

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the following day, space available. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Church invites all to free lunch

Come and bring a friend to a free "Joyful Blessings" meal from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church, Webster and Grant. Everyone is welcome. For information, call Radonda Buford at 462-2804.

Church women selling fresh nuts

The women of Ascension Episcopal Church are selling fresh holiday nuts, including pecans, walnuts, cashews and variety packs. For delivery, call Martha Hullett at 462-2505, or pick some up at Colby Canvas.

Foundation grant applications due

The Thomas County Community Foundation will accept applications for its fourth-quarter grant cycle until Tuesday. Grant areas include children, education, literacy, cultural, senior citizen services, beautification and more. Go to www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com for an application or call Executive Director Melinda Olson at 460-9152 if you have questions.

Trash crew off for New Year's Day

Colby city and Thomas County offices will be closed New Year's Day and workers will be off. The residential trash route for Wednesday will be collected next Thursday. For information, call Omar Weber at the Public Works Department, 460-4420.

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed Wednesday, also, reopening at 9 a.m. next Thursday. For information, call Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

Foster parenting classes set

Foster parenting classes by TFI Family Services will begin Monday, Jan. 6, in Colby, with the time and location to be determined by interested families' schedules. Call Vicki Beiser at (785) 443-0650 or (800) 279-9914.

Church offers class on divorce

A 10-week program for women experiencing divorce will be offered from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday evenings from Jan. 6 through March 10 at the Colby United Methodist Church. Women of all faiths are welcome. Call Lynette Ball at (785) 675-8606 to enroll or for information.

Fifth graders to sing Jan. 28

The Colby Grade School fifth graders will present a free musical production, "On the Radio," at 2 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the school auditorium. Everyone is invited. For information, call teacher Jennifer Otten at 460-5100.

Wellness Challenge to kick off

Dr. Doug Gruenbacher, a Quinter physician, will speak at the kickoff for the Thomas County Wellness Challenge at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, in the multipurpose room at the Colby Community College Student Union. Blood will be drawn for lab tests from 6 to 9 a.m. Thursday to Saturday, Jan. 9 to 11, and Monday, Jan. 13, in the front lobby of Citizens Medical Center, 100 E. College Dr. The Challenge itself begins Monday, Jan. 13. For information, call the county Health Department at (785) 460-4596.

Head Start looking for kids

Head Start, a development program for 3- and 4-year-olds and their families, is taking applications. Services, including education, nutrition, health, disability services and family support, are free to those who qualify. Children must be 3 on or before Aug. 31. For information or to schedule an appointment, contact Head Start at 460-6067 by Tuesday, May 20.

Weather

New funds aid foundation

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nesses will follow the firm's lead. "What people do not always realize is that every dollar counts, even \$5 a month," she said, "and when combined together, those donations can provide an incredible synergy to make a difference in Thomas County."

Olson said the Heritage Fund will promote and commemorate the history of Thomas County, including geography, settlement, history, ethnic elements, arts, culture, customs,

agriculture, individuals, government, churches, businesses, transportation and pre-settlement events.

It is an "acorn fund," she said, started by one person interested in the subject. It will have to grow with donations from others to become an endowment and have earnings to distribute. The minimum endowment amount is \$2,500, she added.

"My desire is to promote all aspects of Thomas County's heritage," said Mike Baughn, a county commissioner and former sheriff who established the fund, "and encourage the estab-

ishment of an endowment to provide funds for projects that represent and preserve our unique contribution to the American West." "If you would like to donate to these funds," Mrs. Olson said, "please send your tax-deductible check payable to foundation to 350 S. Range Suite 14 Colby, Kan. 67701 and note your fund choice in the memo section. We also have a user-friendly online donation service that accepts credit card and electronic check donations at www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com."

Trustees review costs, value

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how many students the college has. He said later that money has been decreasing over the years, and will probably continue to do so.

Without counting state money, the analysis showed that the college's agricultural sciences programs made \$265,859 and cost \$1,019,355; math, science, arts and letters programs made \$1,178,910 and cost \$832,169; business, industry and behavior sciences programs made \$524,672 and cost \$666,854; and health sciences programs made \$834,571 and cost \$1,780,289.

Nichols pointed out that some revenue was not added to the analysis. He said he did factor in grants and donations, for instance, or profits from random sources, like the recent sale of cattle from the college farm.

A growth in enrollment is desperately needed in some areas that are losing money, Dr. Vacik said. Health-sciences programs like nursing and dental hygiene cost the college \$1,151,896 and \$305,128, respectively, to operate, but only made \$548,656 and \$65,733.

However, he said, those programs, where graduates can make more than their instructors in their first year out of college, have been popular. Accreditation concerns limit the number of people who can be in some of these programs, Nichols added, but even a small increase in tuition would make a difference.

Some of the financial problems facing the college now stem from a refusal to cut certain parts of the budget in the past, Vacik said. Without going into specifics, he added that the college leadership needs to make some hard decisions and reduce certain parts of the budget before they cut out some of these classes, which provide valuable skilled workers to the area. Colby's dental hygiene program, for instance, is the only such program between Denver and Salina, Vacik said, and even parts of Oklahoma do not have their own program.

Trustee Audrey Hines asked about the way the college awards scholarships, and Vacik said about \$500,000, or about half of the college's scholarship money, goes to sports scholarships. Applications for nonsports scholarships must be turned in by Feb. 15, he said. The school awards most of them by around April.

Athletic Director Ryan Sturdy said the National Junior College Athletic Association decides how many students can be on each athletic team, and how many of them can have scholarships. In other business, the board:

- Voted to terminate the employment of Residence Hall Director JoAnne Brown and give Brown notice her employment ends as of Thursday, Jan. 2. The trustees voted after a 10-minute closed session with Vacik and College Attorney John Gatz. Then they spent another 20 minutes in closed session with Vacik and Gatz.

Courts dealing with budget shortfall

WICHITA (AP) - Kansas court employees could face 10 days of furlough as the judicial branch tries to handle an \$8.25 million budget shortfall, according to a committee report.

The mandatory unpaid leave would cut \$2.5 million from the deficit, according to a committee appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court in October to look for ways to deal with the shortfall. The committee forwarded its recommendations to Chief Justice Lawton Nuss on Dec. 13.

The panel said much of the balance would come from delayed judicial appointments, reduced training hours, eliminating about 20 court service officer positions and leaving more

than 100 court positions unfilled in fiscal year 2015. The Wichita Eagle reported (bit.ly/1dElohX). The committee also recommended leaving 120 non-judicial positions unfilled to save \$3.75 million.

"It will have a devastating impact," said Kansas Court of Appeals Judge Karen Arnold-Burger, who chaired the committee. "If they do it in one fell swoop, it closes the courthouses for two weeks."

Since 2009, the committee said, the judicial branch has maintained about 80 unfilled positions, which has saved about \$2.5 million annually. Adding 40 more unfilled positions would increase the annual savings by \$1.25

million. The positions include court reporters, court clerks, administrative assistants and court service officers.

Sedgwick County Chief Judge James Fleetwood said if the 2014 Legislature doesn't find more court funds, the shortfall could lead to delays in obtaining everything from marriage licenses to protection from abuse orders.

"I would anticipate that it could take four or five months just to get the dockets back in shape," he said.

Make a Difference Please Recycle

Weather forecast table for Wednesday through New Year's Day.



TV Listings for Saturday Evening, December 28, 2013, showing channels, times, and program names.



TV Listings for Sunday Evening, December 29, 2013, showing channels, times, and program names.

AmericanProfile // CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT // - Large graphic with program schedule details.