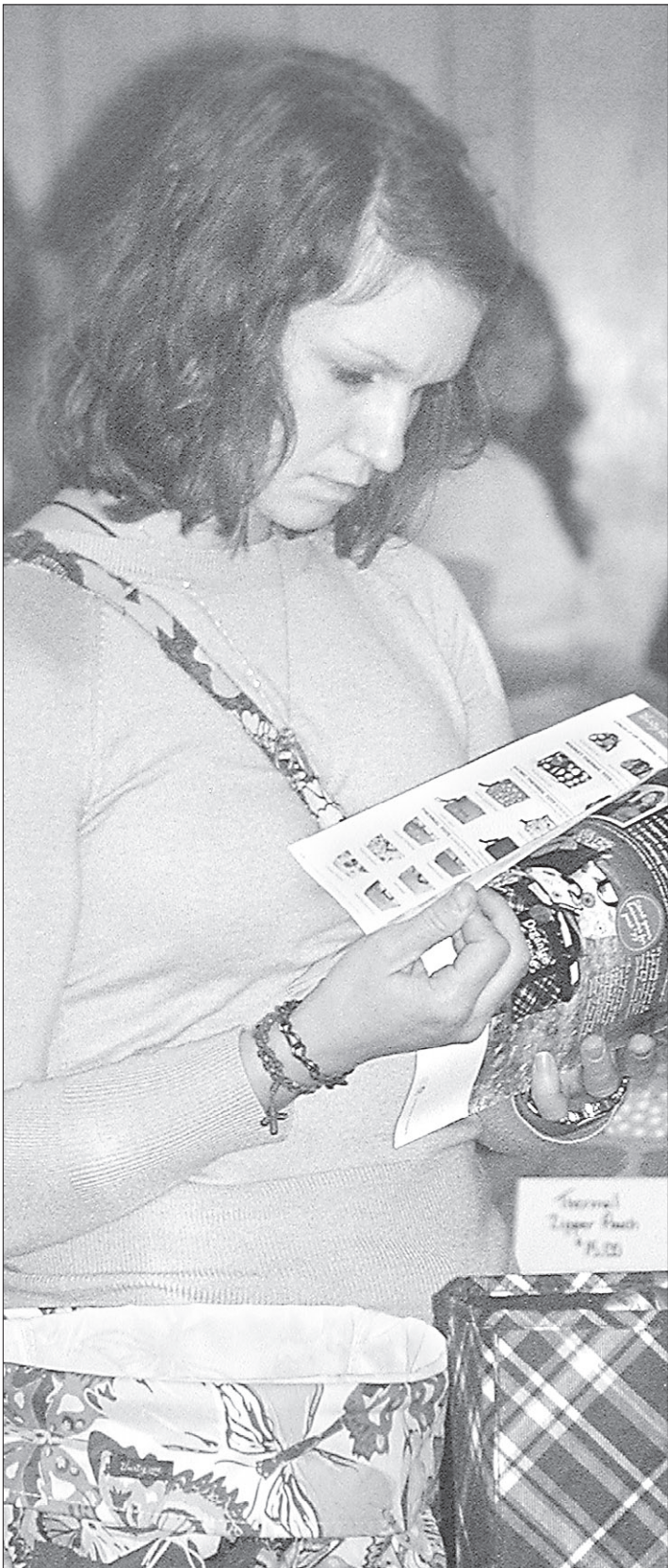
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American Legion holds holiday events

American Legion Riders Director C.W. Hamilton II (above left) wished Legion member John Morton luck as he bought a raffle ticket for a Traeger Junior Grill, grill cover and pellets during the Legion's benefit soup supper on Dec. 2. Sadie Cheney (below) was the first to sit on Santa's lap at the soup supper benefit after the Christmas Light Parade. She and many other kids told Mr. Claus (Roger Hunt) what they want for Christmas this year. Jackie Klenda browsed through magazines at the Holiday Craft Fair on Dec. 1 at the American Legion. Vendors filled the back of the Legion as people stopped by all day to look at clothes, jewelry mugs and other items.

CHRISTINA BERINGER
SAM DIETER
Colby Free Press



President Obama to push taxes on rich

By Anne Flaherty
and Julie Pace
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama is pressing for public support today to raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans, a day after he and House Speaker John Boehner met one-on-one for the first time to discuss ways to avert the “fiscal cliff.”

Neither side provided details of the weekend meeting at the White House. But with just three weeks until a flurry of tax hikes and spending cuts start taking effect,

the mere fact that the meeting happened was seen as progress. Negotiations continue to center on whether to raise tax rates for the top two percent of income earners. Obama, in a campaign-style speech to auto workers in Michigan today, is expected to stress that he won't sign a deal that doesn't include higher tax rates for the wealthiest Americans.

While Republicans have long opposed that approach, some GOP lawmakers are suggesting the party relent on taxes in order to win concessions from the president on entitlement reforms.

And business leaders, tired of Washington's partisan bickering creating uncertainty in the market-

place, are emphasizing the need to hammer out a deal before year's end.

“The millions of people that work for us, their lives are in flux. And this is incredibly critical we get this done now,” said Jeffrey Immelt, GE's chief executive and head of the presidential advisory council on competitiveness.

Immelt, in remarks aired today on “CBS This Morning,” added: “Everyone knows we need revenue,” because spending cuts alone won't solve the problem.

GOP mavericks are putting increased pressure on their party's leaders to rethink how they approach negotiations with Obama in the wake of a bruising national

election that left Democrats in charge of the White House and Senate.

“There is a growing group of folks looking at this and realizing that we don't have a lot of cards as it relates to the tax issue before year end,” Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., told “Fox News Sunday.”

If Republicans agree to Obama's plan to increase rates on the top 2 percent of Americans, Corker added, “the focus then shifts to entitlements, and maybe it puts us in a place where we actually can do something that really saves the nation.”

Conservative stalwart Sen.

See “TAXES,” Page 2

Four men plead guilty to break in

Four Colby men have pleaded guilty to theft and criminal damage to property for breaking into a house in September.

Kevin Cole McKampson, 21, Nathaniel Raye Horinek, 21, Shawn Patrick Lawler, 26, and Toby Lucas Jones, 21, all pleaded guilty to criminal damage to property and misdemeanor theft Wednesday morning, County Attorney Kevin Berens said, and Michael Dean Jones, 25 took the plea Friday. They were arrested after a break-in to a house at 1170 Frank-

lin Ave. Sept. 3.

All five were booked into jail between Oct. 27 and Oct. 31 and later charged with burglary, felony theft, criminal damage to property and criminal trespass, Berens said. Each was given the same plea agreement.

The charge carries a sentence of six months in jail, but Berens said Wednesday that for the plea agreements he had offered at that point, that sentence was suspended and replaced with a year on probation.

Free classes for adults set for next month

The Adult Education Department at Colby Community College is offering free General Educational Development classes for anyone who needs to finish a high-school degree beginning Jan. 7 in the lower level of the H.F. Davis Library on campus.

Participants will receive help to prepare for the General Education Development Kansas High School Diploma.

An enrollment and orientation session will assist students in setting and goals determining the best way for acquiring the needed skills.

The department will provide an “academic bridge” for those enrolling in health care programs such as certified nurse aide, licensed practical nurse, associate degree nurse, dental hygienist, massage therapist, physical therapist assistant, health assistant specialist, medical coder, emergency medical technician, home health aide, medication aide, restorative

aide or nursing home personnel.

“The health-care bridge courses focus on math and terminology essential for success,” said director Nance Munderloh. “Subjects covered are unique to each individual and may include a combination of math, writing, reading, understanding and interpreting charts and graphs and vocabulary.

“Reading for meaning, study skills, time management, personal organization and computer-based testing are addressed to provide students with additional tools for success.”

Other services offered by the department include preparation for college or program entrance exams, post-secondary transition assistance, technology basics, financial literacy, employability, work skills and general life skills.

For information or to enroll in day or evening classes beginning in January, call Munderloh at 460-4663.

‘Thief’ article had incorrect info

The story “Thief Steals Police Vehicle” on the front page of the Friday, Dec. 7, issue of the *Colby Free Press* incorrectly said a truck reported as stolen belonged to the Colby Police Department.

The story said a truck belonging to the department had been stolen from in front of a police officer's house last Monday. The truck belonged to a private citizen, not to the police department or a police officer, and was not a city vehicle at all.

This was an error by the reporter, who said he understood that it was not a police truck that was stolen and thought he had corrected the entire story. Other details of the theft as described in the story are accurate.

The *Colby Free Press* believes all news stories should be fair and accurate, and wants everyone to know the what actually happened. To report an error in any story, call 462-3963.

Program enrolls 750

TOPEKA (AP) — A new state program that gives irrigators flexibility in managing their water allocations while also encouraging conservation has about 750 participants.

The program was created last year by the Kansas Legislature to conserve the future of the Ogallala Aquifer.

The *Hutchinson News* reports (bit.ly/U4aqZU) that the multi-year flex account program allows irrigators to use more water during drought years.

They can manage their water

rights over five years, which helps the state's aquifers recover during years with more moisture.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture issued about 2,300 drought emergency term permits during last year's drought that allowed irrigators to pump 2012 water allotments to save their crops.

Irrigators who enrolled in the flex account program by the Oct. 1 deadline were forgiven their overuse of water from last year.

