



COLBY FREE PRESS



PATTY DECKER/Free Press Editor

Three of the Wellness Fair committee members met at Citizens Medical Center in Colby to finalize some of the plans for the event scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 17. Tracey King (left), Frank Vacca and Jeanene Brown (right), went over blood testing dates in January. Brown said that unlike other years, there will only be one Saturday this year for blood testing with the other three dates during the week. All times; however, will be from 6 to 9 a.m.

Final planning is underway for wellness fair in January

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

The Wellness Fair committee is working on final preparations for the event scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Colby Community College Student Union. As in year's past, there will be blood testing prior to the fair from 6 to 9 a.m., beginning Thursday, Jan. 8, Saturday, Jan. 10, Monday, Jan. 12 and Tuesday, Jan. 13. The lab tests, said

Jeanene Brown, one of the committee members, will include TSH (thyroid) at \$12; CBC/Lipid/Glucose, \$15; and PSA, \$18. Along with the cost for blood tests, the fair registration of \$5 is required. All screenings, she said, require that participants fast for 10 to 12 hours. For more than a decade, the Wellness Fair has provided discounted blood tests with those results available the day of the event, along with many health profession-

als discussing a variety of ways to stay fit or prevent serious medical problems to persons of all ages. The committee does plan on having some of the same type of booths as in prior years to include a section primarily for children, tests for checking physical endurance and more. Within the next few weeks, the committee will be releasing more details. For questions or more information call Brown at 460-4860.

Santa's bag contains funds for proposed wellness center

By TOM DREILING
Free Press Publisher

Talk about the perfect Christmas gift... It looks like Colby Community College has gotten the jump-start its been looking for as it relates to a proposed wellness center, a topic of discussion at a number of its board of trustees' meetings of late. Dr. Mikel Ary, the college's president, said he was informed by Congressman Jerry Moran that \$250,000 to develop a new wellness center was included in funding in the final appropriations package for fiscal year 2004 passed by the

House of Representatives on Tuesday. The legislation now goes before the Senate for consideration. Ary said the college appreciates the advocacy of Congressman Moran for this "exemplary project, which we believe will allow cooperative interaction on rural health initiatives between education and the citizens of northwest Kansas." Moran said that "physical fitness is an important component in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. It is my hope that building this wellness center will enhance the longevity and quality of life for residents in northwest Kansas."

Colby Community College is a regional health care service center, providing care to nearly 100,000 residents in 14 northwest Kansas counties, according to information shared in connection with the funding announcement. The announcement also said that 25 percent of the residents in these counties are 65 years of age or older, and that Colby Community College currently offers three academic programs that allow preventative and rehabilitative services for the elderly. The college feels establishing a wellness center will allow it to expand its clinical care services.



Thelma Wieland



Lowell Harter



Jeanette Bencken

Three more Colby shoppers become \$50 instant winners

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Three more people became instant winners and \$50 richer in the ongoing *Christmas On Us!* promotion sponsored by area merchants and the *Colby Free Press*. There are still six instant winners possible before the big drawing on Saturday, Dec. 20, said Tom Dreiling, *Colby Free Press* publisher. So far there have been four \$50 winners to include Leisa Hansen, the first winner, followed by Thelma Wieland, Lowell Harter and Jeanette Bencken during the past week. The ticket number that turned out to be lucky for Wieland was 435156. She said it's the first time she's ever won anything and hasn't yet decided what she'll do with her winnings. Wieland said she has watches the ticket numbers each year, but this year she got a match. Her ticket came from Office Works. For Harter, the lucky ticket was number 455255, which he received from Beringer Hardware. "This is

the first time I have won at this," Harter said on Monday. As for what he plans to spend the scrip money on, he said he really didn't know yet. A couple of hours following Harter's visit to the *Free Press*, another winner walked in with yet another match. This time it was Bencken from Rexford who showed her lucky ticket number 8984283 as the match. Bencken said she got her tickets at Dillons and it was her first time winning as well. She said she really didn't know how she planned to spend her money. With six more chances to win \$50, participants need to check the advertisements in this week's Thursday *Colby Free Press* on pages 10 and 11. Within those ads there will be several ticket numbers hiding. If the ticket number in this week's ads matches the ticket numbers in someone's possession, it's a winner. After that, it's just a matter of coming into the newspaper office, 155 W. 5th St., and claiming the scrip money, which is good at

any participating stores. Those stores include Someplace Special, Tubbs and Sons Ford Sales, Beringer Hardware, Colby Ag Center, Dillons, Great Western Tire, City Limits Bar and Grill, Colby Implement, Office Works, Golden Hardware, The Sports Shoppe, Stan's Automotive, Colby True Value, Dougherty Implement and the *Colby Free Press*. The grand-prize of \$1,000 and the second place prize of \$500 will be given away on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 11 a.m. in the Colby Community Building. Any unclaimed \$50 instant winning tickets will also be given away that morning. Last year's grand prize winner was Dan Denneler with Wanda Brown as the second place winner. The \$50 instant winners in 2002 were Poppy Dean, Alisha Shirley, Tracy Shull, Dewey Augustine, Marvia Miller, Ronda Brottem, Rylinda Barnett, Theresa Baker, Deann Shields and Geri Landry. For questions, call the *Free Press* at 462-3963 or check the rules on page 9 in Thursday's paper.



Continued cold

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie forecast
Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows around 14. East winds 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday night...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow after midnight. Lows around 16. Northeast winds around 10 mph.
Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs in the mid 20s. East winds 5 to 10 mph.
Friday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 15.
Saturday through Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the 40s. Lows 16 to 21.

By the numbers:
Tuesday's high, 35
Low this morning, 10
Records for Dec. 10, 67 in 1957 and -17 in 1972
Year ago today, 62 and 18
Precipitation past 48 hours, 0.09
Month's precipitation, 0.09
Snow past 48 hours, 2 inches
Year's precipitation to date, 14.53
2002's precipitation to date, 12.60
Soil temperature, 37
The sources:
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Authorities investigating a shooting east of Colby Woman is found on road

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

A 41-year-old Colby woman was found Sunday morning east of town on a road near Wagoner and Sons Salvage with a gunshot wound to the head, said the Thomas County Sheriff's office today. The initial investigation is classifying the incident as an attempted suicide, but Undersheriff Mike Baughn said the case is not completed yet. The woman, who remains unidentified, was lying beside a vehicle on Taft Rd., north of U.S. Highway 24 and near the salvage yard when someone saw her Sunday. The person then called the law enforcement center, Baughn said, at 10:23 a.m.

to alert police of the incident. Within minutes, he said, officers were at the scene. Baughn said today that the woman was transported to Citizens Medical Center in Colby by Thomas County Emergency Medical Services and later flown to either Wichita or Denver, but he didn't know exactly where she was transported. "We still don't know her condition," Baughn said. "The last we heard she was still alive. That was yesterday (Tuesday)." Due to the sensitive nature of the incident, he said, the woman's name and other details will not be released pending further investigation.

Steps taken to help with parking crush

Two popular attractions might create some serious parking problems at Colby High School Friday night. The Western Plains Arts Association will have a shuttle bus service available Friday evening to the

Colby High School auditorium for the holiday show, "A Christmas Carol." Curtain time for the performance has also changed from 8 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. In addition to the time change, the

reason for the shuttle service at 7 p.m. was prompted because of possible parking limitations due to the Colby High School Eagle Wrestling Invitational Tournament going on in the gymnasium also Friday. In the event parking becomes a

problem, those attending the "Christmas Carol" performance are asked to drive to Colby College's south parking area where a shuttle bus will transport them to and from the high school as needed beginning at 7 p.m.

Briefly

Fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Thomas County 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include the county extension agent report, the financial report and bills, committee reports on the buildings and grounds, carnival, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising and barbecue bids. The board will also discuss the groundskeeper position job description, the year-end audit and budget changes. The meeting is open to the public.

Reception planned for new doctor

A special welcome reception and open house is planned for Dr. Gary Slavens, the newest family practitioner in Colby, said Tama Unger, public information officer at Citizens Medical Center. The open house will be at the Colby Country Club from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16. There will be food and refreshments served and the event is open to every-

one. Slavens is with Family Center for Healthcare. For questions about the event, call Unger at 462-7511 or Scott Focke at 462-6184.

Children's party planned Monday

The American Legion in Colby is having its annual "Children's Christmas Party" at 7 p.m. on Monday. In addition to children giving their list to Santa, there will be treats and refreshments served. The event is open to all members, their children and grandchildren. For questions, call 462-2127.

Pancake feed Saturday

The High Plains Lions Club is hosting its annual pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, at the Colby Community Building. The all-you-can-eat event is a fund raising effort for the group. Tickets are available from any club member or at the door the day of the feed.

Help needed in basket assembly

Assembling the boxes for the Genesis Christmas Basket campaign will be held at 7 p.m., Friday at the 4-H Building. All donations of non-perishable food are still welcome and can be brought to the Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank located in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Suite 8. Food Bank hours are Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Anyone wishing to make a cash donation may send it to P.O. Box 214, Colby. Everyone is invited to come help assemble the baskets.

Santa's shop opens this week

Pre-school through fifth grade students will be able to do their own shopping when the annual Santa's Helper Shop opens from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday at Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby. The event is sponsored by Blue Jean Ladies (formerly Mu Epsilon) with all homemade gifts priced at \$3 to include gift wrapping. Limit is four gifts per child, and all proceeds go to benefit community projects.

