



# COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages

## Break plans: eat and sleep and be merry

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Students in the Colby Public School system were dismissed early today for the holiday break and won't be returning to classes until Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2002. With 11 days of vacation to look forward to, many high school juniors and seniors were asked what they plan to do with all that time off.



J. Reavis

Most of the students who spoke about their plans were already excited and giddy at the prospect of having time off. Consequently, many of the answers reflected that mood.

For example, Eric Seemann, a senior and member of the wrestling team, said he plans to eat. "My goal is to eat and try to put on 60 pounds," he lightheartedly said. "I will also be taking a long trip to Levant to visit my grandparents there."

Jeff Reavis, a junior, said he wants to "sleep in" as much as possible.

"It's been a tough semester and I am ready for the break," he said. Reavis, who is a member of the basketball team, is also happy about getting some time off from practices, but added that he will be ready for practice next Friday (Dec. 28). During the break, he said he will be visiting his grandmother in Wamego, adding that he enjoyed his big Christmas present early — a 1997 pickup.

For Terry Cox, a senior, he will be working more hours and visiting relatives around the state.

"I am going to WaKeeney to see my cousin, Garden City to visit my aunt and uncle and will also stop by and see my girlfriend's dad too."

He also will be putting in more hours at work and one present he would really like is a computer, but said he isn't holding out much hope for that.

"I am staying in the good old town of Colby, Kansas," said Brenna Garcia, another senior. "I have four different places to go this year." Garcia said she will be with Denise Ribordy and family, her great-grandmother, Margarita Garcia, her boyfriend's home and her mother's family.

"Other than that, there's nothing special going on," she said.

Phil Schindler, also a senior and vying for perfect attendance throughout his school career, said he will be spending much of the holidays with his girlfriend, Kelly Wark.

"I definitely plan to clean up my bedroom and maybe bathe my three cats," Schindler said. "It's been a while since I have washed them."

For Adam Smith, another senior, his vacation will consist of eating, sleeping and just plain "chilling."

When asked what he would like to see under the Christmas tree this year, Smith said he wants a new rifle for pheasant hunting.

Jesse Jacobsen and Michelle Murphy, both seniors, said they too are ready for the holiday break, but didn't have any special plans.

Brett Mariman, a senior, said he will be staying in town and probably putting in extra hours where he works. "I'll be visiting with family here and if we get some snow, I plan to have some friends over and play in it."

Colby High School Principal Bryan Bullington said he suspects many students will be taking advantage of the break to do some extra school work in preparation for finals when they return in January.

"This is the first year the semester won't end at the holiday break," he said, "which could benefit students in the long run."

In previous years, the students experienced a lot of stress trying to study for finals and getting ready for the holiday season, he said.

Many students would leave early for family vacations and that caused conflicts.

"Not having to worry about finals should help the staff and students enjoy their holiday more," he said.

During the month of December, both students and teachers worked together on many charitable and fun projects too.

Bullington said that classroom doors were decorated and a scholar's bowl tournament was held between teachers and students on Thursday.

In addition to the many fun activities, the Service Club, which sponsors an international child, raised \$150 by selling candy canes for 50¢. The candy canes were distributed this morning.

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Twenty-three of the committee's 34 members are Republicans, so that any plan with strong GOP support should be endorsed.

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Kansas City metropolitan area suburbs in Johnson County, where the population has grown, will pick up power, along with Douglas County and

move this process along." Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, said the map is unfair. He said Democratic senators will produce their own proposal, one preserving the core of each existing district.

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Hensley also criticized the plan for reducing rural representation in the Senate.

## Deck the halls



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High School singers got the Christmas spirit by caroling for the grade school and middle school students this morning. School let out for the winter break at 1:30 p.m. today. Carolers included vocal teacher

Chris Latta, Damian Severson, Dustin Sullivan, Angela Bennett, Blake and Brandon McLemore, Alisha Talsma, Jodi Nicholson, Rachel Albers, Becky Shuman and Kassie Juenemann

## GOP outlines Senate plan; some critical

TOPEKA (AP) — Republicans expected a committee to finish its work on legislative redistricting by endorsing GOP proposals.

A new Republican plan for redrawing the state's 40 Senate districts, outlined Thursday, would create two new districts with no incumbents. Two districts would have two incumbents each.

The Senate's Democratic leader criticized the proposal as an attempt by Republicans to maintain their power in Kansas politics. The senator leading the GOP's work acknowledged that partisanship did play a role but said Republicans did not set out to hurt Democratic incumbents.

Meanwhile, Republicans modified a proposal for redrawing the 125 House districts, which they made public earlier this month. Democrats had criticized the plan, and talks between representatives in both parties continued late Thursday.

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## Regents at odds with community colleges, Washburn

TOPEKA (AP) — Community colleges, technical schools and Washburn University are fighting what they see as an attempt by the state Board of Regents to get more control over their operations.

They are asking the board to revise proposals it plans to submit to the Legislature to give the regents more authority over their institutions.

While regents listened to the suggestions during a Wednesday meeting, many indicated that they expect to adopt the proposals when they meet again next month.

"It's untenable that we can set a policy, and 30 entities can snub their noses at it," said Regent Lew Ferguson,

of Topeka.

A 1999 state law places the regents in charge of the six state universities. It says the board will coordinate operations of community colleges, technical schools and Washburn in Topeka but have local boards govern those institutions.

Several regents want the Legislature

to establish the regents as the primary policy-making body governing higher education in Kansas.

The regents also have proposed establishing missions and goals for each institution, forcing them to sign contracts with the regents and requiring them to fulfill those contracts or lose some state funding.

## Briefly

### Weather: Cold, light snow

It's definitely December and the Colby region forecast reflects that fact. Tonight, cloudy, a 50 percent chance for slight snow, lows 20-25 and southwest winds 20-30 mph, turning to the northwest late. Saturday, cold and breezy, highs only in the upper 20s, northwest winds 25-35 mph, and snow chances rated at around 60 percent with deposits of from 1-3 inches. Saturday night and Sunday, partly cloudy, lows +5 to +10 and highs right around the 30-degree mark. Sunday night and Monday, partly cloudy, lows +5 to +10 and highs 30-35. Christmas Day, mostly cloudy, a slight chance for snow showers early, lows +5 and highs in the middle 20s. Better put another log in the fireplace. Colby's high on Thursday was 49 and the overnight low this

morning was 25. Precipitation remains at only 0.07 inches for the month. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 34 degrees. The records for Dec. 21: 72 in 1933 and -15 in 1983. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Commodities distribution set

USDA Commodities will be distributed to all eligible recipients from 10 a.m. until noon on Wednesday, Jan. 2, at the RSVP office in the Senior Progress Center, Colby.

### Landfill closings announced

The Thomas County landfill will be closed Monday and

Tuesday, Dec. 24 and 25, for the Christmas holiday. Landfill information number is 462-8139. The landfill will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's Day holiday, said Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor.

### Most places will close down

Chances are that business places you would generally frequent on any given Tuesday of any given week, won't be open come next Tuesday — Christmas Day. And joining the closures will be your Colby Free Press. But we and they will be back on a regular basis Wednesday, Dec. 26.

### Brewster trash pickup changes

Officials at the City of Brewster sanitation department

said the dates for normal trash collection will be moved back one day to give city employees holiday time with their families.

Normal trash pick up on Tuesday, Dec. 25, will be changed to Wednesday, Dec. 26 and Tuesday, Jan. 1, will be moved to Wednesday, Jan. 2.

### Sweet Thunder offers services

The Colby Girls Fast Pitch Association "Sweet Thunder" is offering babysitting and gift wrapping services this weekend in the basement of the Sports Shoppe, 400 N. Franklin. The hours on Saturday are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. All proceeds from the services will benefit the softball program.



## Thumbs Up!



- ✓Marilyn Friesen — the big winner (\$2,500) in the *Christmas on Us!* drawing.
- ✓Mason & Merle Wolf — enjoy Christmas 2001. Your reflections of Christmases past were a hit with our readers.
- ✓Janet Phelps — second-place winner (\$500) in the *Christmas on Us!* drawing.
- ✓Mayor Warren Hixson, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong, Police Chief Randy Jones, Police Officer Scott Sitton and City Council President Eugene Wieland — all members of the Special Law Enforcement Trust Committee, for approving the \$150,000 contribution to the Thomas County Community Foundation.
- ✓Coach Mke Gottsch — good luck, and thanks!
- ✓John Johnson, Diane Williams, Lyman Goetsch, Geri Landry, Cindy Cersovsky, Terry Rasmussen, Dan Fetzter, Jack Johnson, Jay Black and Vida Toburen — all \$50 instant winners in the *Christmas on Us!* promotion.
- ✓Don Thieler — carry on.
- ✓City of Rexford — a new fire truck will soon be a reality.
- ✓Scott Sitton & Blitz — many thanks, and to the dog 'bowwow!'
- (To include anyone or group in this weekly salute, please call TD at 462-3963.)

