



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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*A Free Press editorial:*

## Voters should support pool

Colby voters will go to the polls Tuesday at the Community Building to decide whether the city should issue \$7.5 million in bonds to finance both its new fire station and a new swimming pool.

We hope everyone will turn out to vote — polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. — and we hope people will think about what is best for the future of Colby before they make a decision.

In our view, this should be a simple exercise.

Every town needs a good swimming pool, and the 60-year-old municipal pool has outlived its usefulness. Colby families are taking their money down the road to find better facilities, while competitive swimmers loath coming here.

The city already has a new \$2.5 million fire station to be paid for out of the same bond is-

ue, which would leave \$5 million for a pool. The plan developed by supporters seems solid, providing a facility that should last for generations — just as the old pool has.

Anyone who doesn't believe in the need for a pool hasn't watched the kids and parents walking downtown, or pouring out of cars, on a hot summer day. They've become cranky, or forgotten what it's like to be a kid — or raise a family.

Some complain about linking a pool and the fire station in one issue, but city officials point out they can save taxpayers \$462,300 if they do. What's wrong with that?

These are things the city needs to pay for, and a sales tax over 10 years is the least painful way to do that. Vote yes Tuesday, for the future of Colby.

— Steve Haynes

## Fall back when Daylight Savings ends on Sunday

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday morning at 2 a.m., when clocks here will be set back one hour to 1 a.m. Central Standard Time.

Daylight time returns in the U.S. on the second Sunday in March (March 7 this year), when clocks are set ahead one hour, and ends on the first Sunday in November. These dates were established by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

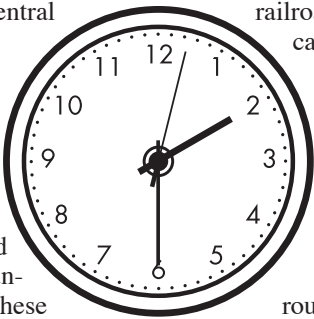
Not all places in the U.S. observe daylight time. Hawaii and

most of Arizona do not.

Standard time zones were instituted in the U.S. and Canada by the railroads in 1883, and became law in 1918. The act also established

Daylight Saving time, though it was repealed in 1919. It was re-established nationally during World War II, and was observed year-round from Feb. 9, 1942, to Sept. 30, 1945.

The Uniform Time Act of 1966 standardized the dates of beginning and end of daylight time.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

The Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Department of Transportation closed I-70 from Colby to the Colorado border late Thursday evening, causing a backup of traffic along the major cross-country route. Vehicles, including many commer-

cial trucks, were still backed up as the road opened this morning. Local law enforcement officers and the patrol were out to make sure traffic kept flowing.

## Icy roads and blowing winds

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press

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"Wave the flag, 114, wave the flag," was the signal from the Thomas County dispatch this morning heralding the reopening of I-70 west from Colby after a storm in Colorado and a shortage of motel rooms to the west forced closing the road Thursday night.

A storm that hit the Rocky Mountains and blanketed Colorado's Front Range with as much as two feet of snow moved east Thursday, causing road closures and blizzard warnings across the region. Snowfall across north-west Kansas varied from two to nine inches.

Colby, Golden Plains and Heartland Christian schools canceled Friday classes. Brewster Schools had the day off due to their four-day schedule.

The National Weather Service station reported about 5 inches at their office in Goodland, two inches in Decatur County, four at Oakley and nine at McDonald. Colby received anywhere from

two to six in others.

After leaving the area early this morning, the storm continued northeast into Nebraska.

I-70 was closed from Burlington, Colo., to Denver all day Thursday due to icy road conditions and blowing snow. The Kansas Department of Transportation closed I-70 from Colby to the Colorado border at about 9 p.m. Thursday night because of whiteout cause by high winds. It was reopened for local traffic to and from Goodland this morning and reopened from Goodland west about 9:30 a.m. The west-bound gates at Colby opened at 9:50. U.S. 36 west of St. Francis also was closed overnight.

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office said U.S. 24 west of Colby was closed, but all other highways remained open.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported no weather-related accidents Thursday night. A vehicle hit a guard rail at mile post 80, east of Oakley, about 8 a.m. this morning and a vehicle slid off I-70 east of mile post 76, just past Oakley, about 10 a.m. There were no injuries.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Owners, managers and employees in Colby bundled up this morning to get the snow off their front sidewalks. Some businesses and organizations even used front-end loaders to get rid of the snow. Colby got as much as six inches of snow in some places.

## Hays artist paints history of Kansas for Capitol building mural

By Aubrey Spencer

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Kansans will have a chance to appreciate our state and its history a little better, thanks to artist Dennis Schiel, who is combining art and history in a big way in a mural he hopes will hang someday in the Statehouse.

The Hays artist is filling in a huge mural of the Sunflower State which, when completed, will comprise 10 three-foot-by-four-foot panels, covering a wall area of about 16 feet by eight and a half feet. Each of the 10 panels, done with acrylic paint, will represent a different part of the

state, Schiel said.

Schiel, a professional artist for last 20 years, is not a native. He arrived from Idalia, Colo., three years ago to set up his studio gallery in Hays, and says he has enjoyed his time in the state very much, he said.

"Kansas appreciation to art is second to none," Schiel said.

Schiel said he started out originally as a portrait artist. Over the years, he has been commissioned to paint Gov. Richard Lamm of Colorado, entertainer Wayne Newton in Las Vegas, quarterback John Elway of the Denver Broncos and others.

The idea for the grand mural came as Schiel was working on another project, he

said. The artist had been commissioned by a rancher in Garden City to do a three-panel piece, depicting the rancher's family history.

"When I was working on that painting," he said, "someone came into my studio, saw the piece, and suggested that I do one about the state of Kansas."

Schiel said when the recession hit last October, and commissions cancelled, he decided to go ahead and start the mural.

The artist has three panels completed and is working on panel No. 4, the northwest corner of the state. Schiel was in Colby this week gathering information about what to include on the panel and raising financial support from this area.

Schiel said he hopes to finish the panel for this area by mid-December and it will include Colby's Cooper Barn, the Thomas County Courthouse, Buffalo Bill, the world's first helicopter in Goodland, astronaut Ron Evans, the Cheyenne Indians with Chief Black Kettle, Smokey the Bear, former Sen. Bob Dole, Charles Lindberg, President Eisenhower, threshing wheat and other important monuments and people from this area.

Schiel said the painting will take two years and will be the most detailed mural he has ever done. The artist estimates it will take 2,200 hours of actual painting time plus countless hours of fund raising along with probably 500-600 hours of re-

search. Schiel said the total cost for the project will be about \$230,000. He has raised \$70,000 for the three panels that are completed and estimates he will have \$100,000 by year's end.

Schiel said the mural will be paid for by individuals, companies and foundations. He is traveling to each of the 10 sections of the state, raising money and gathering information about what to put on each panel. He said he also spends a great deal of time researching history books as well.

The artist said he plans for the mural to be completed by January 2011, for the

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## Briefly

### For latest flu info, call 460-4599

A hot line for answers to questions on seasonal influenza and the H1N1 flu strain will be available throughout the flu season at (785) 460-4599. The Thomas County Health Department said information about the status and availability of vaccines, priority groups and the like will be available at this number.

### Hospital auxiliary needs help

The Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for volunteers to greet visitors, operate the gift shop and help patients and their families, among other things. If you'd like to become involved, call Tama Unger at (785) 460-1214 or Mary Smith at (785) 462-3387.

### Coaches offer coffee, talk

Join the Colby High School football staff for "Coffee with the Coaches" at 9 a.m. Saturday and every

Saturday after home and away games at the Sports Shoppe, Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call Eagles' Coach Chris Gardener at 460-1390.

### Come get a scare at soccer house

The American Youth Soccer Organization will have a haunted house from 7 p.m. to midnight tonight and 8 to midnight on Saturday at 660 N. Franklin Ave. There will be a matinee for kids 11 and under from 5 to 7 p.m. on Halloween. Admission will be \$3 for kids under 12, \$5 for everyone 12 and over and \$2 at the matinee, or \$1 with a food item for the Genesis-Thomas County food bank. All proceeds go to the soccer group. For information, call Emily Griffin at 460-0467.

### Trinity youths selling greenery

The Trinity Lutheran Youth are selling fresh greens and accessories to arrive the week of Nov. 30, just

in time for holiday decorating. Choose from among wreaths, garland centerpieces or a living tree. There is a new "Wintergreen Wreath" design this year. Orders can be shipped. Deadline is Sunday, Nov. 8. To order or for information, call Raenette Martin at 462-3400 or Linda Pabst at 462-3497.

### Halloween bash for kids 13, under

Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Thomas County Community Foundation and the Modern Woodmen will hold a Halloween Bash for kids 13 and under from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. There will be food, prizes, games and lots of fun, said Diane Stithem of Big Brothers Big Sisters. For information, call Stithem at 460-9125.

### Brewster church plans turkey feed

The Brewster United Methodist Church will hold

its annual Thanksgiving turkey supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the church, 202 Nebraska. Donations will be accepted. For information, call Nadine Kammer at (785) 694-2456.

### Trivia night planned at library

The Pioneer Memorial Library plans a Trivia Pursuit Night at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Get your team of six to eight players together or call the library to join a team of random players. Each team will bring snack food for a potluck of chips, crackers, popcorn, veggies and the like to munch on. A prize will be given for the winners. For questions, to call 460-4470.



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