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Abuse group continues pursuit of tax funds

By Vera Sloan
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Fearing they might be left out of the loop for a portion of the 2010 share of the Thomas County liquor tax, members of the board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center were first on the agenda for the Monday meeting of the Thomas County Commission.

Bruce Bandy, Brian Unruh, Joan Vaughn, Rex Van Horn and center Director Wendy Wacker were there to plead their case to the commissioners for funding their program.

"We've had other request for these funds with no specific amounts designated, and we have from now until the first of the year to determine how your obligations are being met to the public and state and what mission you are filling," Com-

missioner Paul Steele told the group. "We need to continue this dialogue with you giving us treatment numbers month by month, by dropping those numbers off to us here, so we can plug them in."

Chairman Ken Christiansen said, "We've had more requests this year than in the last five years together, and in the past they came by letter, but this year we are seeing people coming up here making a plea for funds."

There has been some question in the past, because the commissioners didn't hear from the center, and automatically gave them the liquor tax money to fund their program.

Steele said the state has a \$60 million shortfall this year, and there will be a time when those funds won't come back to the county.

Board member Brian Unruh said when the program was initiated, it was the in-

attention to use the money for treatment for drug and alcohol abuse, and those they treated were the ones prevention programs didn't work on.

The greatest percentage of the local funding for the center's program comes from Thomas County. However, the area covered by the group covers Thomas, Sherman, Sheridan, Cheyenne and Wal-

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Welcome to the 50s auction



AUBREY SPENCER/Colby Free Press

Dana Bolyard, complete with poodle skirt, greeted guests as they arrived at Sacred Heart's 12th annual benefit auction Saturday night at the City Limits Convention Center. The event's

theme was "The Nifty Fifties," and served as a social event for the parish and community as well as a fund raiser.

Coalition talks community sign

By Andy Heintz
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The Thomas County Coalition discussed the future direction of the group at their meeting last Thursday.

Coalition member Tricia Korthanke of the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center said the group is trying to figure out how to operate now that they have money stemming from agreeing to take over the responsibilities for the Community Events sign located on the side of the Sports Shoppe building.

"We discussed how we want to proceed so we can be most effective," said Chairman Melinda Olson.

Olson said a lot of people have been calling to make sure they can get their messages on the sign. She said most businesses and churches pay for the right to use the sign for a week. Their message is displayed on the sign from Sunday to Sunday, said Korthanke. She said some groups will pay to use the sign for two weeks.

Coalition members are being trained by how to put characters on the sign by Phil DeYoung of Kiwanis, said Sue Evans, executive director of the Northwest Kansas

Council on Substance Abuse and coalition member. DeYoung had changed the sign's messages for Kiwanis for five straight years, she said.

"He was so diligent on behalf of Kiwanis," she said. "We owe him a lot of gratitude."

Evans said using half of the sign (29-30 characters) costs non-coalition members \$40 per week and coalition members only have to pay \$30. She said buying the whole sign for a week costs \$80 for non-coalition members and \$70 for coalition members. People can pay to use the sign for two weeks straight if someone has not already paid for the signs services for the second week, said Evan.

In other business, the coalition:

• Discussed how Jared Spencer, minister at the Church of Christ, was designing several images that may end up being the coalitions official logo. Olson said the Colby High School group, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) will vote on which logo they feel is the best. After they have voted, the groups new logo will replace the Kiwanis Club logo on the Community Events Sign.

• Heard the Rev. Orvella Romine, a community prevention con-

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4-H gives awards to area kids

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Not unlike the famed Academy Awards, a parade of "stars" walked to the podium to receive "best of the year" achievement awards at the annual Thomas County 4-H achievement banquet and awards ceremony Friday night at the 4-H building.

Following the potluck meal, individuals and clubs were recognized for their many achievements throughout the year, including citizenship, community service, camp counselors, demonstrations, foods and nutrition, health and wellness, home environment, leadership, records, photography, shooting sports, space technology, rocketry, woodworking, visual arts, longevity of club membership, plant science, all livestock categories, foods, clothing and textiles, welding and the list goes on.

4-H'ers weren't the only ones to receive awards. John and Jennifer Mazanec were awarded the "4-H Family of The Year" plaque, and the 2009 Friend of

4-H award went to Vera Sloan, Colby Free Press.

Club Seals went to Colby Comets, Red; Solomon Valley, Blue; Brewster Prairie Gem, Purple, and Abilene Hustlers, Purple.

The Key award, the highest award given, went to Rose Bear of the Brewster Prairie Gem club.

Silver award, given for achievement standards was awarded to Samantha Lindberg, and the Gold award for achievement standards was earned by Seth Bredemeier, of Abilene Hustlers.

As an incentive to create more interest in breeding heifers, savings bonds were awarded to Taylor Todd, \$200; Tatym Rundel, \$100; Brady Rundel, \$50; Kayla Sloan, \$50; Kurt Sloan, \$50 for their breeding heifer exhibits at this year's fair. McDonald's funded the savings bonds.

Ninety-two large duffel bags were presented to this year's champions with the caption "2009 Thomas County Fair Champion" imprinted on the side.

Thomas County has four 4-H clubs with 114 members who invite youth and their families to become a part of 4-H next year.

Teams, community enjoy pancakes



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College women's basketball coach Brady Jasper and assistant coach Brad Phillips and several women on the team including (from left) sophomore Danisha Cole and freshmen Destiny Stewart, Alecia Palm, Tamara Williams, Alicia Seay and Courtney Bradley ate some pancakes at the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Building on Saturday. The pancakes cost \$4. The money was raised for Thomas County/Colby Kiwanis club projects. Members of the club and the Lady Trojans softball team served the food and picked up the plates.

Gove man sentenced to life for murder

GOVE (AP) — A Gove man has been sentenced to life in prison for murdering his 85-year-old father.

David A. Stevenson was sentenced Tuesday in Gove County District Court in the 2008, murder

of Walter Stevenson.

Walter Stevenson's body was found on his farm in western Gove County between the bed of a truck and its frame. Authorities first believed the death was accidental.

But a Gove County jury determined in August that the elder Stevenson died after he was struck several times in the back of the head and placed under the bed of a grain truck in a shop on his farm.

Briefly

Student to talk about homeland

Exchange student Aylin Kozempel will speak about her home country, Germany, and the city of Berlin at 7 p.m. Thursday at Pioneer Memorial Library. The talk is part of the "Exploring Our World Through Local Eyes" program. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

Legion plans pancake feed

The Colby American Legion Post will hold a pancake and sausage feed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Legion hall, 1850 W. Fourth St. The cost will be \$4 per person. For information, call Jim Griffin at 269-7074.

Coaches offer coffee, talk

Join the Colby High School football staff for "Coffee with the Coaches" at 9 a.m. Saturday and every Saturday after home and away games at the Sports

Shoppe, Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call Eagles' Coach Chris Gardener at 460-1390.

Groups to canvas for food bank

The Colby Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Catholic Youth Organization, Colby Community College track and cross country team and the college presidential scholars will be trick-or-treating around town for non-perishable food for the Genesis food bank from 2-4 p.m. Sunday. If you would like to donate and will not be home, you can leave food in a sack outside your front door. If the weather is bad, the groups will collect food on Sunday, Oct. 25. For information, call Penny Cline at 460-2929.

Learning Center in new home

The Thomas County Learning Center plans an open house from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday at its new loca-

tion, 485 N. Chickamauga Ave. Refreshments will be served and door prizes given, said Site Director Melinda Fikan. For information, call the center at 465-7900.

Students to give free massages

The Therapeutic Massage Department at Colby Community College plans public clinics on Wednesdays this month in Thomas Hall, room 402. Cubic massages are 30 minutes and chair massages 15, starting at 6:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Massages will focus on feet next Wednesday and feet Oct. 28. Donations are accepted. To make an appointment or for information, contact Director Debra Waites at (785) 460-5427 or e-mail debra.waites@colbycc.edu.

Heartland plans Fall Festival

Heartland Christian School's annual Fall Festival

will begin with games and supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23. Soup will be served for a donation. A volleyball scrimmage will follow from 8 to 10:30 p.m. For information, call Deena Bandy at the school, 460-6419.

Food bank taking applications

Genesis-Thomas County, the Colby food bank, has forms available for county families who will need food baskets this holiday season. Forms can be picked up between 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Genesis office, 350 S. Range Ave. Suite 13. All applications are due by Tuesday, Nov. 10. For information, call Genesis at 460-7930.



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