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Events shifted as storm nears

With a major winter storm bearing down, groups started canceling events tonight and Friday.

School officials said they would dismiss class at 2 p.m. today and cancel all classes for Friday at Colby schools, Heartland Christian and Sacred Heart School.

Oakley schools planned to do the same, and Brewster and Gold- en Plains closed early as well.

The National Weather Service in Goodland said it looked like the storm would arrive later than expected, with the heaviest snow farther south. While Goodland and Colby may get 3 to 6 inches, Tribune and Leoti on K-96 could get 16 to 17. Heavy snow was predicted as far east as Emporia.

Kristen Brands, spokesman in Norton for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said highway

officials expect to close I-70 to- night, but would wait until Colo- rado acts first. Snow had started in Denver by noon and was moving into the Limon area by 2 p.m.

The department moved its only snow blower to Oakley, preparing to plow U.S. 40, Brands said.

In Colby, the high school drama department put off its play, “The Great High School WhoDunit,” from tonight to next Thursday. A barbershop performance set for Saturday at Colby Community College was rescheduled for May 2. The Colby High FFA put off its mountain oyster/fish fry and work auction until next Friday, April 3.

The Colby Better Home and Living Show expected to go on, with better weather forecast for the weekend. And Farm Credit was to go ahead with a dinner tonight.

Three hurt in wreck home from hospital

Three people hurt in a wreck late Sunday near Grainfield, the parents and a friend of an 7-year-old kid wrestler who died after the crash, came home from the hospi- tal on Wednesday.

Emily Griffin of Colby said her son, Konnor, 8, had been released from Children’s Hospital in Den- ver. After tests and imaging, she said, doctors there determined he didn’t have any broken bones.

She said he had been taken to the Denver hospital Monday by ground ambulance because doc- tors at the Gove County Hospital in Quinter feared he had a frac- tured pelvis. Original reports had him going to Denver by air, but his mother said that was wrong.

Released after almost three days at the Quinter hospital were Dusk- in Lance Siruta, 42, and Melissa A. “Missy” Siruta, 35, parents of Tate D. Siruta.

Griffin said her son still com-

plaints of back pain, but everyone is getting better.

“Nobody has any broken bones,” she said. “It’s just going to take some healing time.”

She added that people have been wonderful since the wreck.

“I think we’ve got enough can- dy bars for two years,” she said. “The phones have been ringing off the hook.”

She added that with spring break this week in Colby, her son hopes to be back in class on Monday.

Services for Tate will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Colby United Methodist Church with Pastor James Mardock officiating and burial in Beulah Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the Harrison Chapel.

Griffin said cards can be sent to Konnor at 265 E. Walnut in Colby and to the Sirutas at 1114 S. Court.



Auctioneer Steve Bugbee (left), weigh man John Jones and clerk Lori Wilson are among the 15 employees who help work the sale each Thursday at Colby Livestock Auction. The sale barn here, built in 1928, has stood the test of time.

Sale barn here draws a crowd

By Vera Sloan

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Buyers, sellers, clerks, auctioneers, pen runners, weight men and recording secre- taries all have their part in making Colby’s livestock sale barn spring to life each week as cattle, sheep, goats and horses go around the ring.

Not only has Colby Livestock Auction re- mained as an active market outlet for farmers and ranchers in northwest Kansas for more than 80 years, it has also served as a place where friends and neighbors like to meet and just visit about the latest community news — or gossip — in a friendly and lively setting.

Everyone comes to attention when the ani- mals they want are let into the ring. They are herded around for prospective buyers to see each side of the animal, whether it has any blemishes, or if it looks like something they can make a little profit on.

Veterans warn newcomers not to scratch their head or the auctioneer may take it as a bid. The best advice is that if you don’t in- tend to go home with a critter, one said with a grin, you just might want to sit on your hands.

Leland and Roxy Wilson, owners of the sale barn on South Country Club Drive, ride herd on a colorful crew.

It takes 15 employees to cover all the jobs for each Thursday’s auction. The couple said

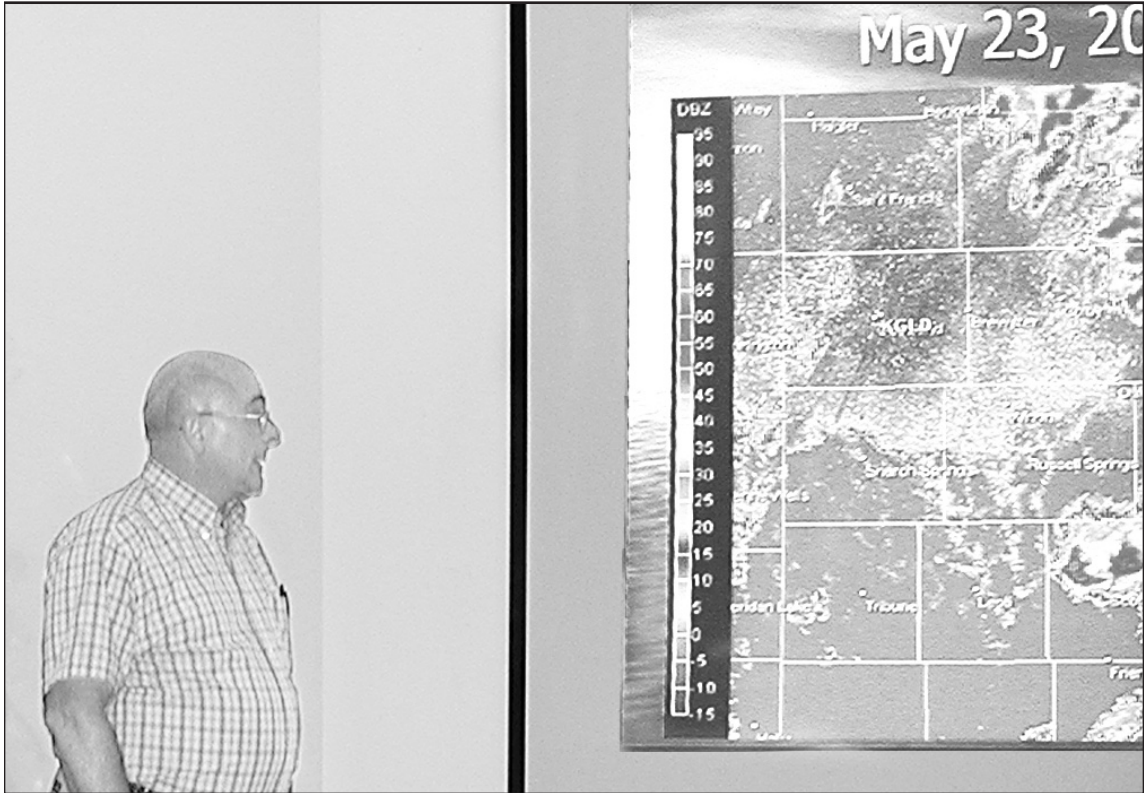
records show the present sale barn was built in 1928 by Claude Connely. There have been many owners and auctioneers throughout the years, but Colby’s auction has stood the test of time.

“We sold in excess of 14,400 head of cat- tle, 7,500 head of sheep, 3,000 head of hogs, 1,400 head of horses and nearly 8,500 head of goats in 2008,” Leland Wilson said.

Thursday is the regular sale day, with cat- tle selling every Thursday, adding hogs the second and fourth week, and sheep on the first and third Thursdays, he said.

Goats are added to the bill on the third Thursday of the month, while the first Mon-

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Dave Floyd, a meteorologist and warning co-ordinator at the Goodland weather station, showed a slide of radar readings from May 23, when tornadoes swept across northwest Kansas, at a storm spotter class Monday night at the Colby Community Building.

Volunteers here get a glimpse of what to spot in bad storms

By Marj Brown

Colby Free Press
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There will be a lot of eyes on the skies above northwest Kansas this spring, due to the efforts of National Weather Service workers out of Goodland, including at least 81 volunteers who sat through a storm spotter class Monday at the Community Building.

The office responsible for watching and reporting the weath- er in 19 area counties, including three in southwest Nebraska and three in northeast Colorado.

This is a big area, said David Floyd, meteorologist and warn- ing coordinator at the Goodland weather station, the forecasters need a lot of help from everyone who’s interested in learning how to spot and report clouds that

Scientists to converge

Weather scientists and mete- orologists will be all over north- west Kansas from May 10 to June 15 to study area clouds.

David Floyd, a meteorologist for the National Weather Ser- vice in Goodland, said they will be carrying out a field project for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, gathering information on area storms for use by the National Service Storm Labs. This project, called Vortex 2, will be the first of its kind since 1994 and

1995. Floyd says many of the scientists and storm chasers will come from Boulder, Colo., and Norman, Okla.

Their goal, Floyd says, is to find a storm with potential to form a tornado and to sample that storm with everything they have. Their equipment will measure wind speed, direction and temperature while the tor- nado is being produced. They also have a truck called the

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might spawn tornadoes and other dangerous weather, including floods, lightning, wind and hail.

Susan McMahan, Thomas

County emergency management director, is the contact here.

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Briefly

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 4-month-old, fawn-colored female boxer puppy, a 1 1/2 to 2-year-old male lab/corgi mix and a little 6-month to 1-year-old long-haired brown dog avail- able for adoption. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are mini- mal. For questions, call 460-8621.

FFA changes date of feed

With a winter storm expected, the Colby High FFA chapter has rescheduled its labor auction and moun- tain-oyster/fish fry from this week to 6:30 p.m. next Friday, April 3, in the commons area of the school. Students’ labor, projects and various items will be auctioned off. Ag instructor Shawna Howell-Hoff- man said they will have door prizes and giveaways. Everyone who attends will get a free bird feeder as

a thank-you from Howell-Hoffman. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Call Howell-Hoffman at 460-5320 for questions.

Scouts plan craft fair at show

Venture Scouts 157 are holding a craft fair dur- ing the Better Home and Living Show Friday, Satur- day and Sunday at the Colby Community Building. Participants include vendors for Mia Belle Candles, Nana’s Comfort Foods, Share the Bounty and sev- eral others selling homemade noodles, breads, dip mixes, jewelry, candles and handcrafted items. For information, call Jan Barnum, 462-6503.

District offering trees for sale

The Thomas County Conservation District is of- fering trees for sale. Orders must be placed by Satur- day for delivery about Saturday, April 18. They can be for any number or variety of trees, for yard plant-

ing or field use. All but one type are \$1.50 each, said Debbie Potter, district manager. Call her at (785) 462-7482, extension 303, for questions or to order.

Barbershop on tap at college

With a blizzard in the forecast, an appearance by the quartet Realtime for the “Back to the Roots of Barbershop” show sponsored by the Colby Area Barbershoppers, has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 2. Tickets, \$10 each in advance or \$12 at the door, can be purchased from any member or by call- ing (800) 269-7059 or (785) 462-2474. Anyone who already has a ticket should keep and use it in May.

Sausage, biscuits in Brewster

The men of the Brewster Methodist Church plan a biscuit-and-sausage-gravy dinner with dessert and salad from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday. And offering will be taken for youth and mission projects.

Radio control club plans race

The Racing for Christ radio controlled car club will race at 2 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church, 615 W. Webster. The club will be giving a radio-con- trolled car away in April. Come find out how to win. For information, call Kent Higerd, 462-3440

Preschool looking for kids

Puddle Duck Preschool, 520 W. Fifth, plans an en- rollment open house from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday for kids age 3-5 interested in the fall term. The school welcomes all denominations, said teacher Amy Jen- nings. Call her at 460-2603 for information.

