



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Talk about big

By **PATTY DECKER**

*Free Press Editor*

It's being promoted as the world's largest Christmas stocking, according to Colby Fire Department officials, and on Sunday, Dec. 15, one lucky boy and girl will each receive a stocking filled to the brim with a variety of toys and games.

Rick Dickman, assistant fire chief, said today that the stockings are going to be raffled off at \$1 per chance with proceeds going toward the many community projects provided by the department.

However, there's also another message that fire officials want to promote and that's for people to be aware of holiday fire safety.

For those wanting to take part in the Christmas stocking promotion, Dickman said all they need to do is stop by the fire station, located to the north of City Hall at 585 N. Franklin and purchase a ticket.

While visiting the fire station, Dickman said there will also be pamphlets available for making sure the holidays are even safer at home.

"It's more like an open house," he said, "and we are encouraging everyone to stop by and learn more about how they can prevent fires."

The pamphlet will provide a checklist ranging from safety tips associated with the selection of Christmas trees and disposal of them to cooking hazards, electrical outlet problems and more.

Among the projects sponsored by the fire department, Dickman said the proceeds will go to help the year-round bicycle program, the battery and smoke detector program, requests for money from Scout troops, and next July will help host the fire school through the Kansas State Firefighters Association.

"We are expecting anywhere from 100 to 200 firefighters in Colby," he said, "and it's been a long time since we have hosted an event like this."

The actual stockings were donated to the fire department, Dickman said, by Midwest Energy and S & T Telephone Company.

To see the stocking, Dickman encourages people to visit the fire station, adjacent to the city building at 585 N. Franklin, or call 462-4454.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby Assistant Fire Chief Rick Dickman (left) and Sean Hankin, shift firefighter, were busy today putting up the world's largest Christmas stocking. There are actually two stockings and both will be raffled off to one boy and a girl on Sunday, Dec. 15. The idea behind the promotion is not only to raise money for department projects, but also to raise awareness about holiday fire safety.

## Thursday's blood drive to be on college campus

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

*Colby Free Press*

The Colby Community College Nursing department is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive in the Student Union from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, and event coordinators are encouraging everyone take part.

Appointments can be made by calling the nursing department at 462-4788, but walk-ins are welcome, said Jackie Stephens, one of the co-chairpersons of the Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

According to information from the

American Red Cross, when blood is donated it can be separated into three different components — red cells, plasma and platelets.

This gives the potential to each donor of saving the life of three different people.

Eligibility requirements for giving blood are also minimal in that prior to donating, Stephens said, a person should drink a lot of water.

"Blood donors must be at least 17 years old," she said, "and they must also be at least 110 pounds and be in generally good health.

Most medications do not keep people from donating."

The Red Cross needs all blood types with Type O, commonly referred to as the universal donor, and is especially needed, organizers said.

O-positive is the most common of all blood types, therefore, more patients are in need of this type.

In contrast, O-negative is a very rare type of blood and can usually be transfused to almost any patient regardless of blood type.

This unique blood type benefits trauma patients in need of blood trans-

fusions when there is little time to test for a specific blood type, sources said.

Statistically, 95 percent of the population will at some point in their life be in need of blood, Stephens said, but only 5 percent of the population actually donate.

"Are you in the mood to do something special for someone else?," she queried, "because if you are, donating blood, gives you the ability of saving someone's life."

She encouraged everyone to participate in Thursday's college's blood drive.

## Brief agenda allows landfill discussion

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

*Colby Free Press*

The Thomas County Commissioners faced a short agenda at their Tuesday meeting.

The only person scheduled was Larry Jumper, Thomas County landfill supervisor, who shared with the commissioners the updates on the landfill project and the monthly reports from October.

Jumper said that most people think the landfill is run on money generated from tipping fees, although 80 percent of the loads dumped there do not have to pay a tipping fee.

"The landfill is actually run on 20 percent of the loads," said Jumper.

Discussion was also held on the plans for the new landfill and the proposals that are currently in the works with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

A date was also set for the landfill's advisory committee meeting. It will be held on Monday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex.

In other business:

- The commissioners reviewed the Thomas County Highway Department October work report, that showed: during the month of October work continued on Horton Avenue, south of In-

terstate 70, by installing culverts and building up the road. In addition, roads were bladed in East Hale Township, while in North Randall, roads were bladed, the roadsides were mowed, and work was done on their motor grader.

Other county road work included hauling dirt to Country Club Drive for shoulder work, hauling dirt to the water tower stockpile, cutting trees on North Franklin, dozing sand at the Tole Pit, mowing, winterizing equipment and vehicles, blading roads and checking and putting up traffic and 911 signs.

- A letter was read from the Clarence M. Kelley Detention and Youth Services Center in WaKeeney. Nothing new has been decided on what will happen with the center.

- The commissioners signed an Optional Group Life Insurance resolution with the Kansas Public Employee Retirement Systems, which will allow employees to purchase additional life insurance.

This will be available after Jan. 1, 2003.

- Commissioner Ron Evans reminded everyone that the end of the month meeting for the commissioners will be held Wednesday, Nov. 27, at 9 a.m., since the courthouse will be closed Nov. 28 and 29.

## Psychologist conducts sessions in Colby, Oakley

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

*Colby Free Press*

Dennis Embry, President and CEO of Paxis Institute of Tucson, Ariz., completed a three-day session on a variety of topics today in Colby and Oakley.

Embry, a child and developmental psychologist, started on Monday by addressing child-care providers, teachers, parents, and Colby Community College students in a session on the brain, behaviors and futures of children.

In his three-hour presentation, Embry taught practices, which the Paxis Institute calls *Simple Gifts*. These practices can teach children how to exercise the self control parts of their brain or teach how to increase the ability to learn new things.

On Tuesday, Embry traveled to the Northwest Kansas Educational Ser-

vice Center in Oakley to give a presentation to 25 recruited elementary teachers from the 17-county judicial region.

During the workshop teachers had the opportunity to learn how to implement the *Good Behavior Game*, a science-based prevention program. Organizers say that the teachers then will implement the program in their classrooms during the 2003 school year.

At the end of May, student classroom behaviors will again be measured after the *Good Behavior Game* was used.

His final workshop was held today at the Service Center in Oakley. He met with professionals who work with adolescents to provide a free half-day workshop on how the brain changes in response to the social environment.

Those interested in more information are encouraged to look up the Paxis Institute on the Internet by visiting [www.paxis.org](http://www.paxis.org).

## Audiotaped statement could be that of Osama bin Laden

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. counterterrorism officials worked to authenticate a new audiotaped statement attributed to Osama bin Laden that may prove that the long-absent terrorist leader is still alive.

U.S. officials, after a preliminary review of the tape, said it sounded like bin Laden, but they were waiting for a full voice analysis to confirm their suspicions.

"Something of this import, we want to be as sure as we can be. It's still being evaluated," one U.S. official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. In the audiotape, aired Tuesday on Al-Jazeera, an Arabic television network, the speaker refers to recent terrorist strikes U.S. officials believe are connected to bin Laden's al-Qaida net-

work. If verified, it would provide the first evidence in a year that bin Laden survived U.S. bombing in Afghanistan.

The audiotape was played alongside an old photograph of the al-Qaida leader, but there was no new video of him. Al-Jazeera said it received the tape on the day it was broadcast.

The speaker on the tape also threatened new terrorism against the United States and its allies, and he castigated U.S. policy toward Iraq.

Confirmation that bin Laden is alive could pose problems for Bush, underscoring to an anxious public that the war on terrorism is far from over.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said, "If he's alive, we know he's on the run."

## WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

**The numbers**  
Tuesday's high, 58  
Low this morning, 23  
Year ago today, 69 and 35  
Temperature at 11:45 today, 61  
Soil temperature, 43  
Records for Nov. 13, 78 in 1932, -5 in 1940

**The forecast**  
Tonight, partly cloudy, lows lower 30s, slight chance for light snow or showers late. Thursday, partly sunny, highs mid 50s, north winds up to 10 mph. Thursday night, cloudy, lows upper 20s. Friday, some clouds, highs upper 40s, possible shower activity. Friday night, partly cloudy, lows near 30.

## Briefly

### Fair board to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet Thursday at 8 p.m. at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Agenda items include: 4-H representatives, Jon Starns and Dan Rietcheck; discussion of the rodeo sponsors who have not paid; a grandstand project; Thomas County Amusement Association contract; and groundskeeper replacement. All fair board meetings are open to the public.

### Methodist Ladies need your help

As part of their "Experience Christmas Tour" on Dec. 8, the Methodist Ladies of Colby hope to have a Christmas/Winter Art Show in the Fellowship Hall, and to that end they are asking anyone who has a Christmas or winter painting or other artwork — such as cross-stitch or embroidery pictures of that season of the year — if they would share those with the public. Please contact Marj Brown at 462-3515 as soon as you can. The artwork submitted does not have to be the work of the person sharing it, and you do not have to be a member of the Methodist Church to share.

If you have an easel to display it on, that would also be appreciated.

### Christmas parade reminder

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce reminds everyone that the date for this year's Christmas Parade will be Sunday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. The parade will begin on the south end of the downtown business area and travel north and then onto Santa City. Anyone interested in participating — floats, bands, other musical groups, individuals, churches, other groups, organizations, etc. — should let the Chamber of Commerce people know no later than Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. The office number is 462-3401.

### Blue Mass to honor special people

Sacred Heart Church and the Colby Council of the Knights of Columbus will hold a special *Blue Mass* on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m. at the church. This Mass is a way of reaching out in thanking for the superior job that our police officers, sheriff's depu-

ties, highway patrol troopers, firefighters and EMT's do every day to serve and protect the citizens of Thomas County. These groups have been invited to this special Mass and are asked to be dressed in their respective uniforms.

### Scout fund raising underway

Colby Girl Scouts in Cadette Troop 110 (seventh graders) are currently selling cookie dough, pizzas and other products with proceeds going to support council-wide activities, said Brette Pfeifer, scout leader. The products are from "Red Wheel" and the scouts will be selling until Nov. 29. For questions or to place orders, call 462-6998.

### Child Birth Class underway

The Colby Child Birth Education Class Series began last Thursday and the four-week series will be held each Thursday through Dec. 4, but will not meet on Thanksgiving. Classes hours will be from 7 to 10 p.m. and will be in the Health Science Building at Colby Community College. Call Jeanne Brown at 462-4850.

