

# A Peek at the Past: Pearl Harbor attack

By MAXINE NELSON

Free Press Correspondent

The year 1941 was a traumatic one with the attack on Pearl Harbor, which precipitated America's involvement in World War II, taking place on Dec. 7, 1941. Europe was already at war, as Nazi Germany attempted to enlarge its borders.

The Dec. 11, 1941 *Rexford News* reported: Goaded by nazi war-mongers the Japanese military forces attack the Gibraltar of the Pacific, the United States Naval base at Pearl Harbor, at dawn Sunday morning (Dec. 7) sinking at least two American warships and causing damage to others.

The Japanese attack the Navy Base and the Army Air Corps base with a fleet of heavy bombers at a time when the personnel of the forces were at the lowest ebb due to Sunday leaves of absences granted soldiers and sailors.

(There were) at least three thousand casualties, half of which were fatal. Just what amount of damage was and has been done remains a military secret. The President told the Congress of the United States that the damage had been severe. The Islands of Guam and Wake are now supposed to be in the hands of the Japs.

The Japanese chose Sunday because they knew that the smallest force would be on duty as soldiers and sailors were on week-end leaves. Roaring over an unsuspecting and sleeping Pearl harbor and the city of Honolulu, the Japs unloaded whole sticks of bombs creating a great deal of damage.

Public indignation in the United States ran high following the announcement of the attack and on

Monday, Dec. 8, the president assembled a joint session of Congress and in less than two hours, Congress had passed the resolution declaring war on the Tokyo government.

The President's message to Congress was one of the shortest messages ever delivered to Congress asking for a declaration of war — slightly more than five hundred words were spoken and in less than one hour after he addressed Congress, 82 of the Senators present ratified the resolution for a declaration of war against the Japanese. The House followed only a short time later.

Japanese airmen also attack the Philippines and Singapore in a surprise attack and are said to have landed parachute troops on the Malay peninsula.

Canada, Australia, Nicaragua, Haiti and many other Latin American countries have joined the United States in its war against Japan. Along the west coast Monday night, army and navy blackout precautions were placed in effect and it is said that 30 enemy plans flew over the San Francisco harbor area on a flight in which no bombs were dropped. From the Aleutian Isles in Alaska to lower Mexico, Army and Naval units are on the alert for enemy ships or aircraft.

The United States military forces were called to positions and all leaves and furloughs have been canceled.

*Editor's note: This is part of a series of articles taken from the Rexford News which was published continuously from April 24, 1903, through May 28, 1942. Microfilms of the paper are available at the Thomas County Historical Society.*

## Tips on protecting yards during the dry winter

By SHARON STEELE

Master Gardener Correspondent

Protecting your valuable landscape planting during this dry warm winter is a concern for those of us on the Colby Tree Board. Here are some tips for caring for your trees and shrubs.

Some of these winter days have been nearly perfect in terms of human comfort, but the comfort quickly fades if you

re thinking about corps and dry fields, or about your plants and trees in the yard! With three years of drought behind us, we need to take some action to assist those trees and shrubs in our landscapes. As long as the ground is not froze, and since we know it is not fully saturated, watering is going to be beneficial! Good watering methods include: slow hose, a soaker coiled around the base of or along a line of trees, a low sprinkler, or a root feeder/waterer punched into the ground for deep watering. Let the water run for several hours or until there is puddling or run-off.

Young or newly planted trees and shrubs benefit from a shallow basin built or dug around the base of the plant, or a trench along a row of plants. Fill the basin or trench with water once each war, 45 degrees or warmer, day for a few days until the water basin stays damp. You can check soil moisture by poking a rod into the ground.

With a hand push the rod will penetrate the damp soil, but comes to a "pound only" stage where the soil is dry. Try the probe in several spots around the "drip line" which

is below the outer branches of the tree. This helps avoid roots which could stop your probe. Large plants usually benefit from soil moisture 15 or more inches deep.

Don't forget to disconnect and drain your hoses and sprinklers every evening and after each use!! Most water faucets and lines are vulnerable to breaking if water in the line freezes! This warning includes metal and plastic sprinkler devices. Hoses will usually expand enough to not break, but you'll have a slow go the next time you use your hose.

The ice inside will prevent or restrict water flow a long time after the air seems warm enough to water, so gravity drain your hoses on a slope, or by lifting one end and pulling the hose over a high spot until the water quits flowing out the other end. Don't forget the soaker hose needs to have the cap removed and be drained also.

The city sewer charge is calculated on water use during the winter months. This is the best calculation for how much water your household uses that requires sewage treatment. If you think you are watering enough to alter that calculation call the city and let them know when you were watering (Sally Tibbles is contact for that). The city will review your water meter readings, and adjust the sewer charge. Note: I checked my city utility bill and the sewer charge "SC" was under \$6. A few extra cents per month is a small investment to protect expensive trees and shrubs.

## Divorce Care offers help to people facing divorce

There will be a new support group starting in Colby on Thursday entitled, Divorce Care, which will be meeting at 7 p.m. at the Wesleyan Church.

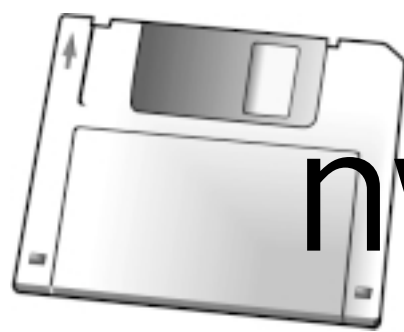
"Divorce is a painful and difficult situation that affects over half of all families in the United States today," officials here said. "It is often hard to work through this pain in a positive way without assistance."

The support group is a Christian based program for those going through the pain and confusion

caused by divorce and separation.

The program will consist of a 13 week series of videos and discussion participants learn how to successfully handle the emotional upheaval divorce creates as well as how to adjust financially, lessen the impact on children and other vital adjustments that accompany divorce. This class is open to anyone who is going through or has previously gone through a divorce.

For more information or to register for the class call 465-9077.



# nwkansas.com

## Get connected to the Internet with us!

*We have  
local technical  
support.*

## Call 462-3963



Join your neighbors in Goodland, Oberlin, Norcatur, Bird City, Oakley, McDonald, Colby and St. Francis who are on-line with nwkansas.com. We have high speed modems, unlimited active usage and technical support available.

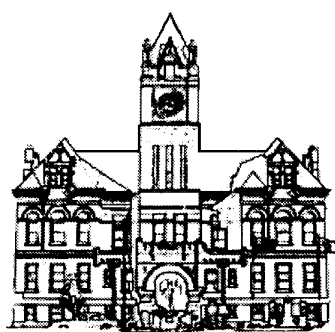
## *SAME DAY CONNECTION!!*

For a limited time,  
Colby Free Press customers  
can receive 12 full months  
of internet service for less  
than the price of eight!!  
**THAT'S 4 MONTHS -  
FREE!!**

12 MONTHS  
*Just....*

**\$198\***

\* Internet access as low as \$16.50/mo. with 1 year pre-payment. Normal monthly rates are \$24.95/mo. For more information, call 462-3963.



# COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. 5th • Colby • 462-3963

*N*OW YOU CAN HELP  
STOP CHILD ABUSE  
BEFORE IT EVER STARTS.

To learn how you can help, call the National Committee to prevent Child Abuse today.

Ad Council 1-800-CHILDREN

**d**

It looks like the perfect d.  
The only problem is, it's a p.

It's dyslexia. A reading disability where some kids confuse their d's with p's, b's and q's. But, with help most of these kids can go on to do well in school. Call 1-888-GR8-MIND now.

There's no reason to be held back.

Ad Council