



10 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Monday

November 8, 2010  
Volume 121, Number 174  
Serving Thomas County since 1888

## Christmas in November?



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

As soon as November hit, Christmas decorations began to appear around town. Steven Samuelson of the Colby Street Department put up wreaths on Colby street lights Wednesday and the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of commerce got busy readying Santa City once again.

## State to face deficit with stimulus gone

By John Hanna  
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA – Republican legislators who’ve argued that Kansas still has a spending problem but plenty of room to make state government more efficient should have their chance to cut the budget next year.

The disappearance of federal stimulus money creates a hole in the budget for the next fiscal year that will more than offset the revenues raised by this year’s sales-tax increase. Gov.-elect Sam Brownback has talked of curing a “structural deficit” eventually without moving money around to prop up the state’s main bank account.

The incoming Republican governor has received a pessimistic scenario from legislative researchers, who project a deficit of \$492 million by June 30, 2012, the end of the next fiscal year.

Republicans increased their House majority in last week’s election and, even better for the GOP’s anti-tax wing, crippled the

coalition of Democrats and dissident Republicans who passed the tax increase this year. GOP senators are likely to be cowed by those results and the size of Brownback’s victory.

Brownback was cautious in discussing budget issues during an interview, saying he doesn’t want to overreach. But he says he does want to stabilize the budget and cut individual income taxes to promote economic growth.

“I think there are clear needs from the state to get its budget under control on a long-term basis,” he said. “I think there are clear things that need to be done. I think it has to be wise. It has to be prudent and it has to make sense to most Kansans.”

Brownback and legislators face more tough budget decisions despite multiple rounds of cuts in 2009 and this year’s increase in the sales tax from 5.3 percent to 6.3 percent to prevent even deeper reductions.

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## College student enjoys radio work

By Andy Heintz  
Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Colby Community College freshman Nick Rice is a sociable guy who likes to talk, and his love of conversation led him to pursue a career in radio.

Rice, a Garden City native, is not your everyday broadcast student. He has cerebral palsy, but this hasn’t stopped him from doing the things he loves.

Rice does broadcasts for the college radio station, KTCC 91.9 FM, each week. Joe Vyzourek, radio instructor at the college, said Rice’s shifts are usually from 9 a.m. to noon or from noon to 3 p.m. Never one to be afraid of work, Vyzourek said, Rice is always prepared for his broadcasts. Vyzourek said he uses Rice as an example for his other students when he discusses how to prepare for broadcasts.

“He does a really good job of talking about local issues and things on television,” Vyzourek said.

Rice said he takes about an hour preparing for each broadcast. Vyzourek said Rice always has material ready. Some days, he tells his audience what famous people were born that day and he also has done a “Today in History” show where he explained what notable event happened that day. Vyzourek said Rice did a good job covering Thomas County’s 125th anniversary.

Rice said he has gotten more comfortable on the air as the year has progressed. Vyzourek said control board and computer programs are Rice’s biggest challenges. While most radio students use a teleprompter or another visual device to read their material on the air, Rice’s

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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College student Nick Rice chatted about area issues over the airwaves at the KTCC 91.9 FM studio on the college campus.

Colby Community College. Skin Cancer screening will be available from 9 to noon. Many health screenings and educational booths will be available. Presentations explaining the laboratory results will be at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Enter through the west doors. For information, call Jeanene Brown 460-4850 or Diann Gerstner 460-4582.

### Brewster church to offer lunch

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Brewster will hold a soup-and-dessert lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the church, 217 Main. For home delivery in Brewster, call 694-2405. Donations will be accepted to support church projects and outreach in the Brewster area. For information, call Sharron Knox 694-2751.

### Students will wash dogs and cats

Veterinary technician students at Colby Commu-

nity College will hold a pet wash from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the veterinary building on campus. The cost is \$8 for small dogs, \$10 for medium dogs, \$12 for large dogs, \$14 for extra-large dogs, \$5 for cat brushing and \$10 for a cat bath. All proceeds go to the Student Veterinary Technician Association. To make an appointment, call 460-5462.

### Help group meets Sundays

Overeaters Anonymous holds meetings at 12:30 p.m. every Sunday in the Wesleyan Church library, 320 W. Pine St. The meetings are free and open to anyone who struggles with overeating. For information, call Selina Lee at 462-3432.



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