

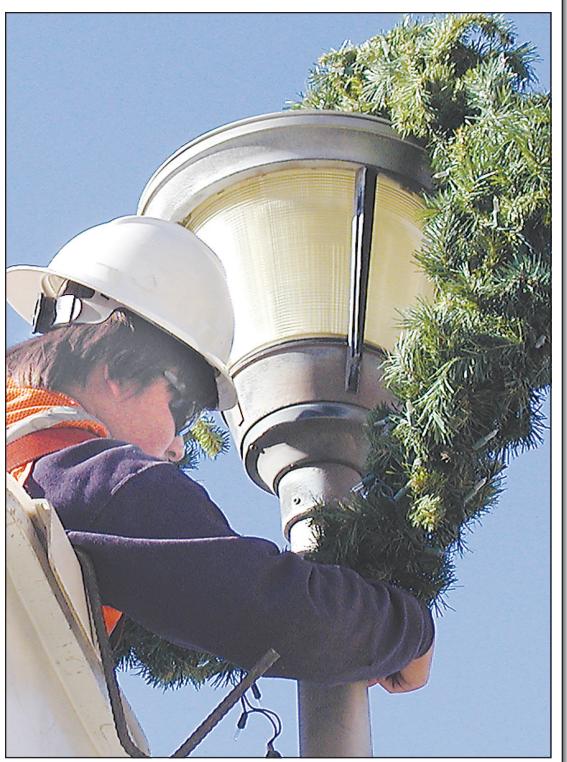
FRE PRESS

Monday

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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.

Parade planned to honor veterans

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press vsloan@nwkansas.com

Area veterans will march down Franklin Avenue at 4 p.m. Thursday as part of Colby's effort to honor veterans who have served their country in times of war and peace.

Dale Deaver of Colby, an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, said it will take 30 to 40 veterans to help carry the big flag down the parade route from North Franklin to Second Street, where they will turn east and march to the Thomas County Courthouse to the site of the Veterans Memorial.

Colby Grade School and Middle School bands will march, and music teacher Stephanie Koel will sing the National Anthem. During the folding of the big flag, the crowd will be asked to join in the salute.

Jim Vap, a retired National Guardsman who owns

Vap Distributing, will speak, and Deaver will lead the crowd in singing "God Bless America." Veterans invite everyone who would like to march in the parade to gather at the north end of Franklin

Ave., by Fike Park, to line up. Following the ceremony, all are invited to go to the American Legion Hall, 1850 W. Fourth St., for See "PARADE," Page 3

See "SCHOOLS," Page 3

veterans Thursday.

food and visiting.

In the event of bad weather, ceremonies will begin

County schools plan

Veterans Day events

Two Thomas County schools will honor area

Golden Plains Middle School will hold a

Veterans Day assembly at 1 p.m. Thursday in

the Rexford gym. Veterans Dick Pauls, Dale

Deaver, Paul Nieman, Don Okeson and Gary

Hibbs will speak about their experiences in

World War II and Vietnam. The Rexford Girl

Golden Plains teacher Linda Garrett said

plans for the assembly started when middle

school students wanted to know more about

the various American wars. She said they re-

Scouts will server as honor guards.

City buys Embark building

Colby Free Press aheintz@nwkansas.com

The city bought back the building once occupied by now-defunct Embark Health for \$210,000 at a public auction at the front door of the Thomas County courthouse Thursday morning.

City Manager Carolyn Armbuilding. She said the city made the bid to protect the state's interest, but didn't have to actually pay anything for the building. Arm- loan it made to Embark.

strong said the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing sale of equipment and furniture holds a \$200,000 mortgage on the building and they wanted the city to make a bid to protect the mortgage, but they didn't require the city to actually pay the \$210,000.

Armstrong said if the sale is approved by the district court, Embark will have 90 days to redeem the building. If Embark can't come road will have to be closed to clear strong said \$210,000 was the up with the money, she added, the original appraised value of the city can sell the building once the 90 days are up. The money would first go towards reimbursing the state for the \$200,000 mortgage

The city discussed a proposed from the building at its meeting Tuesday. In other business, the council:

 Approved having Armstrong negotiate a deal with landowners to buy land needed to extend the existing runway at Colby Municipal Airport to the north. A county the expansion. The deal will have to be approved by the council.

· Received a plaque from the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency

See "CITY," Page 3

State to face deficit College student with stimulus gone

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.

House majority in last week's election and, even better for the GOP's anti-tax wing, crippled the See "STIMULUS," Page 3

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 Republicans increased their 6.3 percent to prevent even deeper

enjoys radio work

By Andy Heintz

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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.

is not your everyday broadcast student. He has cerebral palsy, but this hasn't stopped him from doing the things he loves.

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 Colby Free Press talking about local issues and things on television," Vyzourek

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 fa-Rice, a Garden City native, mous 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 does broadcasts for the Rice did a good job covering Thomas County's 125th anni-

versary. 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

See "RADIO," Page 3



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.

Briefly

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

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. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call

Township sets road meeting

Summers Township will hold a special meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Office Complex on Range Ave. All township residents are invited to come discuss equipment upgrades and a rightof-way agreement with the county. For information, call Bert Stramel at 443-0052.

Methodists to discuss addiction

addiction and abuse for parents and students, from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday at the church. Steve Horney, a certified alcohol and drug addiction counselor, will lead the parent session and Colby students Katrina and Katherine Kaus will lead the student session. For information, call 460-2761.

Hospice plans annual party

Hospice Services will hold its annual fund raiser at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the City Limits Convention Center. A social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 and a live auction at 7, followed by a dance. Tickets can be bought from Coleena Woods at 462-3305 for \$240 for an eight-person table or \$35 per person.

Wellness Fair will be Saturday

The Thomas County Wellness Fair will run from The Colby Methodist Junior High Youth Fellow- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the Student Union at

ship will hold "First Chance," a seminar on alcohol Colby Community College. Skin Cancer screen- nity College will hold a pet wash from 8 a.m. to 5 ing 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

Students will wash dogs and cats

Veterinary technician students at Colby Commu-

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. DAll 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.

