



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## First flakes no blizzard; schools close

*Few wrecks, no roads closed, as rain pelts area overnight*

By Cynthia Haynes

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The first winter storm of the year turned out to be more of a feisty white kitten than the snow leopard forecasters expected, but still disrupted life in the Colby area.

Colby Schools were closed, as was the Senior Progress Center, and several activities were cancelled. Those included visits by the Hamburglar and Grimace to McDonald's and pumpkin carving at the Community Center.

Students at Colby Public Schools will get a long weekend, too, since Friday is a teacher workday.

The pumpkin carving has been rescheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Community Building, but when the McDonald's characters will return hadn't been decided.

Why so much less snow than predicted?

Meteorologist Kelly James at the National Weather Service in Goodland said that the temperatures didn't get as cold as expected, so the moisture came mostly as rain rather than snow. As of 7 a.m., she said Colby, had reported one inch of snow, which together with the rain yesterday added up to .17 of an inch of moisture in 24 hours.

No one got as much snow as was expected, she said, although there was more to the west and in eastern Colorado. The farther east you go, she said, the warmer the temperatures and the less snow. Goodland received 1.5 to 2 inches of snow, and as of midmorning it was still snowing there.

It rained until about midnight, James said, then the precipitation turned to snow in the Colby and Goodland area. That continued into the morning, but was expected to diminish this afternoon.

The worst part of the storm was the visibility, she said, which got down to about one-half a mile at times while the winds gusted to 56 mph in Goodland, very close to the 60 mph the service had predicted.

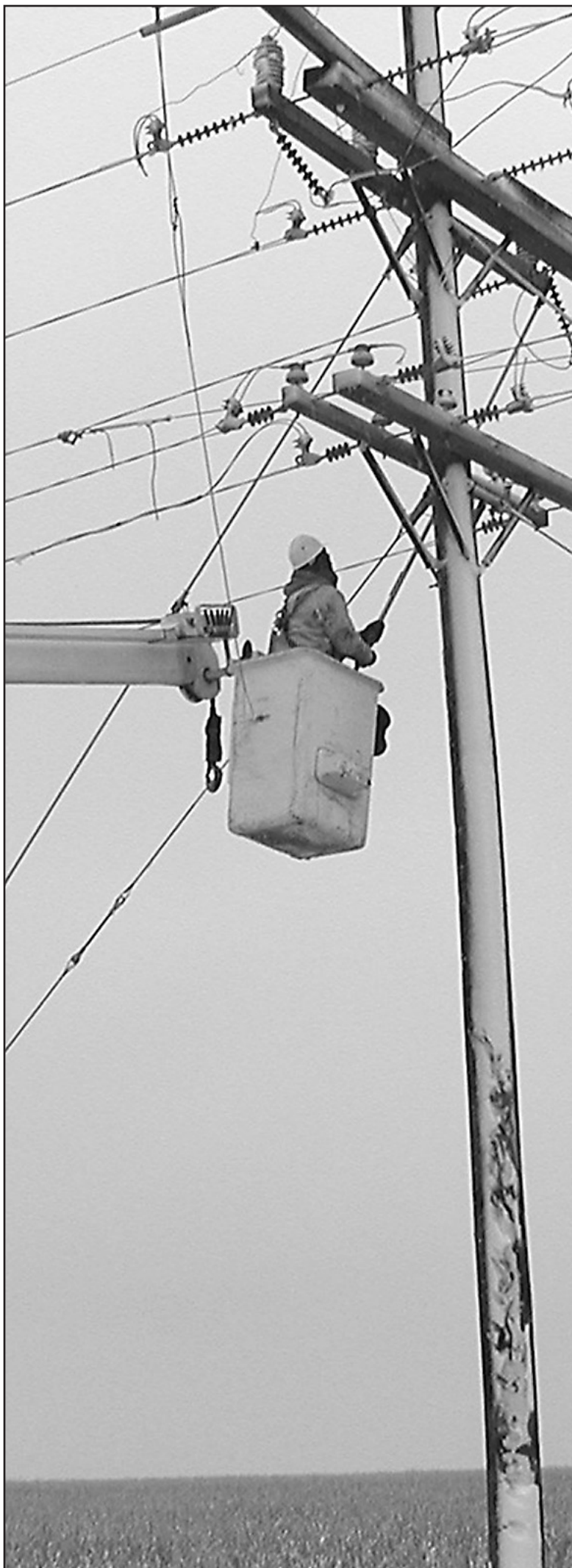
The weather service still had a winter weather advisory out until 2 p.m. today for snow and blowing snow, but the blizzard warning had been cancelled.

While hazardous driving conditions had been expected, the Kansas State Highway Patrol reported few problems.

A few cars slid off the road along I-70 and got stuck, and at least one truck jackknifed, which blocked traffic for a short time, the patrol said. All the problems were taken care of with wreckers and there were no injury accidents, nor were any roads closed.

The Thomas County sheriff's office reported the same thing, saying that only minor problems were seen and those were handled by the patrol. Other area highways were mostly just wet, with a few slushy spots here and there.

While today's weather was wintery, the weekend should be nice, James said, with mostly sunny skies Friday and a high near 53 and winds only around 5 mph. Saturday is expected to be sunny with temperatures in the high 60s and winds between five and 10 mph. It should start getting cooler and more seasonable on Sunday, as temperatures fall to the high 50s with lows around 30.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press  
A Midwest Energy crew endured the cold this morning while working on a power line east of town along U.S. 24. This lineman used a hot stick to work on lines in the wind.

## Two courses eye water tap

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby City Council may soon have to decide which of two developers will have a golf course in Colby.

Rory Bedore, a Colby native who lives in Nevada, announced plans last week to buy the Meadow Lakes Golf Course from the former country club board and operate it in partnership with Colby Community College. Part of the course is on city land, and it's watered with water treated at the city's old sewer plant nearby.

Colby resident Ed Collins plans to build a course on Lonny Wilson's land by the new wastewater plant on County Road 21, and he was at a council meeting Tuesday to ask about buying water from the new sewer plant, which is nearby, east of town and north of U.S. 24. City officials questioned whether there was enough water for two courses.

"We have enough effluent water to water the ball fields and one golf course," said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong, "but we do not have enough ... to water the ball fields and two golf courses."

Collins talked with the council about his project.

"We are on tap to start construction on the golf course by the first of March," he said. "We'd like to finish getting an agreement together so we could get going on this project."

The council was unwilling to grant Collins a water contract, however. Collins asked what the negotiating price for water would be, and members said they have not yet figured that out.

Armstrong said the council would like to see some of the plans or meet with the architects who will be designing the course before they make any decisions.

Also at the meeting, Norb Windholz of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment recommended two major improvements for to the city's water system — generators for the two main wells that would come on automatically when the power goes off, and a standpipe to maintain pressure in case Colby lost the water tower or had to shut it down for maintenance. The city is getting estimates for generators, and at the meeting they approved a contract with Wilson & Co., a Salina engineering firm, to design a stand-

pipe.

The estimated cost for design and construction is \$516,673, and the council has \$500,000 budgeted for next year, said city Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

In other business, the council:

- Changed the time that recreational vehicles could be parked on a street from two hours a day to 48 hours a week, though the woman who has suggested the change did not appear. The idea is to allow visitors to occupy a motor home for a brief stay.

- Approved a request by Colby Improvement to be allowed to place a sign over a city easement in the Rodenback addition south of Interstate 70.

- Approved an ordinance amending zoning regulations to allow wind energy systems in all zoning classifications by special permission of the council.

- Approved a contract with Penco Engineering of Plainville for design for the first 650 feet and construction inspection of the first 370 feet of Sewell Avenue, north of I-70 near Wal-Mart. The cost will be assessed to the abutting property owners, Farmers and Merchants Bank and Frank and Teresa Sanitate, owners of the property where the new Sleep Inn hotel will be built.

- Approved an ordinance allowing "micro-utility" trucks on city streets. The state used to lump these trucks with other work-site utility vehicles, but recently decided to give the trucks their own individual status, Armstrong said. These must be no less than 48 inches and no longer than 144 inches and they can't weigh more than 1,500 pounds.

- Approved an identity theft prevention program for the city.

- Annexed the Bosselman's Truck Stop into the city. The truck stop will be rezoned as light industrial, which Armstrong said is the least restrictive business zoning.

- Approved a request for release of Community Development Block Grant loan money to Embarq Health Care, which Armstrong said will trigger a 15-day review by the Kansas Department of Commerce. If the department approves everything, the paperwork will be sent to the city for approval. Then the city can purchase the downtown building and Embarq can access the loan to establish its business in the city.

## Army Field Band sets concert here on Nov. 5

The U.S. Army Field Band will give a free public performance at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, at the Colby Community Building, sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association.

To get free tickets by mail, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request to Pat Ziegelmeier, Colby Community College, 1255 S. Range, Colby, Kan. 67701.

The band travels thousands of miles each year throughout the

nation and abroad, keeping the will of the American people behind the members of the armed forces and supporting diplomatic efforts around the world.

Since its formation in 1946, the band has appeared in all 50 states and in more than 30 countries on four continents.

Along with the Soldiers' Chorus, which was founded in 1957, this 65-member concert band presents a powerful performance.

## Appeals court to hear cases here

By Andy Heintz

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A three-member panel of judges from the Kansas Court of Appeals is coming to Colby to hear arguments from attorneys or decide on about 30 cases beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Thomas County Courthouse.

The sessions on Tuesday will run throughout the day, while Wednesday's will be only in the morning.

The 13-member Court of Appeals, based in Topeka, sits in three-judge panels throughout the state. It hears appeals in civil and criminal cases from the district courts throughout

the state and from certain administrative agencies.

Presiding Judge Patrick D. McAnany, Judge Henry W. Green Jr. and Judge Michael B. Buser make up the three-member panel that will be hearing arguments at the courthouse.

McAnany has been on the court since 2004. He was in private law practice from 1968, until he was appointed a district court in Johnson County in 1995. He became the district's chief judge.

Green has been on the court since 1993. He was in private practice in Leavenworth from 1975 before that.

Buser joined the court in 2005. He graduated from the University of Kansas Law School in 1977, was an assistant district attorney in

Johnson County for 10 years, and he also served as a general attorney for the Union Pacific Railroad.

The panel will hear arguments from attorneys in 12 appeals. They will also decide 18 appeals that have been given to the courts on the written briefs from the parties, but without oral argument.

These cases include criminal appeals from convictions for rape, selling cocaine, attempted indecent solicitation of a child and drunk driving. The judges also will hear several civil cases, including an appeal on a driver's license suspension due to drunk driving, a dispute between unmarried parents over the naming of their child and a business dispute over activities at a private water users' association.

## Briefly

### Kids to post anti-drug message

For national Red Ribbon Week, today to Halloween, Colby Grade School students plan to put an anti-drug message on the school fence from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday. The week is an anti-drug campaign which teaches students and young people to fight against drug and alcohol addiction.

### Seniors, parents to be honored

Colby High plans a Senior-Parent Recognition Night for seniors in cheerleading, cross country, dance, golf, football, tennis and volleyball, trainers, managers and pep band members. The ceremony will take place from about 6:45 to 7 p.m. Friday, right before the last home football game of the season against Smoky Valley. Parents and participants should

meet at the northeast corner of the track at Dennen Field at 6:30 p.m., the athletic department says.

### Center plans Halloween bash

The Colby Care Center at 105 E. College Drive plans a Halloween carnival from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday. There will be games, candy and a costume contest with prizes. Everyone is welcome.

### Kiwanis plans feed Saturday

The Colby Kiwanis Club will hold a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, 220 N. Lake St. The cost of \$4 per person, with proceeds going to Christmas, youth and other community projects. Advance tickets are available from any Kiwanis member.

### Church plans big auction

Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School will hold its annual auction Saturday at City Limits Convention Center. Doors will open at 5 p.m. for the silent auction. A live auction will start at 7:15 p.m. Call Kim Brier at the rectory, (785) 462-2179, for information.

### Bingo, cake set in Rexford

The Rexford Royal Neighbors plan a fund-raising bingo party from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at the Community Hall. Prizes will be given, cake and ice cream served and an offering taken for the Rexford Museum.

### Coffee with Coaches Saturday

"Coffee with the Coaches" begins at 9 a.m. every Saturday during the Colby High football season at

the Sports Shoppe, 400 N. Franklin Ave. Come talk football with Coach Chris Gardner. For questions, call 460-5000.

### Scouts out selling popcorn

Colby Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are selling popcorn door-to-door until Sunday. Choose from microwave popcorn, popping kernels and tins filled with caramel, chocolate or cheese popcorn. Anyone who isn't contacted by a Scout should call Gary Schuette, pack leader, at 460-0003.

### Learn how to burn grass safely

Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development plans a school on how to burn off Conservation Reserve grass from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at the 4-H Building in Colby. For information, call the Thomas County Extension office at 460-4522.

