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Wind chill, snow threaten Colby area

By Kevin Bottrell

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It may seem impossible, but just two days after temperatures in the 60s, Thomas County is in the path of what the National Weather Service is calling a "major winter storm."

The plains and Midwest saw areas of light snow this morning, with heavier snow in the Rocky Mountains. The service is predicting the snow on the plains will move east throughout the day and expand south.

In Thomas County, the service is predicting blowing snow tonight and Tuesday, with temperatures as low as -3 degrees tonight and -12 degrees Tuesday night. The area could get 1 to 3 inches of snow tonight, but it is expected to taper off tomorrow, with less than one more inch Tuesday.

The real danger from this storm will be wind. The service has a wind chill warning in effect for the tri-state area until 6 p.m. Tuesday. Winds could get up to 25 mph with higher gusts. This could bring down temperatures to -25 degrees or lower factoring in wind chill.

The service issues a wind chill advisory when cold air and wind combine to bring perceived temperatures to -25 or lower. At that level, a person can get frostbite in less than 15 minutes, or get hypothermia if outside for too long. The service advises wearing hats and gloves.

Colby Public Schools, Sacred Heart School and Heartland Christian School released early and have canceled classes for Tuesday. Brewster Schools did not release early today, but will have a



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Drivers were fortunate to have little ice on the roads this morning as the snow began to accumulate. The National Weather Service said only 1 to 3 inches of snow will accumulate, but the main danger from the storm is wind, which could gust up to 35 mph and drive temperatures down into the -20s with wind chill.

two-hour start delay tomorrow. At press time, Golden Plains had not officially announced plans to cancel school. Colby Community

College will have classes. Some activities scheduled for tonight have also been cancelled including Golden Plains Middle

School basketball games against Tribune, which were to be at 4 p.m.; and Colby junior varsity tournament games against Saint

Francis and Oberlin, which were to be at 6 and 7:30 p.m. The weather should improve Wednesday. The service is predict-

ing highs near 12, winds between 5 and 15 mph and no more snow.

Eagles place second at first forensics match

The Colby High forensics team placed second at their first meet of the year Saturday in Hill City.

Colby had a team score of 262 points. Norton placed first with 275 points and Quinter placed third with 257.

"The Eagles entered 18 entries in the Hill City tournament and 14 of those made it into finals," said Coach Nancy Rundell. "A great opening for our season."

Individual scores included:

Prose: Hannah Matchell, fourth; and Blake McNinch, fifth.

Poetry: Christina Ostmeyer, third; and Chase

McNinch, second.

Improvised duet acting: Christina Ostmeyer and Cameron McLaughlin, first; and Hannah Matchell and Jennifer Schwanke, fourth.

Extemporaneous speaking: Bailey Koerperich, second.

Informative speaking: Bailey Koerperich; fourth.

Oration: Jared Nally, fifth; and Kate Ostmeyer, sixth.

Serious Solo: Gabby Brown, second; Cameron McLaughlin, fourth; and Audra Fleming, fifth.

Humorous Solo: Tomi Miller, fourth.

Interviews to begin Tuesday for Colby College president

By Andy Heintz

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Don Weiss, a dean of evening, weekend and graduate studies for the Keller Graduate School of Management of Devry University in Kansas City, Mo. will be the first of four candidates to be interviewed for president of Colby Community College.

The public can meet with Weiss from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. in the multipurpose room of the student union on campus, college admin-

istrative assistant Beverly Anderson said.

The college board will interview Weiss from 7 to 9 a.m. on Tuesday at Thomas Hall. His is the only name that the board has released so far.

They approved the interview at a special meeting Friday morning at Thomas Hall. The other candidate's public forums are scheduled for Thursday, Friday and next Monday.

Weiss teaches business plan writing and information technology courses at Devry. He was the

founder and president of Kansas City-based Information Technology, a training company that was ranked No. 172 on *INC Magazine's* INC 500 fastest growing private companies.

Weiss has also worked as an information services manager for the city of Olathe and is a member of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce. He was the chief operations officer for two area companies and is also a member of the Kansas Cavalry, an organization

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Pancakes, give-aways highlight energy challenge kick-off event

By Kevin Bottrell

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The first event in the Take Charge Challenge, an energy efficiency competition between cities, is coming up this weekend.

A pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building will help launch Colby's effort to win \$100,000 toward energy efficient street lights or a similar conservation project.

The Colby Kiwanis Club will be serving the pancakes in the Little Theater. The Take Charge Leadership Committee will have tables set up upstairs in the lobby. The committee will have bulbs on hand to give out and computers set up to report their upgrades on the web. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city used part of the \$25,000 grant from the challenge's sponsor to get 3,000 bulbs for the event.

Midwest Energy will have a booth set up to get people interested in their HowSmart energy program. The program is a home audit, which provides recom-

mendations on how to improve a home's energy efficiency. Recommendations might include new or better insulation, air sealing or a heating and cooling upgrade. If a person makes all the recommended upgrades, they are not charged for the audit.

Efficiency Kansas will have a booth to show off their loan program, which provides low-interest loans to make energy-efficient improvements.

There will also be a drawing for an Energy Star 46-inch LCD high definition television. The drawing is open to anyone

over 18 who has a 67701 zip code. The drawing will be held at 2 p.m.

The kick-off is just part of the city's efforts to win the challenge. Armstrong said the city will try to have some kind of event every month, the next one being a booth at the Better Home and Living Show March 25, 26 and 27.

Colby is currently in third place after WaKeeney and Goodland, both of which held kick-off events this weekend. The standings are calculated per capita, with the number of compact fluorescent light bulbs switches divided by population.

Colby has recorded 1,023 switches compared to WaKeeney's 1,529 and Goodland's 1,900. Oakley is currently in fourth place and Hoxie in fifth.

For the final score, cities are able to get points in three categories, with the first being "whole house" energy audits. Colby will get points any time someone has an energy audit, such as a federal weatherization audit for low income families or a HowSmart audit from Midwest Energy. Armstrong said the city gets a lot

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Briefly

Pick up cemetery decorations

Christmas grave decorations at Beulah Cemetery must be picked up by Friday. Decorations still in place after Friday will be disposed of. For information, call secretary Relda Galli at 462-6714.

Television board meets here

The board of directors of Smoky Hills Public Television Corporation, Inc. will have a Board Meeting at 1 p.m. on Thursday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The public is invited to attend.

Saturday is scrapbook day

Heartland Christian School will hold a scrapbooking party from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday at the school. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for students for a full day, and \$15 for adults and \$8 for students for half a day. Meals are included. To make a reservation, call Lucy Wood at (785) 460-2721 or the school at 460-6419. To preorder supplies, please call Sally Runnalls in the evenings at (785) 672-4910.

Dance Saturday at clubhouse

There will be a singles and couples dance from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Course clubhouse. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

Senior group offering tax help

The American Association of Retired Persons will offer tax preparation help for low and middle income taxpayers - with preference to those 60 or older - by appointment from early February to April 15. For information or to set up an appointment, call Earle Rice at 462-2990.

Church to hold talks on marriage

The Colby Independent Baptist Church will hold a free marriage and family conference Sunday to Wednesday, Feb. 9, at the church. Lectures will be at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday; and at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Dr. Bob Bliss from Colorado Springs will speak about biblical

principles for successful marriage, family and home life. The conference is open to the public. For information, call Pastor Bernard Heinz at 460-0313.

Wesleyan offers regular study

Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a weekly ladies' Bible study, "Discerning the Voice of God," by Priscilla Shirer, each Wednesday beginning Feb. 9. Two sessions are available, 9 to 11 a.m. at the church, 320 W. Pine, and 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The six-week study is designed to help participants know the voice of God: his language, character and tone. For information, call Joy Rothfuss at 462-8391 or e-mail at wesleyan@st-tel.net.

Orchestra plans concert Feb. 13

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra, made up of musicians from the tri-state area, will perform at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, in the Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College. Jan Wolf will conduct the concert, featuring selections from "The Moldau,"

"Dances With Wolves," "Finlandia," Brahms' "Concerto in A Minor for Two Violins" - with soloists Kendra and Josiah Akers - and more. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children and senior citizens. Punch and cookies will be served at intermission. For information, call President Mary Shoaff at 462-2159 or e-mail comments@prairieorchestra.com.

Mingo, school plan conference

The Mingo Bible Church and Heartland Christian School will hold a "New Love and Respect" video marriage conference from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, and from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, at the school. Cost is \$15 per person through next Monday and \$20 after that. For information, call the school at 460-6419.



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