



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Youngsters filled the Farm Credit of Western Kansas' float (above,) which wished everyone a "Mooney Christmas," while youngsters on the S&T Communications float (left) encouraged everyone to have a "Rockin' Christmas."

Annual light parade crowded with holiday fun

By Andy Heintz
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Excitement filled the air as Colby citizens crowded the sidewalks awaiting the beginning of the 11th annual Christmas Light Parade on Sunday.

Around 5:45 p.m., the wait was over and the streets filled up with lighted Christmas floats celebrating the holiday season.

The parade began with Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn driving a sheriff's car. Baughn was followed by Santa and Mrs. Claus in a carriage driven by Darrell Pabst.

After Santa and his wife left the scene, the floats started making their way down the street.

A float put together by Farm Credit of Western Kansas ACA

featured a cow driving the sleigh down the street. A sign scrolled on the sleigh wished everyone a "mooney Christmas."

The Citizens Medical Centers float portrayed a doctor and nurse going to a farmhouse to take care of a sick person, while children played outside by a Christmas tree and a snowman.

Other highlights from the parade included electric horseman Steve Molstad of Colby Canvas, driving a red 1929 Model A Ford fire truck lit up with Christmas lights and adorned with a wreath. A float made by the Thomas County Learning Center featuring a trailer strewn with lights, a giant snowman and a silver Christmas tree.

Colby Ag was named best lit float, while Molstad's float took second. Colby Ag's float featured

Santa Claus making an emergency pasture stop in western Kansas while delivering presents on Christmas. The award for best organizational float went to the Learning Center, while the hospital float took second.

Best business float went to Ron's Auto Sales and Service, while Farm Credit finished second. The Youth Best of Show went to Cub Scout Troop 140, whose float featured the Scouts enjoying a winter camp out next to a teepee with Christmas lights. The second-place winner was the sixth-grade band students under the direction of Stacey Williams. The students sang traditional holiday songs from their floats.

The Trinity Lutheran Church float won best religious float,

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A man waved at the crowd from Thomas County Learning Center's float, as other passengers smile with delight at the 11th annual Christmas Lighting Parade on Sunday.

Merchants give away Christmas money

Someone will have \$1,000 to spend in Colby after Saturday's Christmas on Us drawing at 10 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Express meeting room.

Besides the \$1,000 winner, a second person will get \$500 in script to spend between Saturday and the end of the year at participating Colby merchants in the biggest shop-at-home promotion in town.

Christmas on Us is a cooperative effort between the Colby Free Press and Colby merchants to give people a reason to shop at home.

Each week from late November until Thursday, participating merchants are handing out tickets to shoppers as a premium for keeping their business in Colby.

Shoppers must be at least 18. They get one ticket for each \$10 they spend at participating merchants up to 250 tickets per transaction. The tickets come in duplicates. The shopper gets one and the merchant puts one aside. Free tickets can be gotten from



Rylinda Barnett

the Colby Free Press — one free ticket per person, per week.

Complete rules and merchant ads are in today's Christmas on Us ads on Pages 8 and 9.

Besides the two big prizes there are 10 instant \$50 prizes to be won.



Kristy Karnes

All the merchants tickets were gathered together each week and random numbers drawn for the instant winners.

Thursday will be the last chance for those who's numbers have been published in the ad to collect their instant winnings. Any instant

winnings not picked up by 5 p.m. Thursday will be given away during the drawing on Saturday.

As of Monday morning only two of those prizes had been claimed.

Rylinda Barnett picked up her ticket at Colby Ag, and Kristy Karnes got hers when she shopped at Great Western Tire. Both women checked their ticket numbers against those published in the paper on Wednesday night and found matches.

Barnett's number was in the ad for City Limits Bar and Grill and Karnes' was tucked into the Unicef ad.

While Barnett wasn't sure what she was going to do with her winnings, Karnes said she was headed for Creations Gallery to do some Christmas gift buying.

Get your tickets at Office Works, Unicef, City Limits Bar and Grill, Creations Gallery, Colby Implement, The Loft, Great Western Tire, Beringer Hardware, Colby Ag Center or the Colby Free Press and win Christmas money.

Booster club sells bricks to help school

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The Colby High Booster Club is raising money for the school's athletic programs one brick at a time.

With its "brick-by-brick" program, said member Shawn Stephens, the club will be selling bricks of different sizes to students, alumni, businesses and organizations. Purchasers can engrave a commemoration of an event on the brick, along with their name. They can also engrave the brick in a memory of a love one, she said.

"The club will be selling bricks at all home sporting events," Stephens said.

Information about the program, forms and gift certificates can be found at the school website, www.colbyeagles.org. Once

all the bricks have been turned in, they will be set up in a courtyard by the concession stand at Dennen Field, Stephens said.

"The courtyard will add to the school grounds and the football stadium," she said. "We hope the program will continue for many years to come."

The club has been busy over the last two years, she said. It has purchased wall-to-wall mats and exercise bikes for the weight room and wall mats for the gymnasium and the football stadium at Dennen Field. The money was raised through fund raisers and donations, she said.

"The booster club is grateful for the community support," Stephens said. "We couldn't do anything without their support."

For information about the program, call Shawn Stephens at (785) 462-6929 or Tracy Rogers at (785) 460-3128.

Briefly

Together group plans potluck

More Fun Together, a group of people over 50 who are alone, will hold a potluck meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverages will be provided. Call the church at (785) 462-6342 for information.

Top lights will win cash prizes

The annual Christmas Lighting Contest, sponsored by the Colby Promotions Committee, will give a \$100 first prize and a \$75 second prize for the residential winners and \$75 for first and \$50 for second for the commercial winners. Nominations are due by Friday at the Chamber of Commerce office at 350 S. Range Ave. or by calling (785) 460-3401. Judging will take place this weekend.

Pets available for adoption

Colby Animal Clinic has two kittens, a small Italian greyhound puppy, a cocker spaniel puppy and two labs, one yellow and one chocolate, ready for adoption. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Gem Lions offer pancakes

The Gem Lions will hold their annual pancake feed from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. Donations, which go to community betterment, sight programs and education, will be taken for at the door for pancakes, sausage, eggs and pie.

Soup supper planned

The Colby High School Dance Team is sponsoring a soup supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. They will have chili and cream of potato, chicken noodle and cream of broccoli soups, beverages, brownies and crispy rice treats. Donations will be accepted.

Group selling cookies, candy

Kappa Upsilon sorority of Colby will hold a cookie and candy sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building. The group will have a selection of both cookies and candy to choose from. Proceeds go to community projects.

Advent programs set at churches

The Thomas County Ministerial Association is sponsoring a weekly program, "Soup and Scripture," at noon each Wednesday in December for Advent. The

season when Christians prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. This week the program will be at the First Presbyterian Church at 515 W. Fourth St., Colby.

City crew trimming trees

The Colby city crew is trimming trees over streets and sidewalks as the weather allows. Trees will be trimmed to 13 feet, 6 inches above streets and trimmed to 8 feet above sidewalks, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. For questions, call the city office at 460-4410.

Emergency medical class set

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will be offering an emergency medical technician B class starting in January. Classes will run for five to six months and financial assistance is available. For information, call training coordinator Dawnelle Umberger at (785) 460-4585 or 443-0176.

