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COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Monday

December 15, 2008
Volume 119, Number 198
Serving Thomas County since 1888



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Volunteers fill boxes with food

There was no evidence of “bah-humbug” Friday night as young and old alike lined up to help fill this year’s food boxes for the Genesis Christmas project. Angela Tinkham (above left) helped move boxes around for volunteer to fill. Marvia Miller (right), Shirley Bremenkamp and Sheila Krehbiel waited for another round to come by. Angela’s twins, Courtney and Caitlin (below), helped push carts. Between 130 and 150 willing helpers stood in line to do their part, said Marilyn Friesen, one of the coordinators said none of it would be possible without the generosity of all the volunteers.



Lucky woman wins twice at big drawing

Suzie Callihan got a couple of early Christmas presents on Saturday at the Holiday Inn Express.

Callihan was the lucky winner \$1,000 dollars at the annual Christmas on Us drawing put together by the *Colby Free Press* and Colby merchants.

She said she got the winning ticket at Great Western Tire at the beginning of December.

Callihan said she might spend the money on a television and some furniture.

Lady luck must have been on Callihan’s side on Saturday, as she

also won a \$50 prize when another one of her tickets was drawn before the big drawing.

Another big winner on Saturday was Mike Shirley, who won the second place prize of \$500. Shirley and Callihan will get to spend their prizes right here in Colby. Two other Colby contestants won \$50 prizes, Shauna Goosen and Becky Butts.

People got one ticket for every \$10 they spent at participating Colby businesses up to 250 per

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Cancer group sets date for Charity Ball on St. Valentine’s Day

The second annual American Cancer Society Charity Ball has been set for Valentine’s Day, Saturday, Feb. 14, with the band Plan B playing at the City Limits Convention Center.

The focus of the event is to raise money for the fight against cancer. Proceeds will be used to support cancer research and to provide service for cancer patients in Thomas County and

northwest Kansas.

Tickets are available from Homeland Real Estate for \$35 each or a corporate table is \$240.

Reservations can be made through Homeland at 462-8255 or by stopping by the office at 410 N. Franklin.

For questions, call Jennifer Van Eaton, local representative for the society, at 462-2183.

Country stars to play before start of ’09 fair

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkanas.com

Thomas County Fair Board learned Thursday night that the Oak Ridge Boys will be in Colby to do the opening kick-off concert for the 2009 Thomas County Fair.

The event will begin with a warm-up band at 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 26, said Audrey Hines, board secretary, with the Oak Ridge Boys to come on at 8.

The Oak Ridge Boys are being brought to Thomas County by Rich Epp of J and R Productions. He told fair board members he is seeking sponsors for the show.

The board is considering either a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or amateur rodeo for one night and a ranch rodeo for

the second night of rodeo, said Hines.

Ranch rodeo is a little more wild and wooly and goes over well in rural areas, where cattlemen and horsemen can participate in the fun, Hines said.

Entries come in on Monday. The board decided that the parade will revert back to Tuesday, Hines said. It had been on Saturday, she said, but with entries being released then, the 4-H kids wouldn’t be able to ride on floats.

The Demo Derby has been moved to Wednesday evening and the 4-H livestock sale will be Thursday evening.

Stock car races will be the featured events Friday and Saturday nights, with 4-H exhibits to be dismissed on Saturday this year.



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David Mitchell says he often visits Colby nursing home to talk with the residents.

Man wants to give gift to each resident

By Vera Sloan

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This Christmas will be a merry one for area nursing home residents if David Mitchell has his way.

The Colby man has begun a one-man effort to make sure every resident of a Colby nursing home will have a package to open this year.

Mitchell, 43, says his past experiences have shown him there is not one person anywhere who does not need to know they are loved. As a young man, he said, he was disabled in a work accident. He said he fills his days now trying to bring cheer and love to others with his nursing-home ministry.

Mitchell says he feels God has called him to minister to the el-

derly, the sick and the lonely, and he regularly visits nursing homes and the hospital to talk with a sometimes forgotten segment of society.

Mitchell says he wants the residents to know the gifts are not from him, but from their community. He said his church, the College Drive Assembly of God, is accepting donations for the drive until Friday, Dec. 19, and will mail the donor a receipt at the end of the year. The church is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for the lunch hour.

Mitchell said he could use some volunteers to meet at the church Friday and Saturday to wrap the gifts.

For questions, call him (785) 269-7500 or the church at (785) 462-8234.

Briefly

Library taking Food for Fines

Have a book that’s a little overdue? The Pioneer Memorial Library is giving people the chance to pay their overdue fines by donating canned food. The Food for Fines campaign will run from Monday to Tuesday, Dec. 23. Food will be given to Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

School board to meet tonight

The Colby School Board will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in the board room of the administration building. Members tour places used as tornado shelters, discuss the annual audit and possibly change the name of the annual basketball tournament to the Paul Wintz Orange and Black Classic. The board will also hear

reports from its principals, superintendent and curriculum director.

Last Advent lunch Wednesday

Noon Wednesday will bring the last weekly program in the “Soup and Scripture” series sponsored by the Thomas County Ministerial Association for Advent, the season when Christians prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth. It will be at Trinity Lutheran Church with the theme of “Wait and See.”

Santa to visit with kids at event

The monthly Colby Chamber of Commerce Business After Five will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Cersovsky Insurance, 370 N. Franklin Ave. The Chamber invites everyone to come

and bring their children to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Hospital gift shop open late

The gift shop at Citizens Medical Center will be open extended hours — from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. — on Thursday. Regular hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

County offices to close early

The Thomas County courthouse, office complex and landfill will be closed from 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, through Friday, Dec. 26, and on Thursday, Jan. 1. The country transportation van will not run during those times.

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 8 feet above sidewalks, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. For questions, call the city office at 460-4410.

Emergency med class planned

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 and financial assistance is available. For information, call training coordinator Dawnelle Umberger at (785) 460-4585 or 443-0176.

Group does private well testing

The Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group in Colby tests private wells for bacteria and other contamination. For questions or to make an appointment, call (785) 462-8636 or stop by the office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 4, Colby.

