



COLBY FREE PRESS

Hospice auction nearing

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Hospice Services, Inc. in Thomas County is hoping for its best auction ever with the event planned for Saturday, Nov. 5, at the City Limits Conference Center, 2227 S. Range Ave., Colby.

“The auction, which raises funds to ensure that Hospice support is available to terminally ill individuals and their family members, will provide a unique opportunity to Christmas shop and help a worthy cause at the same time,” said Jenny Niblock, president of the Hospice Advisory Board.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. with the auction scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m., she said.

More than 300 items have been donated to the auction.

“I cannot think of a better cause to have your name linked to,” Niblock said. “People know how important Hospice is and what it does for people in our community.”

The mission of Hospice is to help terminally ill persons live out their last days with dignity and comfort by providing trained healthcare professionals who help with issues such as pain management and counsel on death and dying.

“The organization also provides counseling to family members on dealing with a loved one with a terminal illness too,” she said.

Along with the auction, November is also National Hospice/Palliative Care Month, said Sandy Kuhlman, executive director of Hospice.

“The purpose is to raise awareness about quality end-of-life care. Palliative care offers comfort and support, while hospice brings compassionate care when a cure is not possible,” Kuhlman said.

Hospice and palliative care both provide pain and symptom control, dignity, and spiritual and emotional care to the dying and their families.

Kuhlman also offered the following statistics as a way to raise awareness about the organization in this area.

- Hospice Services provided care for more than 100 persons and their families last year.

- Hospice is covered under Medicare, Medicaid, most private insurance plans, HMOs and other managed care organizations.

- Hospice Services is supported by more than two hundred (200) volunteers across the 14 counties served.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (785) 462-6710 or (800) 315-5122.

The His Shop, 475 N. Franklin or Colby Photo, 420 N. Franklin, are also both ticket sale outlets.

“Please plan to attend,” Niblock said.

Helping others



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Jordan, Brandy and Andy Schippers of Colby looked at auction items Saturday at City Limits Convention Center during a benefit auction and dance for Dianne Homm of Colby. Carolyn Miller, one of the event’s organizers, said more than \$4,000 was raised to help with Homm’s expenses from cancer treatment. More than 90 items were donated for both the silent and live auctions. The band Shadow Riders from Burlington, Colo. donated their time Saturday to play the event.

PowerSchool system goes over 10 million

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Colby School District’s PowerSchool has been a success over the past year, said Andy Boell, PowerSchool administrator for the district.

He said the system recently went over the 10 million hit mark, which is a total of the number of screens viewed by users, which include parents, students, teachers and school administrators.

Boell said since July, the system has had more than 400,000 hits.

He attributed part of the recent spike to parent-teacher conferences a couple of weeks ago, and use in general.

“I think more students and parents are using it,” Boell said.

The system allows parents to keep track of their children’s grades and attendance, assignments, lunch balances and more. They can even get e-mail updates daily or weekly on their student’s progress.

High school students can also keep track of their graduation progress starting this year. The system shows what subject areas they need to meet.

Grades three through 12 are on the system.

He said the lower grade school levels aren’t because the way they figure grades doesn’t fit well with PowerSchool.

It’s also easy for teachers to use because all they have to put in are

“The parents are more informed. There are fewer surprises.”

Andy Boell, program administrator

student’s grades and keep those updated. PowerSchool does the rest.

Boell said it’s empowered everyone, from parents to students to teachers.

“The parents are more informed,” he said. “There are fewer surprises.”

And both students and parents have access to PowerSchool. They have unique passwords to get in and parents have a password for each of their children in school.

Boell added for a district this size, the usage of the system has been “phenomenal,” and shows a large percentage of parents, students and teachers have been using it.

He also said there were a few glitches earlier this year, like people not being able to go online from home but that has since been worked out.

It’s also been easier to use this year because of familiarity.

“It’s holding it’s own,” Boell said.

Small town prepares to greet former Soviet leader

LINDSBORG (AP) — School bands here are practicing the Russian national anthem. Detectives are conducting security checks. And preparations are being made for a parade.

All of it is for former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who will visit this predominantly Swed-

ish community of 3,300 this weekend to launch a worldwide campaign of promoting peace through chess.

“Lindsborg has grown in reputation and has a bigger chess presence than many other larger cities,” said Wes Fisk, one of the organizers of the weekend events.

The town is home to a Karpov Chess School — named for seven-time world chess champion Anatoly Karpov — and has hosted international tournaments.

This year, Karpov invited his friend, Gorbachev, to visit Lindsborg to start the Chess for Peace campaign.

Chess for Peace will include a series of Internet matches throughout the world. The winners will be invited to Lindsborg in June for a weeklong festival.

Kathy Richardson, owner of Small World Gallery in Lindsborg, said people are beginning to ask themselves what question they’ll

ask Gorbachev if given the chance.

Richardson wants to ask: “Can you remember the exact moment when you knew you had to be the leader of the major change in your country? Was there a moment, meeting, evening, one place that made you think, ‘Yeah, we’ve got to do this’?”

Simulating rollover accident

Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Andy Schippers demonstrated what happens during a rollover accident Saturday at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Colby. He and Trooper Jason Duffey showed more than 50 people the rollover simulator throughout the day.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby man’s probation revoked after leaving county; prison next stop

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A Colby man is headed to prison after violating a court order while waiting to be sent to a southeast Kansas boot camp.

Levi Jones, 20, two days after having his probation revoked skipped the county to talk to his fiancé and landed in a Barton County Jail.

District Judge Glenn Schiffner on Sept. 7 told Jones he could live with his mother, Sharlene Scheck, until he went to Labette Correctional Boot Camp at Fredonia. At that same time, Schiffner told Jones if he failed to complete Labette Boot Camp or come home and did not complete the term of the sentence then the “penitentiary is the next step.”

“I was told when I took the bench one of the hardest things I’d have to do is order someone to prison and thank goodness I haven’t had to do that often,” Schiffner said. “But in this case, you were given the opportunity to go to Labette. But that is out of the case now and I order you to the custody of the Thomas County Sheriff awaiting the Department of Correction picking you up.”

On Sept. 9, Jones was picked by the Barton County Sheriff’s Office for leaving Colby without permission and for allegedly making threatening phone calls from a dormitory at Barton County Community College.

Jones’ intensive supervision officer, Dian Organ, Hays, on Thursday, filed an affidavit advising Schiffner Jones failed to follow court orders.

Jones was on probation for a January crime spree during which he and Donald Clapper, then 16, ended up being charged with 27 felonies and 24 misdemeanors for crimes committed Jan. 3 and Jan. 5. Authorities then estimated Jones and Clapper victimized multiple farm operations throughout Thomas County resulting in more than



Levi Jones, left, listened to his attorney, Scott Showalter, Goodland, as he talked about an affidavit filed on Thursday outlining probation violations Jones is alleged to have committed.

\$100,000 in property damage, including theft of a race car valued at about \$6,000. The crime spree took place less than three months about both teens were arrested for an unrelated burglary in Oct. 2004. In the 2005 case, Jones was charged as an adult, Clapper as a juvenile.

During a hearing on Friday, Schiffner corrected a statement he made last month saying Jones had 50 of the 51 counts against him dismissed.

Schiffner said Friday Jones pleaded guilty to count one, burglary; count 29, felony criminal

damage to property, and count 41, felony theft. Schiffner ordered Jones to a prison term of 13 months, which after this last incident he’ll have to now serve. The remaining 48 counts were dismissed.

Jones will be given two months credit off the 13 months for the time he’s been in the Thomas County Jail since being arrested on Sept. 9.

During the hearing on Friday, Jones’ mother testified her health insurance would pay for a physical he needed before going to Labette. Jones’ attorney, Scott Showalter, Goodland, said the boot camp requires inmates to be drug and medication free for a period of 90 days before intake. That physical became a moot point when Jones was ordered to prison.

Showalter told Schiffner and Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick Jones needed the harsher confinement of Labette over mainstream prison.

“Labette is not an easy placement,” Showalter said. “Labette is

not where you go and do your 11 months and get out, they’ll be screaming at him from sun up to sun down.”

Showalter said he and his client “acknowledged he violated his probation,” and wrote bad checks, but acknowledged Labette is a penalty and a “severe penalty.”

According to Ellis County court documents, Jones, in June while on probation, passed worthless checks at two businesses in Hays totaling \$969.

Wyrick told Schiffner she “didn’t think anyone was out to get Mr. Jones,” but she agreed with Organ that Jones had “no regard for his probation.”

“It floors me that someone is given probation and the still has problems when he can go to Labette not prison,” Wyrick said. “I’m throwing up my hands along with Miss Organ and recommending he be sent straight to the Department of Corrections.”

Schiffner agreed.

