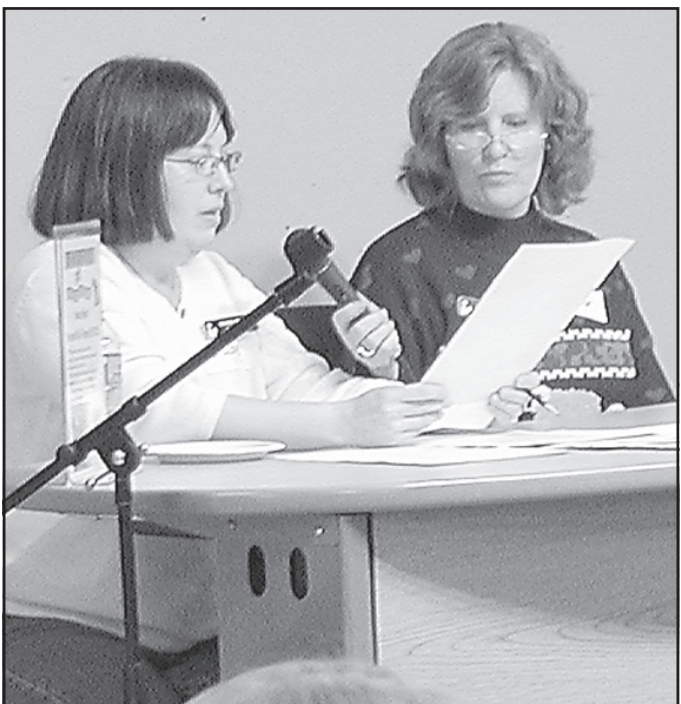




KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

## Q's and A's at library for Trivia Pursuit night

Katrina Frost (above photo) helped teams pick questions at the Pioneer Memorial Library's Trivia Pursuit night on Thursday. Thirty-five people formed six teams that competed for prizes. Wynn Dufey (right photo, from left) and Melany Wilks asked questions such as: "What scientist said if he had known what atomic energy would be used for, he would have become a watch maker?" Wilks said that, at the end, the teams chose to do a "Final Jeopardy" question, where each team wrote down the answer and wagered points. The winners, a random group formed on the fly at the event, received Starbucks gift cards. The losing team received a gag prize, copies of a 1967 encyclopedia year book.



## Radio station to help relay Christmas boxes to needy kids

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press  
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After acting as a satellite for the Salina relay center, KGCR Christian Radio Station three miles west of Brewster will be a full-fledged relay center for Operation Christmas Child this year, with drop off points in all nine area counties.

"I think Operation Christmas Child is a fantastic program," said station manager James Claussen. "I am so excited about the numbers of collection points in our area."

Operation Christmas Child is an arm of Samaritan's Purse International Relief. The program was started to give Christmas gifts to children in war-torn and impoverished countries all over the world as a sign of love and caring.

More than 317,000 people nationwide will volunteer to help make the effort a success again

this year, Claussen said. The program has 2000 relay centers throughout the country. Since 1993, 68 million boxes have been hand delivered to needy children in 144 countries. Last year, out of 7.9 million boxes collected, 4.8 million came from the U.S.

This year, the boxes collected in northwest Kansas will be sent to Mexico or other warm-weather countries, Claussen said.

"The Wesleyan Church is manning the drop off point in Thomas County this year," he added, "and they are using the Attic, formerly the Pirates Den, as their point of collection."

Individuals and groups who want to help will probably have to furnish their own shoe boxes, he said, as the supply is running low. A list of items needed to fill the boxes is available at most Colby churches.

The cost to fill the boxes with various small toys, educational

supplies, hygiene items, nonperishable sweets, gloves, scarves, sunglasses and more, is about \$10.

"If possible, it would be helpful if donors include \$7 for shipping," Claussen said, however it's not mandatory."

The church's youth will be working at the Attic at 1115 S. Franklin to prepare boxes for shipment from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22.

Anyone who wants to help load boxes for transport to Goodland can call Youth Pastor Jason Purdy at the Berean Church office, 460-2763.

All boxes must be at the collection site between Friday, Nov. 16, and Friday, Nov. 23. They will be taken to the station for loading onto a semitrailer on the afternoon of Nov. 23 and be taken to Denver for processing.

## Nursing home under fire from agency

By Vera Sloan

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State officials issued a public notice this week that a Colby nursing home will have to stop serving Medicaid and Medicare patients unless they fix several violations found by inspectors.

Joyce Helling, administrator at the Colby Care Center on South Franklin said Thursday that their facility is not closing. She called the deficiencies on the report "minor" and said they would be fixed before the next inspection.

"What the closing notice failed to include was that we have a window of time to bring our care center back into compliance, and we have until Nov. 29 to meet that requirement," she said.

Helling said the Kansas Department of Aging conducted a survey in which the Care Center scored a "D" rating, which is a "non-harm

to residents" score.

"However, the survey found there are two minor deficiencies listed. One was charting, and the second one was a toileting schedule. We have a timely plan of correction in place, and have the right to request another survey, which we have already done. We are wishing they would come next week," Helling said.

Colby Care is licensed for 60 residents. Currently there are 31 residents and 53 in-house staff members.

Shelly Crocker, Director of Nursing, said the residents there smile, and are very happy and satisfied.

"There are many more less stressful jobs out there, but I love this nursing home, and we are here to serve the residents," Crocker said.

Barb Conant of the Kansas De-

See "CENTER," Page 3

## Fire crew fights truck fire on I-70

By Steve Haynes

Colby Free Press  
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Eastbound traffic on Interstate 70 had to wait for a half-hour to 45 minutes Thursday night while Colby Fire Department battled a fire in a semitrailer loaded with steel parts just west of town.

Dispatch reported a call from the driver about 8:40 p.m. She said the trailer was on fire but the load

of metal shouldn't be flammable.

When Fire Chief Bob McLemore got there few minutes later, he said the truck was "fully involved." The chief asked a state trooper and a sheriff's deputy at the scene to block the eastbound lanes since smoke and flames was rolling over the road, and told the crew of the rural pumper to set up east of the fire.

See "FIRE," Page 3



Brenda Claassen and Patricia Selby helped sort and load boxes of donated items for last year's Operation Christmas Child. The program takes donations for needy children in countries more than 140 countries. This year, KGCR in Brewster will be a relay station for the program.

## Briefly

### Food bank taking applications

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

### Scrapbooking day Saturday

Heartland Christian School will hold its fall scrapbooking day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at the school. Prices, meals included, are \$30 for adults all day or \$15 for half a day, or \$15 for students all day or \$10 for half a day. To register, call Lucy Wood at 460-2721 or Jeanne Wilson at 462-2999.

### Trinity youths selling greenery

The Trinity Lutheran Youth are selling fresh

greens and accessories to arrive the week of Nov. 30, just in time for holiday decorating. Choose from wreaths, garland centerpieces or a living tree. There is a new "Wintergreen Wreath" design this year. Orders can be shipped. Deadline is Sunday. To order or for information, call Raenette Martin at 462-3400 or Linda Pabst at 462-3497.

### Thanksgiving dinner Sunday

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will have an old-fashioned Thanksgiving dinner from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the church basement. Members will serve turkey, ham and all the fixin's. Donations will be accepted. For information, call Pat Erickson at 460-7167.

### For latest flu info, call 460-4599

A hot line for answers to questions on seasonal influenza and the H1N1 flu strain will be available

throughout the flu season at (785) 460-4599. The Thomas County Health Department said information about the status and availability of vaccines, priority groups and the like will be available at this number.

### Hospital auxiliary needs help

The Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for volunteers to greet visitors, operate the gift shop and help patients and their families, among other things. If you'd like to become involved, call Tama Unger at (785) 460-1214 or Mary Smith at (785) 462-3387.

### Seniors plan potluck Monday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Monday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and bev-

erage will be provided. The building is handicapped accessible with an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

### 125th planners to meet Monday

The Thomas County 125th Celebration committee will hold its monthly meeting from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday at the Prairie Museum to review plans for contests, publicity, a quilt show, merchandise and events. The committee needs new members. All insights are needed and everyone is encouraged to attend, said member Sheila Frahm. For information, call Mike Baughn at 674-2278, Terri Crampton at 462-3388 or Frahm at 462-6948.

