



12 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Wednesday

November 27, 2013
Volume 124, Number 186
Serving Thomas County since 1888



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Preschoolers Joelle Nichols (above), Adrian Ziegelmeier and Imogen Stewart really got into the music as the younger students at Heartland Christian School performed at the school gym Friday night for the school's Partners for the Future banquet. Patrick Biscumb (above right) had a special smile for the audience between numbers. The whole group raised their hands (bottom) during one number. Kindergarten teacher Lona Donely directed the children.



Creationist speaks here

By Sam Dieter
Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkanas.com

One of the country's leading creationists came to Colby on Friday to talk about his ideas.

Brian Young is an internationally known speaker who gives presentations at schools, prisons and various events, and debates at universities. Originally from Hastings, Neb., he worked as a principal in Nebraska and Oregon for 10 years before he became

a speaker.

Friday night, he came to Heartland Christian School to speak at the Partners for the Future endowment banquet. Kim Schriner, administrative assistant at Heartland, said the banquet, held in the school gym, is for people from both in and outside Colby who contribute for the school's budget.

Young said he had been to Heartland before, and remembered the school well.

"I go to hundreds of schools every years," he said. "Those that stick out that are standing on the Word of God, I remember, be-

cause sadly those are few and far between."

The kind of education you get from a Christian school is important, he said, because the values children get from parents and school and then live by "will last forever, in either Heaven or Hell".

During his presentation on "The Shining Family," he told the audience that Christians ought to "shine like stars" and teach their children to do the same. And to shine like a star today, Young said, you have to go

See "CREATIONIST," Page 2



Holiday closes schools, offices

School is out all over Thomas County today, and businesses and government offices will soon follow suit and shut down for the Thanksgiving holiday.

All area schools are closed until Monday, including Colby, Heartland Christian, Sacred Heart, Brewster and Golden Plains. Colby Community College will not have classes those days either. Offices at the college will be closed today and Thursday and will close at 3:30 p.m. Friday.

City and county offices will be closed on both Thanksgiving and Friday. These include all city offices, the Thomas County Office Complex, the Thomas County courthouse and the Thomas County landfill. City trash pickup for Thanksgiving was to be done today, and trash pickup for Friday will be on Monday.

State offices, including Driver's License station, Kansas State University Research and Extension offices and the Colby office of

the Department for Families and Children (formerly Social and Rehabilitation Services), also will be closed both days.

The U.S. Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Thomas County Conservation District closed at noon today and will be closed Thanksgiving, but open Friday. Post offices will be closed on Thanksgiving but open on Friday.

Colby residents will need to stock up for Thanksgiving din-

ner, because most area restaurants plant to shut their doors. Subway, J&B Meat Market, Arby's, Pizza Hut, Sonic, Taco John's, Village Inn, Gambino's Pizza, City Limits, Montana Mike's, Qdoba, Quizno's and El Dos de Oros will all be closed on Thanksgiving, but open on Friday. McDonald's will be open from 6 to 10 a.m. on Thanksgiving, and Starbucks at the Oasis Travel Plaza will be

See "HOLIDAY," Page 2

Budget transfers considered

By Heather Alwin
Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkanas.com

The Thomas County commissioners plan to re-publish some departmental budgets to allow more spending after discovering that sales-tax revenues are expected to exceed initial estimates for the year.

Chairman Paul Steele said the county budgeted for 2013 spending based on estimated tax revenues of about \$835,000, but he now expects the county sales taxes to raise as much as \$920,000.

County residents also paid about \$43,000 more in mortgage registration taxes this year, said Steele, adding to the budget surplus.

At their Nov. 19 meeting, the commissioners discussed moving some spending authority and expenses between accounts because of budget mistakes and unexpected costs.

For example, said Steele, over \$164,000 in employee health-care reimbursement payments came out of the general fund this year, but the money was budgeted to come out of the employee benefit fund.

The commissioners voted to

transfer \$100,000 from the employee benefit fund to the general fund to cover some of these expenses.

The transportation van fund needs about \$14,000 to keep it running through the end of the year and cover existing expenses, Steele said, and the commissioners voted to transfer \$20,000 to the van fund.

The commissioners withdrew an earlier motion that transferred about \$58,000 in grant money from the Health Department to the Thomas County Healthy Communities Coalition. It should have come from the grant's fund.

The May 31 motion incorrectly identified the budget line item from which the money was to be transferred, causing a shortfall in the Health Department's budget, Steele said. Commissioners passed a new transfer request with the correct line item.

Steele said the county also needs to increase the sheriff's equipment fund to pay for the new computers the commissioners authorized this fall, and there are shortfalls in the budget line items for salaries at the jail, the county attorney's office and the Health Department.

"I'll work with Adams, Brown,

See "BUDGET," Page 2

Santa City's ready to roll

Santa Claus is coming to town. Since 1979, Santa City has been a Christmas tradition in Colby, serving as headquarters for Santa Claus.

"The Scout Hut has once again been transformed into a spectacular winter wonderland" said Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, who heads the project. "It is such a magical place, and remember, it's not just for children."

Santa City will open from 1 to 5 p.m. the day after Thanksgiving and be open those hours every weekend through Christmas. Starting Monday, Dec. 16, the display will be open from 6 to 8

p.m. weeknights and for those last minute Christmas wishes, from 1 to 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Admission is free, although donations are accepted to help with new scenes and decorations.

"Each year, Santa sees more than 2,000 visitors of every age," Hankin said. "Your holiday isn't complete until you have visited Santa City."

"After you have given your wishes to Santa, don't forget to say hello to Mrs. Claus, who has a decorated sugar cookie waiting especially for you."

For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce office at 460-3401.

Selden holds Winterfest

Selden will hold its annual Winterfest celebration Friday, starting with a business open house from 5 to 6:45 p.m.

Visitors can register for \$600 worth of Selden Greenbucks to be given away at the end of the evening. These are gift certificates that can be used at any Selden business.

The Catholic Youth Organization and area youths will be sponsoring a children's video at the Parish Hall downtown during the open house. Teens will bring the children to the Community Building across the street following the movie.

The Selden Community Foundation will serve hot dogs, chili dogs and hot cocoa at the Community Building throughout the evening. At 7 p.m., the Greenbucks drawing will be held – you must be present to win – followed by the arrival of Santa with treats for the kids.

Everyone is invited to enjoy an evening of fun, see what Selden businesses have to offer and help kick off the holiday season.



8 10499 02034 8