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## College gets early check to pay bills

By Kayla Cornett

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Colby Community College trustees heard last Monday that cash flow is still tight, but the college got some help that morning when County Treasurer Donita Applebury issued a check for \$600,000 as an advance on the January tax payment.

Alan Waites, chief financial officer and vice president of business affairs, said that money covered the payroll last week.

Waites said expenses were still on budget, with \$179,300 of open purchase orders as of Nov. 30. The

annual spending forecast is still at \$13.810 million, he said, and budget reports show about \$8.5 million left to spend. The cash balance Nov. 30 was \$490,000.

In other items, Waites said field work for the audit is complete, but after a review by Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, some follow-up was required. He said the audit should be done last week.

Waites also said the college had a successful campaign for selling state tax credits, pulling in about \$347,000 in two weeks. He said Lou Hines, former owner of Western Sprinklers, had pushed this

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## Grain-bin repair on hold for while

By Sam Dieter

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Repairs to a flat grain shed belonging to Cornerstone Ag that partly collapsed earlier this month have been put on hold because contractors can't get into the building to see how much damage there is, the firm says.

Eric Sperber, general manager for Cornerstone, said last week that contractors decided not to cut into the shed to remove the last of the grain from that section. They were worried that cutting into the wall might weaken the roof, he said, so no one has actually seen the inside of the building since the wall failed.

Part of the wall near a door on the southwest side of the building, across Eight Street from Fike Park, gave out about noon Dec. 12. Sperber said he thinks one of the braces connecting the wall to the floor gave out under the weight of the grain, causing the wall to bend outward and a pile of wheat about three feet high to spill out of the shed.

Eight Street was blocked off north of Fike Park, first because Cornerstone thought the entire

wall might collapse, then to give the company room to do repairs. During the end of that week, Cornerstone brought in workers who cut three 12-inch-by-12-inch holes in the side of the shed and emptied out most of the grain.

But on Monday, Sperber was able to knock on the side of the damaged wall and hear where there was still grain resting against the edge of it. He said the grain will be removed from the shed the way it normally is, in late spring, starting with the grain piled up in the center compartments.

Contractors will be able to see if braces attaching the wall to the floor and the wall to the ceiling have been damaged.

As for the cost, if the roof is damaged, Sperber said, "It'd just be a complete guess at this point."

He said he thinks the building is 30 or more years old, and pointed out about three places along the wall where new metal panels had been added after past collapses. Those repair jobs cost about \$30,000, he said.

He added that he thinks the repairs won't be done until sometime next summer.



## Santa gets list in time

Santa City stayed open until Christmas Eve, when Bob Coleman (above) played Mr. Claus. He held twins Kendall Cavenee (left) and her brother Merrick Cavenee while older sister Tasha waited her turn in the arms of her dad, Brandon. Jada Tubbs (right photo) took her daughter Von to see Santa. The old gent gave her a stuffed tiger. Von's brother and two sisters came along, including Fia (left), who came into the Scout Hut in Fike Park in the arms of her grandmother, Lana Johnson.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Robin Faber's fourth-grade junior Girl Scout Troop were with her at Fike Park in May when she received the Volunteer of Excellence Award: (from left, front) Brianna Barnett, Reagan Geisler, Rebel Edmondson, Kaitlynn Faber, Mackenzie Dodson, Mikayla Torrance and Shayla Foster, and (back row) Hadlie Focke, Bracelyn Lynn, Robin Faber and Carissa Brogan.

## Scouts recognize leader here

By Christina Beringer

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For service as a Girl Scout troop leader, Robin Faber of Colby has received the Volunteer of Excellence Award from the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland.

Faber said she has led her daughter's troop since the girls were second-year Daisies and they are now fourth-grade Juniors.

Her anonymous nominator wrote, "she is a

wonderful leader and always full of energy and presents a positive influence for the girls. She goes above and beyond in her volunteerism and in her availability to help the girls and in planning activities the girls love and enjoy."

"The award is presented each spring to Girl Scout volunteers," said Traci Taylor of the Kansas Heartland council, "who work directly with girls and display excellent service in delivering the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, con-

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## Storm sweeps east bearing tornadoes, snow for holidays

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — A storm that erupted Christmas Day with Gulf Coast tornadoes and snow in the High Plains headed for the Northeast today, spreading blizzard conditions that slowed holiday travel.

The death toll rose to six with car accidents on snow- and sleet-slickened highways in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Post-Christmas travelers braced for flight delays and a raft of

weather warnings for drivers, a day after rare winter twisters damaged buildings in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Snow blew across southern Illinois and southern Indiana early today as the storm tracked up the Ohio River valley toward the Eastern seaboard and New England.

There were whiteout conditions in parts of southwestern Indiana, where 6 inches or more of snow had fallen by midmorning around

Evansville. State police reported dozens of vehicles stuck after not being able to get up a hill on a central Indiana highway, while some roads around Evansville were impassable with wind gusts around 30 mph.

A blizzard warning was in effect for much of the state's southern two-thirds and more than a dozen counties issued travel watches

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## City vows to defend 'open-carry' ban

PRAIRIE VILLAGE (AP) — One of three northeastern Kansas cities being sued by the Libertarian Party over local bans on open carry of firearms is vowing to fight to keep its prohibition in place.

The Johnson County city of Prairie Village said in a statement Monday it would "vigorously defend home rule authority and this challenge by a pro-gun organization to the city's ability to enact

gun control measures within its borders," *The Kansas City Star* reported (bit.ly/V7dTHA).

Officials of nearby Leawood and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, have not yet responded to the lawsuits filed last week by the Libertarian Party of Kansas. The party is seeking injunctions to bar enforcement of the local bans.

Prairie Village City Administra-

tor Quinn Bennion said attorneys for the three governments have been in discussions for several weeks about defending the bans. He said the cities got a letter from the Libertarian Party of Kansas stating that it would file lawsuits if they did not agree to lift their bans.

