



# Snow fails to stop determined harvesters

By Vera Sloan

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Where there's a will there's a way is certainly true when it's almost the middle of December, and there are still crops in the field.

Audrey Hines at Cornerstone Ag said grain trucks were slow coming into the elevator this week, but they did receive corn into the elevator every day during the three-day snow fall.

John Schroeder, who farms north of Colby, didn't let the snow on the ground nor the near blizzard conditions — temperatures were hovering near zero and below on Tuesday — interfere with getting his dryland corn out of the field.

"When we started cutting on Sunday, we still had about 700 acres of dryland corn in the field, and it was snowing hard," said Jeanne, John's wife. "Then on Monday the weather forecast said we could have winds as high as 45 miles per hour.

"John got pretty antsy after hearing the forecast, and although Shorty Kulhenek had two combines going in the field for us, John called Leo Stephens to see if he could bring a combine. He was good enough to come out in the snow and cold and help us. Those guys were all such a help. We hauled some of it to the elevator, and bagged some of it."

She said John got in about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and although some of the grain was still on trucks, the harvest was completed and it was a good feeling to be done.

L.J. O'Neal told the Colby Free Press on Wednesday morn-

ing, while he was out checking the fields north of Brewster, that he still has 180 acres of dryland corn, one circle of irrigated corn and quite a lot of milo left to cut. He said he cut milo in the snow on Sunday until the snow started sticking to the heads.

"It looks like there's about six inches of snow in the wheat stubble and around three inches in the milo stalks," he said, "with about 25 percent of the heads on the ground, and under the snow. I'll just end up leaving what is on the ground and deal with it in the spring."

He said he was surprised that there wasn't more on the ground, but this last storm didn't put anymore down than was already there. He estimated around 10 to 15 percent of the crops are still standing, and said he counted five circles and two fields of dryland corn between Brewster and the county line when he drove up to check his fields on Wednesday morning.

"I try to stay up-beat, because there isn't anything I can do to change things. We were one of the lucky ones who didn't get any hail."

Clint Milliman from the Thomas County Extension office, who lives north of Hoxie said in his area, there is probably six to eight of inches of snow, and he was glad to see the cover on the wheat.

"It will be interesting to see if there's any winterkill from the low temperatures" he said, "but this blanket of snow will really help. It all depends on how strong of a root system it developed before the cold set in."



JEANNE SCHROEDER

Determined to finish harvest before it fell victim to more snow and possible high winds, John Schroeder who farms north of Colby didn't let a snow storm and sub-zero temperatures deter his efforts Sunday, Monday and Tuesday to finish up the 2009 corn harvest.

# High school sophomore wins college treasure hunt

By Vera Sloan

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Fifteen-year-old Nick Larmer of Colby found the token that led to the treasure in the second annual Colby Community College treasure hunt, and the right to claim

the treasure of \$200 in bookstore bucks.

"I was really excited when I found it," he said. "I knew it either had to be on a building or on the broadcast tower."

The rules of the hunt call for the treasure to be hidden somewhere on the campus, with a new clue that would lead to the treasure to be broadcast several times a

day over the college radio station. Larmer said he would listen to the college radio to get the new clue each day.

"I would go out to the campus every day and look around to see if I could find it," he said. "My friend Garrett Jones and my sister Leanna would go with me, but we just couldn't find it."

Then on Friday, the Larmer family drove to Denver to watch the light parade and arrived home late on Saturday night.

"Nick wanted to go out to the campus after we got home around 11 on Saturday night to look around," said Mike Larmer, Nick's dad. "I wasn't about to let him go out there that time of night, to wander

over the campus when the temperature was not too far above zero."

The younger Larmer, who plays in the Pride of the Plains Orchestra, said that during the Christmas concert on Sunday, it hit him where the treasure might be hid-

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## Helpful elves



MELINDA OLSON/Thomas County Community Foundation

Laurel and Lincoln Myers got help shopping from an elf, Joan Ziegler, during the Thomas County Community Foundation's Santa's Workshop, Saturday at the Thomas County Office Complex. More than 360 gifts were sold that day; proceeds will benefit local non-profits.

# Cold wave chases snowstorm across western United States

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Frigid temperatures iced the Upper Midwest as a storm that dumped more than a foot of snow in several states from Iowa to New England threatened another round on Thursday as it neared the end of its cross-country trek.

Commuters from Des Moines to Chicago were warned of morning temperatures reaching 10 degrees at best and icy roads. Wind chill values could dip as low as negative 25 in parts of Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois, according to the National Weather Service.

Blizzard warnings covered parts of southwest Michigan where another 12 inches of snow was expected by Friday evening. Up to 18 inches could fall in parts of central and western New York, while wind gusts approaching 60 mph were reported near Buffalo.

But most of the Midwest was focused on digging out of the snow — up to 19 inches in some areas — and bracing for bitter-cold weather.

"It's already very cold across the entire region," said Casey Sullivan, a weather service meteorologist in Romeoville, Ill., adding that parts of northern Illinois may hit only 2 degrees. "Iowa's even colder."

Des Moines, which saw 16 inches of snow by Wednesday, could see a high near 9 degrees — but wind chill values could make temperatures feel like

minus 25. In Madison, Wis., near where almost 19 inches of snow fell, the wind chill could hit minus 20, according to the weather service.

New England, also pounded by heavy snow and strong winds on Wednesday, expected more snow but temperatures to hover around freezing.

Wind gusts of nearly 60 mph may have contributed to a double-decker bus overturning Thursday on the New York State Thruway near Buffalo. The driver and eight of the 12 passengers were taken to hospitals, but none was seriously injured, state police said.

The storm was expected to move off the coast of Maine by Thursday night, having affected about two-thirds of the country since hitting California earlier this week, meteorologists predicted.

The storm was blamed for at least 17 deaths, most in traffic accidents. Hundreds of schools were closed, power was knocked out to thousands of people from Missouri to New York and hundreds of flights were canceled.

In northern New York, up to a foot fell on Wednesday and more than 3 feet was expected by the week's end. Areas in Maine and New Hampshire received

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## Briefly

### Food bank needs holiday helpers

Genesis-Thomas County needs volunteers to help fill food baskets at 7 p.m. Friday at the 4-H building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Anyone can come help. The baskets will be given out from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the 4-H building. For information, call the Genesis office at 460-7930.

### Legion offers Christmas dinner

The Colby American Legion will hold a Christmas dinner at 6 p.m. Sunday at the American Legion Club, 1850 W. Fourth St. The public is invited for soup, sandwiches, drinks, and gifts for children 9 and under. If the dinner is snowed out, it will be held on Sunday, Dec. 20. For information, call Jim at 269-7074.

### Benefit for Colby family

There will be a benefit soup supper and silent auc-

tion for the family of Bob Rundel, who died Saturday, at 5 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Building. For information, call Kathy Vaughn at 462-7306.

### Bible, lunch merge for Advent

The Thomas County Ministerial Association is sponsoring "Advent Brown Bags and Bible" from noon to 12:50 p.m. Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall of the Colby Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. The theme this year is "Joy to the World." Jarrod Spencer (Church of Christ) will speak Wednesday, with Larry Booth on Dec. 23. Bring a sack lunch; dessert and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

### Fatherhood program to start soon

The Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center's "24/7 Dad" fatherhood program will be offered again starting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5 at the First

Presbyterian Church in Colby. For information, call the center at 460-8177.

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

A hot line for 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 says 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. If you'd like to get involved, call Tama Unger at (785) 460-1214 or Mary Smith at (785) 462-3387.

### College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming

pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Open swimming is 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.

### Fourth grade program delayed

The Colby Grade School fourth grade music program has been postponed to next Thursday. There will be two showings at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the grade school auditorium. The performances are free and open to the public. For information, call the school at 460-5100.



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