

Holly Puga brought her daycare kids from Holly's Playhouse to show their support for "our boys" in Iraq. The kids brought a little something special to add to the care packages being sent to three soldiers in Bagdad. Tom Brannan and Marvin Matchett held a live remote for KQNK Radio while dona-

tions were being brought for the packages .

College proposal draws concerns

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"There's lot of blue sky in this thing, with grants and donations,"

Friesen said he hopes the college will plan for the construction appro-

"If there is a shortfall, how will it be made up? We need more taxpayers," Friesen said. "Not more tax

More books, not playbooks

Thomas County business and property owner Larry Oren said he sees his tax dollars when he walks

"You figure that tax is on every piece of equipment," Oren said. "Then you do that for 20 years."

Oren said the potential property tax increase will be another challenge to improving the economic development of Thomas County. Industries are taxed differently than residential properties.

Oren said more needs to be done to improve job creation in Thomas County. He said the proposal is not headed in that direction.

"If money is going to the college, I'd like to see more for academics than sports," he said.

If approved, the college's proposal will benefit the Trojans' athletic department. Basketball and volleyball teams will have a more efficient practice schedule and play games on campus, rather than at the Colby Community Building two

We've been told this will generate money but haven't seen anything concrete."

 Vernon Flanagin, Colby businessman

wrestling program will also benefit from the new center.

'We're not going to have too many professional basketball and baseball players," Oren said.

We need industry here, more people to pay a wage to and pay some taxes.'

Oren said he is not a sports fan but for the whole crowd," he said. would like to see the day where more Colby Community College graduates can stay and use what he learned in college at a job in Thomas County or the area.

"I have nothing against sports, it just got out of hand. We need to focus on education," he said. "The push for sports is so hard. How many schools close for a three-day math tournament?"

Colby's Vernon Flanagin expects certain sectors of Colby to benefit if the center is approved and built.

When he watches his grandchildren's sporting events in other towns he said he purchases gasoline, food and an occasional hotel room. It won't be any different with fans coming to Colby.

"We've been told this will gener- ity."

miles from campus. The college's ate money but haven't seen anything concrete," Flanagin said. "But how many ball tournaments, shows and concerts will there be in a year? And those big name concerts, they don't come here for nothing."

Property owner Jerry Downing

"There will be benefits, but not

Long-term

Downing said the Kansas Legislature's discussion this session about lowering property taxes is not as good as it sounds living in Thomas County.

Last week, legislature discussed lowering property taxes up to \$600 a year for people 55 and older. Downing is 75. Should legislation be approved to lower the taxes, it won't have a full effect if the college proposal is approved.

"This will affect us quite a bit,"

Should the proposal pass and the center is built, Friesen said he hopes the college board has some benchmarks for the center to meet, "so it won't become a long-term liabil-

Report: Bird flu will be deadly

fluenza pandemic would kill an estimated 22,000 Kansans and cost the state's economy more than \$5.9 billion, according to a newly released report.

The Trust for America's Health projected Thursday the state's economic loss would amount to 5.58 percent of goods and services produced in Kansas. It also projected

ened by a severe pandemic.

a state-by-state breakdown of economic losses, but their estimate of projected deaths in Kansas from a pandemic outbreak is far higher cases and 10,700 hospitalizations in than previous official estimates.

Earlier projections had estimated range of 1,100 to 2,500 in Kansas,

WICHITA (AP) — A severe in- 810,000 Kansans would be sick- said Richard Morrissey, deputy director of the Division of Health for Their report is the first to provide the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Those official projections also estimated between 208,000 and 486,000 pandemic

> Morrissey attributed the differpandemic influenza deaths in the ence between estimates to the planning assumptions used in models.

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Norton shows its cares by sending care packages

By Veronica Monier

Norton Telegram

The community showed it true colors Tuesday when it found out three "of our boys" in Iraq needed a little love and care.

Tom Brannan, who with his wife Cathy got the drive for care packages going, said his son, Jason, called him Sunday from Bagdad and asked that they write to three soldiers. The soldiers, he said, hadn't received any mail from home while they've been

Mr. Brannan said his wife immediately wrote letters to the three soldiers — Sergeant. Jared McGrew, Private First Class Tyler Grogan, and Private First Class Michael Bono. Then, he said, they started to put care packages together.

"Cathy took the boxes to school and started to work on them," he said. "I called Party Line (on KQNK Radio) to see if anyone would help. Marvin (Matchett) jumped on it."

A live broadcast was held Tuesday during Party Line from in front of the Norton Area Chamber Office on State Street.

"Marvin stepped up and grabbed the bull by the horns," he said. "He went over and above and that's impressive."

Mr. Brannan said people brought what added up to two or three shopping carts full of goodies and donated money to pay for shipping. He said he and his wife have already sent three boxes and will be sending another three. Mr. Matchett and Chamber Director Karla Reed will also be sending three boxes. The rest, he said, will be sent to his son, who holds the rank of staff sergeant. Ssg. Brannan will pass it on to the other

"They (the soldiers in Iraq) share everything, but it's nice from them to get their own mail," he said.

Mr. Brannan said this isn't the end of it. The boys will be getting mail now at least once a week, if not more. People across the county are volunteering to send them packages and letters, and teachers and daycare prodents write letters and draw pictures.

sending stuff to either. One man, he said, gave several bags of suckers to be given to the kids in Iraq.

Mr. Brannan said the three sol- 1-28 IN, Unit 42532, APO AE diers aren't from Norton, but that didn't stop anyone from helping. Ssg. Brannan, Sgt. McGrew, PFC Grogan and PFC Bono are all members of the "Big Red One" and are stationed out of Ft. Riley. They are all serving in Bagdad with a combat ground infantry unit and will be serving overseas for a year to a year and

"The turnout really made us proud

viders are going to have their stu- of Norton and Norton County," he said. "Hopefully, when they get back It's not just the soldiers people are on leave, they can come here and meet everyone.'

Mail can reach them at:

 Sgt. Jared McGrew, C Company/ PFCTylerGrogan, CCompany/

1-28 IN, Unit 42532, APO AE PFC Michael Bono, C Com-

pany/1-28 IN, Unit 42532, APO AE Ssg. Jason Brannan, C Com-

pany/1-28 IN, Unity 42532, APO AE 09361.

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