



8 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Stay safe: take it easy on that green beer Tuesday

By Shalee Roundtree

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The best advice may be, “go easy on the green beer.”

Everyone wants to enjoy the festivities of St. Patrick’s Day, but this year, don’t let the fun leave you behind bars — or worse.

The Kansas Department of Transportation is urging people find safe means of transportation for this holiday.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that 327 people have died in traffic crashes that involved alcohol in the last year.

In Kansas, alone drunk driving has claimed over 1,200 lives in the past decade.

Law enforcement is cracking down, though. In addition to jail, and the chance of harming or killing yourself and others around you, driving while intoxicated also means an arrest record, hefty fines, legal costs and a license suspension.

For a safe and enjoyable St. Patrick’s Day, the Department of Transportation recommends:

- Plan a safe way home before your

celebrations begin. Think about a designated driver, a friend who can come get you, or a cab.

- If you plan to get a ride home with someone else, designate a sober driver before any drinking begins.

- If you’re impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member so you are sure to get home safely.

- If you know someone who is about to

drive under the influence, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to safely get where they are going.

For transportation in Colby, you can contact the Colby Cab Company at (785) 462-8294.

For more information you can visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org).

Don’t let drinking and driving ruin the fun for you or anyone this holiday.

## Six shooters, automatics, take your pick



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Steve Mastin (left) showed off his assortment of guns at the Gun and Coin Show on Saturday at Colby Community Building. The show, which drew good crowds, ran both Saturday and Sunday this weekend.

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## Wheat here holding up in dry spell

By Andy Heintz

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Though the governor has asked for a federal disaster declaration for at least one nearby Kansas county, the wheat crop around Colby looks a lot better than some nearby fields.

“We could use a drink of water, but we aren’t as bad off as the people to the south,” said Brian Olson, area agronomist in Colby for Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has asked the government to declare Scott County an agricultural disaster area as extreme dry weather threatens the wheat crop there.

“Drought and high winds are impacting crop production in Scott County to the extent that it should be declared a disaster area,” the governor said.

Scott County has had only .18 of an inch of rain this year, said Jeanie Faulk, K-State area agronomist in Goodland.

Given Scott County’s proximity, you might wonder if our area could be next. Fortunately, the

Colby area has had more than twice as much rain as Scott City so far this year, even though the amount has been below average.

Colby has received .47 of an inch so far this year, said Faulk. Ross Sloan, county executive director for the U.S. Farm Service Agency, said the area averages .80 to .90 of an inch by this time of the year.

“The crops are awful dry on the topsoil,” Sloan said. “The situation will be detrimental to farmers if we don’t get any more moisture.”

Olson said that while the conditions in Colby are not perfect, we are in much better shape than Scott County.

Olson said low moisture can decrease the tillering by the wheat plants, and the fewer tillers a plant puts out, the fewer heads it’ll produce. That could reduce yields.

He said the dry weather can end up decreasing the overall health of the plant, which can eventually kill it if the area gets dry enough. Olson said the wheat crop in Colby is doing fine right now and would continue to be OK — as long as the county gets some rain soon.

## Student lands job with newspaper

By Vera Sloan

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The newest face at Colby Free Press belongs to Shalee Roundtree, a second-semester transfer student at Colby Community College.

Roundtree is taking up some of the slack in the newsroom, where she serves as a part-time reporter intern.

A farm girl from tiny Parks, Neb., west of Benkelman, Roundtree says Colby seems like a pretty big town to her. She says she likes the college and the town and loves her job.

When she set out to find work, she added,

she had three jobs in mind.

“My first stop was at the Free Press,” she said, “and it was just a real shot in the dark, but I thought, heck, why not give it a try?”

“I was completely blown away when I got the job and was so excited, I called my mom and dad, and they were excited, too!”

Roundtree said her past work experience has been as a lifeguard and a flagger for the Nebraska Department of Roads. She is taking classes in communication and journalism, and also works at the college radio station.

She said when she made her first college visit, she was introduced to journalism and it clicked for her. She chose communication for

her major, and would like to study ag agricultural journalism.

She is covering both college and community news, including the Thomas County Fair Board and the college board.

“There’s no better way for me to learn than through experience,” she said.

Roundtree said her dream is to settle in a rural community and work for a newspaper.

Shalee is the daughter of Tom and Julie Roundtree. Her father is a rancher and her mom is a nurse. She has two older brothers, Rory, who lives in St. Louis, and Kylie, who farms with her dad. A sister, Marnee, is a student at Dundy County High in Benkelman.



Shalee Roundtree

## Boy, 2, dies after accident

A 2-year-old boy was killed Sunday, March 8, at the McCarty Dairy near Rexford after being accidentally run over by a Chevrolet pickup, the Thomas County Sheriff’s Office reported.

The boy was identified as Victor

See “CHILD,” Page 3

## Cattlemen’s groups looking for members on ranch, in city

Want to know more about Country of Origin Labeling for beef and other meats? Concerned about free or fair trade? Do you still believe in supply and demand markets? Is mandatory I.D. coming for meat animals?

This all affects rural communities, farmers and ranchers. If you want to learn

more, come and visit with board members of the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association at an informational meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Community College Student Union, Room 106.

Also present at the meetings will be Mike Schultz of Brewster, R-CALF USA Country of Origin Labeling chair, and R-

CALF member Rick Chambers.

R-CALF USA, the Ranchers and Cattlemen Legal Fund-United Stockmen of America, is a one-member/one-vote organization. Voting members must own cattle. The group works on issues that affect independent U.S. cattle producers, such as country-of-origin labeling, livestock

price reporting, animal health concerns, captive supplies and packer ownership of livestock, as well as trade agreements.

Other area meetings include:  
Atwood at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Midwest Energy Community Room.  
St. Francis, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, St. Francis Public Library, 121 N. Scott St.

Hays, 7 p.m. Friday, 1232 240th Ave, K-State Ag Research Center.

Sharon Springs, 7:30 p.m. next Monday, Community Activities Building on the fairgrounds.

Oberlin, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, The Gateway.

## Briefly

### Lenten talk on ‘Two Thieves’

The Lenten Brown Bag and Bible program at noon Wednesday will be led by the Rev. Carroll Morony on the topic of “The Two Thieves.” The program, sponsored by the Thomas County Ministerial Alliance, will be in the fellowship hall of the First Presbyterian Church. Bring your own lunch; drinks are provided.

### Kids will get eggactly trained

The Colby Recreation Department’s Second Annual EGGstravaganza will be from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday for kids 3-12. Cost is \$5 for craft supplies and egg coloring. Contact the department at 460-4440 to register.

### City 5K race set for Thursday

The Colby Recreation Department’s Second Annual Spring Fling 5K will kick off at 6 p.m. Thursday

at the Community Building. Registration will begin at 5:30 on race day. This is a predicted time run, so you don’t need to be in great shape, just finish closest to your predicted time. Contact the department for information at 460-4440.

### One dog available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a stray female terrier mix, 1 to 2 years old with long hair, available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

### Free tax help offered at library

Free tax help will be available for with low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays through April at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The

program is sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons. Call 460-2645 for information.

### Brother, sister to talk history

Ray Imhoff and his sister, Doris Johnson, who will offer a pictorial history of early Thomas County sites and events, based on their mother’s memories from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The talk is a last of the Food for Thought series, which features a soup lunch and history program on the third Thursday of the month. Call the museum at (785) 460-4590 for details or to make a reservation.

### Group offers family portrait

Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council is offering a 10-inch-by-13-inch portrait of your children for a \$10 sitting fee. Sepia tone portraits, said to be a \$90 value, will be taken with vintage at-

tire and props. Portraits will be taken by appointment on Saturday at the Colby Community Building. For information or to reserve a sitting, call 462-6111.

### Church women make lap robes

The Episcopal Women at Colby’s Ascension on the Prairie Church are starting a prayer-shawl and lap-robe ministry and are looking for others who enjoy knitting or crocheting. Prayer shawls are prayed over, then given to people in need of comfort. The lap robes are for whoever needs them, said Catherine Britton. Some will be given to nursing homes. For information, call Britton at 462-2670 or 443-0729.

