

Briefly

Childbirth classes scheduled

The next four-week series of childbirth education classes will be from 7 to 10 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 4, and continue on Jan. 11, 18 and 25 at Citizens Medical Center, 100 E. College Dr. in Colby. Expectant mothers in their last trimester are encouraged to attend, said Jeanene Brown, education department. The labor support partner who plans to be with the mother, is also encouraged to attend classes. The next series is in April. For information or to register, call Brown at (785) 460-4850.

Screening tests begin Tuesday

Laboratory screening tests will be drawn prior to the annual Wellness Fair and screening results will be available for participants on the day of the fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 13, at Colby Community College.

Blood will be drawn at Citizens Medical Center, 100 E. College Dr., from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Jan. 2-4, and 6. Lab tests include comprehensive test – including complete blood count, lipid profile (cholesterol, liver profile, glucose and

other chemistries for \$20; thyroid \$15; prostate \$20; HbA1c (diabetes management) \$20. Participants will register for the fair at a cost of \$5, in addition to paying for lab tests prior to blood draw, said Jeanene Brown, committee member. Participants should fast 10-12 hours prior to tests. Results are not available prior to the fair. For questions, call Brown at 460-4850.

City will not pick up dead tree limbs

Ice from last week's storm damaged many trees in Colby leaving dead branches that will need to be picked up. City officials have been receiving many calls about the dead limbs and remind everyone crews will not be picking up those fallen tree branches, but instead are urging residents to either call businesses that can do so or take care of the matter themselves.

Babysitting fundraiser planned

The Colby Sweet Thunder 14 and Under softball team is sponsoring a New Year's Eve babysitting event to help raise money for travel expenses, uniforms and other items during

summer games.

The babysitters will provide food, fun, and games for children from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Ascension-on-the-Prairie Episcopal Church, 1170 Wheatridge Dr. To make reservations, call Evelyn or Sara Martin, 462-3041; Buzzy and Bailey Koerperich, 460-8261; or Karen and Tera Raymond, 460-3694.

Colby College plans auditions

Auditions for the Colby Community College spring play will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 17-18 in the Frahm Theatre in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.

No experience or advance preparation is required, said Deb Bickner, theater department director.

"Those who audition will be reading from the comedy fantasy Card Play, which is a family play suitable for all ages," she said. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to audition. The play performances will be March 2-4.

Weather Corner



Snowy and blustery

The forecast

Tonight — Periods of snow with areas of blowing snow. Low around 24. blustery with a north wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10 percent. **Saturday** — Periods of snow with areas of blowing snow. High near 29. Windy with a north wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100 percent. New snow accumulation of 5 to 9 inches possible. **Saturday night** — Periods of snow with areas of blowing snow. Low around 17. Blustery with a north wind around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. **Sunday** — Areas of blowing snow and a chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a high near 31. Blustery, with a north wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent. **Sunday night** — Partly cloudy and blustery with a low around 13. **New Year's Day** — Mostly sunny with a high near 35. **Monday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 12. **Tuesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 37.

Temperatures

Thursday's high, 37
Low this morning, 31
Records for this date, 65 in 1923, -11 in 1954
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.58
December's precipitation, 1.71

Prosecutor pulled from investigation

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A special prosecutor picked by Attorney General Phill Kline to pursue criminal charges against the state's most visible abortion provider learned Thursday that he'll lose his job after Kline leaves office on Jan. 8.

That announcement from Kline's successor, Paul Morrison, came only a day after Kline appointed Wichita attorney Don McKinney to handle the case against Dr. George Tiller, who has received national attention as one of the few doctors in the United States who performs late-term abortions.

McKinney said in a statement that he wouldn't respond: "I don't have time for political posturing. I have work to do."

Kline alleges Tiller performed 15 illegal late-term abortions in 2003, for patients aged 10 to 22, and failed to properly report details about them to state health officials. Tiller's attorneys call those allegations groundless.

The outgoing attorney general filed 30 misdemeanor charges against the doctor last week in Sedgwick County District Court, only to see a district judge dismiss them, then refuse to reinstate them Wednesday.

An abortion rights Democrat, Morrison defeated Kline, a Republican and strong abortion opponent, in the November general election. McKinney was leader of a Democrats for Kline group, and he's viewed as a strong abortion opponent.

Hoxie police chief retiring



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Retiring Hoxie Police Chief John Bieker, left, visited with his deputy, Jim Bainter, during a retirement reception Thursday at city hall. Bieker retires Sunday after 27 years on the police force.

New storm moving in

GOODLAND (AP) — Western Kansas should be bracing for round two.

The National Weather Service is predicting up to a foot of snow in some places as a second massive storm rumbles through eastern Colorado and into Kansas late Thursday. It comes on the heels of a paralyzing storm that hit Denver last week.

Sarah Johnson, a meteorologist for the weather service in Goodland, said the heaviest accumulations will be in the northwest part of the state, where freezing rain had started to fall Thursday evening.

Johnson said she didn't think the areas would see much ice accumulation before it changed into snow overnight.

"Right now, it's staying on just the elevated surfaces," she said.

DOOR DING DAY!!

at
Van's Body & Frame

Thurs., Jan. 11th

Get those ugly door dings fixed. Drop off your car or call for appt. Most repairs take about 1 hour.

785-460-3841

Hail repair estimates available

Youth party planned

Youth from across the region are invited to Colby's Rappin' and Rockin' New Year's Eve party.

Concerts will be performed by Christian band Three Chords Wonder and rap artist John Reuben. Both will play in the Colby Community Building. Concerts begin at 9 p.m.

After the concerts participants will be bused across Colby for a variety of activities to be held at Colby Community College, Heartland Christian School and Colby School District buildings. Events include basketball, dodge ball, bowling and a movie.

Doors are expected to open at 7 p.m. For more information, call (785) 443-1994.

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