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## Council rejects fix-it offer on botched roof job

By Andy Heintz

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At its meeting on Monday, the Colby City Council rejected an offer from the company building a fire station to increase its warranty while fixing a problem. Butler Building Systems is putting up the new station at 1125 S. Country Club Drive. The city's contract with the company included a 20-year warranty on the building.

However, the company sent the wrong roof panels for the building. The panels received have holes drilled in the wrong places, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said. The company offered to extend its warranty to 25 years if the city would allow it to use lock-rivets to seal the holes in the panel, City Attorney John Gatz said. The council rejected the offer saying it wanted a minimum of a 30-year guarantee in exchange for its authorizing the change.

The council also held a public hearing on condemnation of a house at 345 S. School Ave. The council decided that at the next meeting it can approve a resolution to give the owners a reasonable amount of time to repair or remove the structure. Armstrong said 35 to 40 days was a reasonable amount of time. If the owners fail to fix the house, then the city can have it demolished. Before demolition, however, the resolution must be published in the Colby Free Press and a copy mailed

to the owners and lien holders in the same way as the notice of the hearing. The council approved preliminary documents for Embarq Health Care, which will soon be doing business in the city. Armstrong said Embarq has asked the state to allow it to set aside 10 percent of its profits for a stock-option plan. If the state allows, she said, the documents will have to be amended. In other business, the council:

- Heard that the closing of the Inlow Interiors Building, at 455 N. Franklin Ave.,

has been extended to Monday, Dec. 15. store owner Donna Inlow, said the shop is going relocate to another location downtown.

- Approved the sale of that notes for \$350,000 for work on the ball field lighting project to UMB Bank at an annual interest rate of 3 percent. An additional \$20,000 over the project cost will be used for interest payments on the notes and issuance costs, she said, Armstrong said.

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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press  
Jess Randall (above), a Colby Community College information specialist, walked past an e-waste pile collected Wednesday, the first day the area recycling center was open, at 1190 S. Country Club Drive. Cole Weise (below right), who is also with the college, passed a computer to fellow specialist Douglass McDowall.

## Center accepts old electronics

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What do you do with old televisions, videocassette recorders, computers and answering machines? You take them to the e-waste center at 1190 S. Country Club Drive on Wednesday. And that's just what people did on the center's first day of business on Wednesday, coordinator for the Northwest Kansas Recycling Organization Lynette Koon said. The center will take old electronics from Thomas and seven other counties — Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sheridan, Logan, Gove, and Scott — in an effort to increase recycling. Households, government offices and schools will be able to take items in for free.

Businesses, other groups and

those living outside the eight counties will have to pay to recycle their items. Koon said fees include \$5 per computer, \$10 per television, \$2 per microwave and 10 cents per pound up to \$20 per item for anything else. Everyone will have to fill out paperwork, which includes their name, address, phone number and what's being recycled, Koon said. If the center runs out of money before the end of a year recyclers may have to pay to dispose of their items. During the first two years, the center will receive \$288,000 as part of a grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The group received the grant to conduct an e-waste pilot project in the fall, Koon said. The group is one of eight recycling organizations in the state. All received money from

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## Health groups work together to help food bank

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Thomas County health care providers have come together to help collect food and money for the Genesis Food Bank. The health care providers include Apria Healthcare, Doc's On Call, Family Center for Healthcare, L&C Home Health, Prairie Senior Living Complex, the county health department, Citizens Medical Center, Colby Care Center and Colby Medical & Surgical Center. They started collecting donations on Nov. 24. Carla Sharp, benefits coordinator for the human resource development at the Citizens Medical Center, said. The food and money drive will end at midnight Tuesday. Each provider has a Genesis box in their facilities to collect food. Checks should be written to Genesis. Sharp said her company originally came up with idea of the

county's healthcare providers coming together to collect donations for the food bank. "We always try to think of a way to bring more food into Genesis," she said. "Having more pieces to the puzzle will make it possible to collect more food for those in need," said Tama Unger, director of fund development and community relations at the medical center. "The more the merrier." Unger said that some families would be even more in need of food during Christmas because they would have more children to feed since school would not be in session. "It's a privilege to give," she said. "We see this as a service and we want to be part of it," legal clinician for the Family Center for Healthcare, Scott Focke said. The Genesis food bank is open on Wednesday from 10 p.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m.

## Choirs to present cantata at church

The Colby Community College Concert Choir will join with the Colby United Methodist Church choir to present a sacred cantata, "Joy to the World," composed this year by John Leavitt. The performance will be at the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Colby United Methodist Church on the corner of Franklin and Pine Streets. Dr. Philip Shuman, Colby Community College choral director,

will conduct. The church Hand Bell Choir will also play. Amie Kendrick, Eli Robert, Andrea Born and Katherine Jones will be performing vocal solos. Jerilee Shuman will narrate and Pat Ziegelmeier will provide the organ accompaniment. The event is open to the public and collection will be taken at the end of the performance. For information about this event, contact Dr. Shuman at (785) 460-5520.

## Concert, jazz bands offer winter concert

A mixture of music will be featured during the annual Colby Community College Winter Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on the southeast corner of campus. The concert band and jazz combo will be directed by first-year instructor Tony Schroer.

"The concert band will be playing a Sousa march, 'Sleigh Ride' and several other selections," said Schroer. "The jazz combo group will be playing several Rock tunes and a mix of Christmas music selections." There concert is free and open to the public.

## Briefly

### Light Parade will be Sunday

Colby's 11th annual Christmas Light Parade will begin at 5:45 p.m. Sunday at the corner of Second St. and Franklin Ave. and continue to Santa City in Fike Park. Entrants should register by Friday by calling the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at (785) 460-3401 or stopping by the office at 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 10.

### Homes to be toured Sunday

The United Methodist Women's 2008 Christmas Homes Tour will be visiting four homes from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Lon Frahm's carriage house and pond retreat and the homes of Janice and Lynn Kreider, Tanya and Brian Staats and Judy and Jim Withers will be on display. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children 5-12 from any group member, at the church office or at the door.

### Kids can shop at workshop

Children from preschool through fourth grade are invited to shop at Santa's Workshop from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Pioneer Memorial Library Conference Room at 375 W. Fourth St. Elves will help the children pick out up to four gifts. A \$4-per-gift donation is requested. The project is organized by the Thomas County Community Foundation and all donations will go to charity.

### Time to sign up for food

The Prairie Land Food sign-up, formerly SHARE, will have sign up until Monday, at the State Farm Insurance Office, 905 East Fourth St. A food package is available at a reduced rate, which includes volunteer hours. Christmas specials are also available.

### Lions plan pancake feed

The Colby High Plains Lions will hold a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building. A \$4-per-person donation is suggested.

### Gem Lions offer pancakes

The Gem Lions will hold their annual pancake feed from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. Donations, which go to community betterment, sight programs and education will be taken for at the door for pancakes, sausage, eggs and pie.

### Soup supper planned

The Colby High School Dance Team is sponsoring a soup supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. They will have chili, cream of potato, chicken noodle and cream of broccoli soups, brownies and crispy rice treats. Donations will be accepted.

### Top lights will win cash prizes

The annual Christmas Lighting Contest, sponsored by the Colby Promotions Committee, will give a \$100 first place prize and a \$75 second for the residential winners and \$75 for first and \$50 for second for the commercial winners. Nominations are due by Friday, Dec. 12, at the Chamber of Commerce office at 350 S. Range Ave. or by calling (785) 460-3401. Judging will take place that weekend.

### Churches plan Advent events

The Thomas County Ministerial Association is sponsoring a weekly program, "Soup and Scripture," at noon each Wednesday in December for Advent, when Christians prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Wednesday, the program will be at the First Presbyterian Church with the theme "Get Ready." On Dec. 17, it will be at Trinity Lutheran Church for "Wait and See."