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Quilt lover's delight



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College student Kathryn Ellis admired one of several quilts on display at the gallery in the Cultural Arts Center on the college campus Thursday. Works from area quilters are being displayed at the gallery from 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday through Dec. 19.

Reception honors Coach Lampe

(see story on Sports, page 12)



Council gets a look at new law enforcement center

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council toured the new law enforcement center at 360 N. Franklin prior to its meeting Tuesday night.

Police Chief Randy Jones pointed out various locations within the building for classroom work, training exercises and records keeping for both the police and other city offices.

Currently, many of the police records are stored at the old hospital where the school district's administration building is located until their new building is completed.

The new training center was formerly Commercial Bank and more recently housed Buffalo Creek.

On each of the three floors of the building there are four vaults that the police plan to use for evidence and other records.

"With the purchase of this building," said Mayor Warren Hixson,

"we are also looking at opening it up for regional training so that area police and fire departments in northwest Kansas have a closer place."

Instead of having to go to Hutchinson, he said, the building would serve as a more central location for necessary training.

The building has 14,000 square feet and lots of rooms available for a myriad of activities.

For example, Jones showed council members the rooms upstairs designated for physical training, along with two other rooms that are being set up for larger and smaller classrooms.

The Thomas County Sheriff's office is sharing in the set up of the physical training room and money for equipment, Jones said, is coming from proceeds at the impound lot.

Also in the upstairs portion of the building, Jones said the K-9 Unit

will be able have training exercises, and other parts of the building can be used for staging crime scenarios.

Police officers will be able to practice their techniques on finding perpetrators hiding in rooms or in how to clear the building in the event of terroristic threats.

The Colby Community College Criminal Justice Department will also be using the building for some of its course study.

The cost of the building was \$68,000, which was approved at an earlier council meeting. Hixson said that to build a new building with similar specs would have cost nearly double that price.

During the tour, the mayor also said that no taxpayer money was used in purchasing this new training facility.

"The money came from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund," he said, which is money seized from various drug-related arrests.

Fatal fight at Hays Bond is set at \$1 million

HAYS (AP) — A judge set bond at \$1 million Thursday for two Fort Hays State University football players and a third man arrested in the death of another student.

Clint Johnson, 18, of Healy, a business major, was killed during a fight Nov. 13 at an apartment complex north of the campus, authorities said.

Ellis County Attorney Tom Drees has said numerous people were involved in several skirmishes between the buildings and in the parking lot.

Three football players — Bradley Deary, a 21-year-old junior from

Smithville, Texas; Luis Llamas, 23, a senior from San Diego; and Christopher Ross, 19, a freshman from Wylie, Texas — were arrested in Johnson's death Wednesday. Also arrested was Fort Hays student Jaime Lopez III, 23, a senior from Chula Vista, Calif.

Drees said a judge found probable cause Thursday to hold Deary, Llamas and Lopez on suspicion of first-degree murder and other charges. Bond for the men was set at \$1 million each.

Ross was being held on \$40,000 bond on suspicion of aggravated battery.

Drees said he expected to charge the men within the next 10 days.

A fifth man — Steven Vincent, 21, an Emporia State University student from Americus — was arrested under suspicion of felony obstruction of a criminal investigation. He was released after posting a \$2,500 bond, Drees said.

Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond said the school would discipline the students.

The athletic department already has suspended Deary, Llamas and Ross from the football team, which ended its season Saturday.

The turkey's cooking for big senior dinner

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Area seniors will have a chance once again to partake of a Thanksgiving dinner before Thanksgiving day.

The 36th annual Thanksgiving dinner put on by the Colby Community College Social Problems Class is at noon on Monday at the Colby Community Building.

Larry Koon teaches sociology at the college and said he started the tradition because he was looking for some way to get students involved in community service.

The first dinner started out small at Meadowlark Manor. "Then we got so big we moved out to the American Legion," he said.

More than 300 students help set up and prepare for the dinner.

"We serve around 250 people," he said. "It gets bigger each year."

The dinner is sponsored by the college and the Northwest Kansas

Area Agency on Aging.

Invitations are always sent out and people come from as far away as Stockton, Hays, Dighton and Sharon Springs and as close as Hoxie, Goodland, Rexford, Brewster and Colby.

Feeding so many people means a lot of food. He said the fixings usually include around 150 pounds of turkey, 100 pounds of potatoes and 35 boxes of stuffing.

The 12 students in the class enjoy helping with the event but every division at the college helps in some way.

Koon also said seniors sort of take charge sometimes. "It's gotten to be a multigenerational operation," he said.

Students set up and help cook. They also stay for the dinner just to sit and talk with the seniors.

For information or transportation, call Deb Koon at (785) 462-6616.

Register of Deeds is retiring

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Thomas County Register of Deeds Denny Burke is retiring on Nov. 26. That means there is an elected position to be filled in the county.

County Clerk Tracey Perkins said she expects the position will be filled soon.

She said since Burke had nearly a year left in her term, someone will need to be appointed to fill out the remainder of the term. If the appointee wants to retain the position, he/she will have to run in the election next November.

The Republican Central Committee will advance a name to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to fill the vacancy.

The county hosted a retirement reception for Burke on Wednesday at the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

Burke served as register of deeds since being elected in 1996 and before that, worked in that office.

She said she's retiring to spend



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Retiring Thomas County Register of Deeds Denny Burke looked over gifts she received during a retirement party Wednesday at the Thomas County Courthouse. Burke is retiring after 19 years of service to the county.

more time with her grandkids and to work on her dolls, which is a favorite hobby.

Burke spent 19 years in service to the county.

County Commissioner Ron Evans told Burke she did a fine job while working for the county.

"We're certainly going to miss you," he said at the reception.

Briefly

Benefit dinner scheduled

A sausage and pancake feed is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 6 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. All proceeds to benefit Willie and Melinda Enfield and their five children. The Enfield's home caught fire several weeks ago and the money raised will go directly to them. If you can donate your time to help cook, serve or clean up or have money you'd like to donate to help purchase sausage and supplies, contact Lori Haberer at 460-6557 or 462-9011. A free-will donation will be taken for the meal.

Christmas Home Tour set

Kappa Upsilon is once again planning the Christmas Home Tour from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7. This year's event will feature five homes on the tour with tickets available at either Donelan Jewelry, First National Bank or by calling Linda Vaughn, (785) 462-8882. This year's tour will include the homes of Norm and Betty Behring, Dorothy Stephens, Dave

and Sandy Harper, Pat and Deanna Mallory and Dan and Amy Jennings.

Wellness Fair seeks participation

Letters have been sent out to area businesses asking them to provide incentives for their employees to participate in this year's Wellness Fair, Jan. 17, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Colby Community College Student Union. "Any level of financial assistance is possible to include the business paying for employees to participate in all lab work; covering the cost of the registration fee only or more," said Wanda Davis, publicity chair. "For those businesses that did not get a letter and would like to participate on behalf of their employees call Davis at 462-4797 before Friday, Dec. 5.

Women's League plans brunch

The Colby Women's League is sponsoring its annual Christmas Brunch at the Colby Country Club from 10:30 a.m.

to 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4. Everyone is invited to take part in this event with all proceeds going to help support other organizations in town. Organizers said this is their way of starting the holidays with joy of friends and giving thanks.

Wellness Fair screenings announced

As in year's past, the annual Wellness Fair is once again offering laboratory screening tests for participants. Blood testing will be done from 6 to 9 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, Saturday, Jan. 10, Monday, Jan. 12, and Tuesday, Jan. 13. Lab tests include TSH (thyroid) at \$12; CBC/lipid/glucose at \$15; and PSA test at a cost of \$18. Participants will register for the fair at a cost of \$5, in addition to paying for lab tests prior to blood being drawn. These screenings require a 10 to 12 hour fast. For questions or other information, call Jeanene Brown, Citizens Medical Center, at 460-4850. The 2004 Wellness Fair is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Colby Community College student union. Screening results will be available for review the day of the fair.



Could drop to 12 Colby, Oakley, Hoxie forecast

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. East winds 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the mid 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.
Saturday night...Cloudy. A chance of snow in the evening then snow after midnight. Breezy. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows around 17. North winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.
Sunday...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Windy...Colder. Highs in the lower 20s. Northwest winds 20 to 30 mph.
Sunday night...Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 12.
Monday...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Warmer. Highs in the mid 30s.
Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s.

By the numbers:

Thursday's high, 77
Low this morning, 24
Records for Nov. 21, 69 in 1955 and -5 in 1898
Year ago today, 63 and 39
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 0.16
Year's precipitation to date, 14.42
2002's precipitation to date, 12.60

