



The snowman calleth Colby can expect 5-10 inches

By TOM (TD) DREILING
Free Press Publisher
The Colby area should prepare for somewhere between 5 and 10 inches of snow as a winter storm system moves into the area today, the National Weather Service at Goodland said late this morning.
The weather people said snow would begin falling around noon today and by nightfall 2-4 inches could be covering the ground.
Tonight, the weather service said,

snow chances are rated at 100 percent with an additional 2-4 inches expected by morning. Low temperatures should be around +10 with winds from the north at 10-15 miles per hour.
Thursday, residents can expect another couple of inches of snow with chances for the white stuff to continue falling set at 100 percent again. Thursday's high could reach 20 with northwest winds 10-15 miles per hour.
Thursday night will see snow showers tapering off, skies clearing and lows

around +10, with snow chances decreasing to around 30 percent.
Friday and Saturday should bring partly cloudy conditions, said the weather service, with lows around +15 and highs in the upper 30s to the lower 40s.
This is the first significant storm of the winter season and the first snow of the new year for the bone-dry Colby and Thomas County area. Total precipitation for the month of January as of 8 a.m. today is a mere 0.10 inches.

Free income tax assistance available in Thomas County

By MAXINE NELSON
Colby Free Press
Volunteer tax counselors will again provide assistance for Thomas County and area residents this year. The Internal Revenue Service, in cooperation with AARP, will provide free income tax assistance from Feb. 4 through April 15.
There will be three volunteer tax counselors. Alvin Volk, and Alice and Victor Oelke have completed a four-day refresher tax course in preparation to aid and prepare taxes for filing.
"The service is not just for the elderly, as the AARP association might imply, but for all families or individuals of any age who are in the low or moderate-income level brackets," said Eli Boucher, Hays coordinator of the program.

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Eli Boucher,
Hays coordinator

Each taxpayer wanting the free service is to bring last year's return and W-2, 1099 and forms that indicate the gross income and expenses, said Boucher.
Except for the annual increase in the personal exemption and standard deduction, there is not much change in the federal return for 2001, he said. However, two tax credits have been greatly liberalized for people with children less than 17 years of age. They are the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit.
Boucher said the Kansas tax return

has no change of any consequence and neither has the Homestead Tax Refund been changed from last year. Many people who are eligible for this refund, however, do not apply for it, Boucher said. The majority of those failing to apply are younger couples with children. The Homestead tax refund is available to those who rent as well as those who own their homes.
"If there are any taxpayers who cannot make the assigned meeting times please phone 462-2830 to set up another date and time," said Alice Oelke, Colby area coordinator.

Wanna be a cowboy?



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Throughout the month of January students in Sharon Shirley's pre-kindergarten class at Sacred Heart School learned about Kansas cowboys and cowgirls. "We talked about customs, what they wore, ate and the kinds of jobs they did," Shirley said Tuesday. In addition to the classroom curriculum, the students had hands-on experience with roping and using a lasso, along with seeing a horse close up. Pictured is Lara Stephens who reached out to pet the horse, as Brandi Emmot held the reins. Also pictured is Melissa Emmot seated on the horse and Brian Emmot nearby.

Tire slashers busy Monday night; police have no suspects yet

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor
Colby police are looking into a series of tire slashings that took place Monday night with the first of those being reported to law enforcement authorities Tuesday morning, said Chief Randy Jones today.

Nine cars and 14 tires were affected and all the vehicles were in various residential areas around the city leaving authorities with no apparent pattern or targeted neighborhood in the property damage.
"The cars involved primarily belong to younger people," he said, "and there are no

suspects at this time."
Jones said that often times it's hard to prevent something like this because of the sporadic nature of the crime.
"When someone has their mind set on criminal damage to property, it can be hard to catch them in the act."

However, there are things people can do in order to minimize these types of criminal acts, the chief said. "Watch for unusual activities or unfamiliar faces in neighborhoods and call it in," he said.
"The police will investigate and the name of the calling party will not be disclosed."

As for the tire slashings, Jones is encouraging citizens to step forward if they heard or saw anything suspicious during the hours of around 10 p.m. and later on Monday night.
For questions or to report anything that appears out of the ordinary, call the law enforcement center at 462-4460.

Pinewood Derby event sees more than 250 people

By MAXINE NELSON
Colby Free Press
The Cub Scout Pinewood Derby was held Sunday at the National Guard Armory in Colby with more than 40 scouts participating and some 200 more watching the event.
A new feature was added this year involving parents racing cars, said Tanya Sager, cubmaster for troop 140.
Results of the derby saw Karlton Leiker, first place Wolf Den; Alex Juenemann, second place, Tiger Cub; and Jordan Hockersmith, 2nd year Webelos in third place.
Fourteen parents or older siblings raced their cars after the derby concluded and winners in that category were Arlen Leiker, first; Darvin Strutt, second; and Troy Price, third.

// The boys received their kits for Christmas."

Tanya Sager, cubmaster

by the scouts in order to prepare for the event.
"The boys in Cub Scout Troop 140 received their car kits for Christmas," Sager said.
"The kits contained blocks of wood which the boys carved into the shape of vehicles, forming and decorating them according to their own originality, with some help from their parents."
Prior to the race, the scouts had a weigh-in and, during the event, six cars could race on the track in each lap, with the winners competing for first, second and third place, overall.
"The lap winners," she said, "were determined by an electric eye which tells which car came in first."



MAXINE NELSON/Colby Free Press

Scout Leader Dick Snider prepares to turn loose the derby cars which were raced in the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Sunday afternoon at the National Guard Armory in Colby.

Box social draws many

By MAXINE NELSON
Colby Free Press
Credit the pleasant weather for the large turnout at the first "Kansas Box Social" video lunch at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby on Tuesday. Museum personnel said the attendance was twice what they expected with more than 40 in attendance.



The event honored the 141st birthday of Kansas and continues today and Thursday beginning at noon. The first video entitled, *The 34th Star*, highlighted life in early Kansas, prairie fires, the Bleeding Kansas era, the Civil War, cattle drives and grasshopper plagues. Today's event featured a local program and closer look at the buildings of Colby.
Judy Kleinsorge, education director, is encouraging everyone to attend Thursday's program, which will be a double feature to include *Faces and Places of Northwest Kansas* featuring Larry Hatteberg and Steve Harper and *The Saga of Wind Wagon Smith*.
In addition, Kleinsorge said she hopes many will consider other upcoming events, such as Women's History Month, with Joyce Suellentropp

George Shackelton was one of many at the first "Kansas Box Social" at the Prairie Museum of Art and History on Tuesday.
from Newman University, Wichita, presenting *Writing Women: The Pen on the Plains*; at 2 p.m. on March 17.
In April, Dr. Randy Thies, archaeologist on the staff of the Kansas State Historical Society, will present *This is Kansas' land, the Kaw tribe*, at 2 p.m. April 7. Also in April, the Thomas County Historical Society's annual meeting will be held Friday the 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union on the campus of Colby Community College. Dr. Jim Hoy, Emporia State University, will be the speaker.

Briefly

Weather: Story warning

A winter storm warning is in effect for the Colby region today through most of Thursday, advises the National Weather Service. (See story elsewhere on page 1.)
Colby's high temperature Tuesday was 21 and the overnight low this morning was 12.
The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 32 degrees. Precipitation for the month as of 8 a.m. today remains at 0.10 inches. The records for Jan 30: 66 in 1971 and —14 in 1918.
(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Feed scheduled Saturday

The annual Odd Fellows and Rebekahs pancake and sausage feed will be held Saturday, from 7 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Colby Community Building. Proceeds will be used for Thomas County freshman or sophomore scholarships. Everyone is invited. Admission is \$3 per person.

'Conversation with Moran' set

Congressman Jerry Moran will discuss the State of the Union Address and his priorities for the second half of the 107th Congress during a live television appearance on Smoky Hills Public Television, said Murphy Travis, public information officer. The program, entitled, "Mid-

America Life: A Conversation with Jerry Moran," will air at 8:30 p.m., Friday. Dr. Richard Heil, chair of the Political Science Department at Fort Hays State University, will host the program, along with John Montgomery, publisher and editor of the Hays Daily News. Heil, Montgomery and Moran will be talking about priorities for the next session of Congress and will take calls and answer questions from viewers, Murphy said.

Commissioners to meet Thursday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Thursday in the commissioners room of the courthouse to pay bills and conduct routine business. EMS Director Josh

Buffington will bring information about a first responder to emergency calls. The public's input is always sought by the commissioners, who urge residents to attend the meetings.

Soup supper to benefit school

Kappa Upsilon, a local sorority, is sponsoring a soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 8 at the Colby Community Building during the Colby/Quinter basketball game. All proceeds from the event will benefit Puddle Duck Preschool, said Bonnie Dinkel, one of the organizers. On the menu will be chili, chicken-noodle and vegetable soup with free-will donations accepted.

