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COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Wednesday
November 12, 2008
Volume 119, Number 180
Serving Thomas County since 1888

County caps expense pleas

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
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Thomas County commissioners agreed Friday to put a \$300 maximum cap on department spending without approval from the commissioners.

Once a year, each department is allowed to make a request to the commissioners for money, County Clerk Shelly Harms said. This is the first time there has been a cap on how much money each department could spend at one time, she said. Departments usually make their budget request in December.

Commissioner Byron Sowers made the motion and Commissioner Ken Christiansen seconded, with Commissioner Paul Steele also voting yes.

The commissioners got a letter of thanks from the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature, a program that promotes policies that benefit senior citizens across the state, for a \$250 contribution.

Rosalie Seemann, vice president of the Silver Haired Legislature for northwest Kansas, said the money would be used to help pay for the meeting of all mem-

bers of the senior legislature the first week of October in Topeka. Members from across the state approve "bills" they will present to the Kansas Legislature.

Steele moved to exclude the ACE Services property at 345 Convesse from the upcoming tax sale. He said the property currently is being used as a water treatment facility by the city. The reason it's being excluded from the sale is because the water at the plant is still being treated, Harms said. The motion was seconded by Christiansen but opposed by Sowers, who said he did not feel all the issues had been considered. He said he felt the county should seek further legal advice.

Connie Walden, administrator of the Thomas County Health Department, and Kasiah Rothchild, financial administrator for the department, signed agreements requiring department employees to use county-paid pagers and cell phones only for county business.

Earlier, Commissioner Steele broke the seal on the bag holding all provisional ballots cast on Nov. 4. Sheriff-elect Rodney Taylor was present for the meeting.

Oakley nurse wins state honor

By Marj Brown

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Becky Dorman, a registered nurse from Oakley, was one of the 10 recipients of the 18th annual "Heart of Healthcare Award" from the University of Kansas School of Nursing.

Dorman has worked for the Logan County Health Department for the past 20 years, said Director Georgetta Schoenfeld.

The school has sponsored "The Heart of Healthcare" award since 1989 to recognize registered nurses' contributions to their communities, patients and professions. Over the past 18 years, there have been 180 winners from more than 6,500 nominations.

Nominations are accepted from patients, patients' families, colleagues, employers, supervisors and the nurse's family and friends. A committee composed of former award winners and health care and business leaders selected the 10 winners.

Every nurse who was nominated will receive a certificate of recognition. The school honored the 10 who received the award this year by presenting them each with a \$1,000 check. The awards were given Oct. 24 at a banquet at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kansas City.

"My children noticed a story in the *Oakley Graphic* asking for nominations of nurses to receive

the award," Dorman said. "They asked many of the people I work with and some of my patients to write letters to the School of Nursing to nominate me for the honor."

I had no idea they were doing this until I received a letter telling me I was a recipient."

Dorman, a 1970 graduate of Wesley School of Nursing in Wichita, said she has taken several classes at Wichita State University in the field of biological and physical science.

In the early 1970s, she worked in the old St. Thomas Hospital in Colby.

In her work as a staff nurse at the health department, Dorman visits patients in their homes, sets up their medications and coordinates care between their doctors and families. She also helps at the office, giving injections and working with patients.

She and her husband Chris have two daughters, Melissa Jones of Harlingen, Texas, and Erica Burnett of Centreville, Va., and a son, Matt Dorman of Beloit, and seven grandchildren, plus one on the way.

Dorman was the only western Kansas nurse to receive the award. Accompanying the Dormans to the banquet in Kansas City were Schoenfeld and her husband Robert, Dorman's mother, Betty Schneider of Luray, and a sister-in-law, Joleen Schneider, of Florissant, Colo., who also is a nurse.



B. Dorman



Colby High juniors Barbara Bickner and Heather Griggs (above) played the flute with the band at the Veterans Day ceremony at the Colby American Legion on Tuesday. A recent veteran, Sgt. Randy Fortin, (below) and his kids enjoy a dinner provided by the Legion. Bill Kersenbrock (bottom picture) broke out in a smile while Harold Linville and the wife of the speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Quenzer, watched the ceremony. A planned parade was cancelled because of the weather.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Veterans remember comrades

By Andy Heintz

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The cold weather and the threat of snow may have stopped the parade, but it did not stop Colby veterans from getting together to honor their fellow soldiers and remembering those who made the final sacrifice.

The veterans met at 4 p.m. Tuesday at the American Legion, 1850 West 4th, to celebrate Veterans Day. The day's events started with the playing of the National Anthem. After the anthem had ended, names of those who had died in the year 2007 were read.

Next on the docket was a speech by Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Quenzer, who has already served one stint in Iraq.

He talked about how the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have maintained a positive attitude throughout the wars. While it's a person's right to protest a war, he said, they should think about what it does to the soldiers. He said soldiers do the jobs they are told to do by the president, and it's not their fault if the people don't agree with the war.

"The average soldier fights for the buddy beside him," Quenzer said. "They are willing to die for their country if they have to."

The group at the Legion included men who had served in World War II and soldiers who served in the current war in Iraq. There were also vets who had served in the first Iraq War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

After the speech, students from the middle and high school bands played patriotic songs for veterans. World War II veteran Dale Deaver led the group in singing "God Bless America."

Briefly

High school play this week

The annual Colby High all-school play, "Iphigenia," will be performed at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday at the high school auditorium. A Greek pasta dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. before the Friday performance.

Tickets for the play only are \$5 for adults and \$4 for Colby School District students and children. Tickets for the dinner theater are \$10 and \$8. For information, call Nancy Rundel at (785) 460-5300.

School board calls meeting

The Colby School Board will hold a special meet-

ing at 7 a.m. Thursday at the district office, 600 West Third St. A possible closed-door session to discuss personnel issues is the only item on the agenda, said Superintendent Terrel Harrison.

Coffee hour at vet clinic Friday

Swartz Veterinary Hospital will hold a Colby Chamber of Commerce coffee hour at 10 a.m. Friday at 1775 W. Fourth St. There will be coffee and cookies and a chance for Chamber members to get a look at the hospital's new addition.

City crew trimming trees

The Colby city crew is trimming trees over streets and sidewalks as the weather allows. Trees will be trimmed to 13 feet, 6 inches above streets and trimmed to 8 feet above sidewalks, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. For questions, call the city office at 460-4410.

City looking for referees

The city Recreation Department needs officials for Mens Basketball League on Sunday afternoons through February. Call (785) 460-4440 to sign up.

Turkey Trot 5K set for Saturday

The Colby Recreation Department plans the second annual Turkey Trot 5K at 9 a.m. Saturday. Participants predict their time, then try to match it, so they don't need to be fast, just able to finish. Late registration will be at 8:30 a.m. race day at the Community Building. Send or drop off registrations at the recreation office in the Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St., or call (785) 460-4440 for information.

Red Cross class Tuesday

The Thomas County chapter of the American Red Cross will be offering a first aid and cardiopulmo-

nary resuscitation class from 6 to 10 p.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Office complex board meeting room. Pre-registration and prepayment are required. The cost is \$45, which includes all materials. For information, call Sherry White at (785) 462-7161.

Kids plan musical at school

The Colby Grade School second graders will present "Circus, Circus," a musical, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. next Tuesday, Nov. 18, in the grade school auditorium. The program is free and everyone is welcome.

County offers technician class

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will be offering an emergency medical technician B class starting in January. Classes will run for five to six months. For information, call training coordinator Dawnelle Umberger at 460-4585 or 443-0176.

