



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Two tractors were busy clearing the parking lot of Warta Plaza on Range Avenue Tuesday afternoon. About 4 1/2 inches of snow had fallen at the time and the storm was still going. Residents and businesses were using any means available to keep their parking lots and sidewalks clear, including everything from shovels and snow-blowers to skid loaders and plows.

## Slick highways cause several injuries

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press  
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Slick roads and blowing snow caused several accidents around the area, including one Monday night that sent a 21-year-old Colby man to a Denver hospital.

Trooper Adam Medicott's report said Brady Rundel, 21, of Colby was driving his 2002 Dodge pickup truck west on U.S. 24 east of Colby at 11:30 p.m. Monday. According to the report, he attempted

to pass a car and lost control. He spun into the north ditch and rolled once. His truck came to rest facing southeast.

Rundel and his passenger, Dalen Schlageck, 21, of Colby, were ejected from the truck. Neither had been wearing a seatbelt. Rundel was not injured, but was taken to Citizens Medical Center. Schlageck sustained severe injuries and was flown to Swedish Medical Center, a Level I trauma center in Denver. He is reported to be in critical condition.

The next morning, a semi-trailer rig

went into a ditch in Logan County.

Trooper Terry Kummer's report said Michael Jenkins, 53, of Gary, Ind., was driving east on I-70 about two miles west of Grinnell in his 2000 Freightliner, when another vehicle tried to pass him. The vehicle threw up snow and slush, causing whiteout conditions in front of Jenkins, who went into the south ditch and rolled.

Jenkins had been wearing a seatbelt. He was taken to Logan County Hospital with possible injuries.

There were several other accidents

around the area. At 1:41 a.m. Tuesday, the Thomas County Sheriff's office reported a slideoff on I-70 at milepost 58. The vehicle had been heading east when it slid off the road and lost a tire. Another vehicle hit a guard rail at milepost 61 on I-70 about an hour later.

Colby received 4 1/2 to 5 inches of snow from the storm, which began Monday night and continued all day Tuesday. The storm dropped as much as 7 inches around northwest Kansas. It forced several organizations to postpone events,

such as Colby Community College baseball and softball, the Colby Grade School second grade musical, the More Fun Together senior potluck and the Citizens Medical Center open house. The state tornado drill, scheduled for Tuesday, will be Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

However, the snow may not stick around very long. The National Weather Service is predicting sunny days with high temperatures of 53 degrees Thursday, 61 degrees Friday and 53 degrees Saturday. There is a slight chance of rain Sunday.

## College faculty plans board candidate forum

The Colby Community College Faculty Alliance and Student Government Association are sponsoring a college board candidate forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on campus.

Voters will be choosing three members to serve four-year terms on the college governing board in the April 5 election. Candidates include incumbents Dale Hershberger and Arlen Leiker. Other candidates are Dr. Angela Dijanic-Rogers, Dinah Charles, Nick Wells and Susan McMahan. Larry McDonald has announced he will be a write-in

candidate. Current board member Mark Winger did not file for reelection.

Faculty Alliance President Bob Selby will be moderator for the event. Student government President Tyson Miller will ask the questions.

The forum is free and open to the public. Questions will be chosen before the event.

To submit a question for consideration, e-mail bob.selby@colbycc.edu or deb.bickner@colbycc.edu by Sunday, March 20.

For information call Selby at 460-5529.

## Hospital foundation buys new mammography machine

By Vera Sloan

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Citizens Medical Center has received a new digital mammography screening machine.

The machine was a gift from Citizens Foundation. It replaces the analog machine which no longer meets standards.

Kim Weigel, mammography radiology technician for 11 years, said doctors are now recommending their patients get digital mammograms over analog mammograms.

"With the analog screening machine, tissue could be cloudy, but any growth inside the cloudy issue was not distinguishable, whereas with the new machine it is," she said. "The radiologist can zoom in for a clearer and closer picture."

"Digital mammography is especially recommended for women under 50. Younger women have greater hormone activity. Many times younger women with a more dense tissue tend to have more aggressive cancer, so it's important to catch it as soon as possible. With the digital machine, the pictures are more accurate and easier for a radiologist to read. There's also not quite as much pressure with this machine."



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Kim Weigel, lead mammography radiology technician at Citizens Medical Center, explained some of the advantages of the new digital screening mammography equipment at the hospital.

## Senate backs education cuts

By John Milburn

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — A Kansas Senate panel endorsed most of Republican Gov. Sam Brownback's proposed cuts in aid to public schools, reflecting a loss of federal aid and tight state revenues.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee adopted a subcommittee's recommendation to reduce the base aid to Kansas' 289 school districts in the fiscal year beginning July 1. The panel followed the outline of Brownback's proposal, making minor tweaks to specific programs in an effort to blunt the effect.

"The education budget is struggling, but all budgets are struggling," said Sen. Mark Taddiken, a Clay Center Republican.

Senators moved about \$4 million around in the Department of Education budget, adding \$6 back to the base per pupil. If adopted, school districts would see their base aid per student drop to \$3,786.

The recommendation also requires that half of any new revenue collected by the state in 2011 above the April forecast be dedicated to public schools.

"Given our revenue at the end of February and the prospects, it doesn't look promising there

will any new revenue," said Senate Vice President John Vratil, a Leawood Republican.

State revenues collections were off \$11 million in February from what had been expected.

Vratil and two Senate colleagues resumed negotiations Tuesday with three House members to find a compromise plan to trim the current budget. The group, which had not met Monday or last week, is supposed to draft a final, compromise version of a bill revising the current budget, but the work has stalled over special education spending.

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## Briefly

### Hospital open house postponed

The Citizens Medical Center open house scheduled for Tuesday has been postponed due to weather. A later date will be announced. For information, call Tama Unger at 460-1214.

### Senior potluck rescheduled

The group More Fun Together has postponed their potluck dinner until 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church because of weather. The dinner is for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

### Second grade musical delayed

The Colby Grade School second grade musical has been postponed due to weather until Tuesday, March 22. For information, call grade school music teacher

Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

### Baptists offer eight-week study

The First Baptist Church plans a "40-Day Bible Adventure" program Thursdays from March 10 to April 21, covering the full sweep of the Bible story as it has played out in history. There will be two sessions, one from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and another from 7 to 8 p.m., at the church, Grant and West Webster. Everyone is invited. Call 462-2867 or 462-2336 for information.

### Church to serve food at show

Trinity Lutheran Church will have a food booth at the Gun and Pawn Show from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Community Building. The proceeds will go to benefit Andrea Herman, a mission worker in Guinea and the Ama Nyame Memorial Clinic in Ghana where Dr. LaDonna Regier is currently working. For information, call Anita Porter

at 460-2000.

### Ag department food available

The United States Department of Agriculture will distribute extra commodities from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Commodities are given according to income guidelines and distribution is first-come, first-served. Participants are asked to not arrive before 12:30 p.m. Commodities include canned beef, tomato soup, green beans, mixed fruit, vegetable soup, orange juice, cherries and milk. For information, call the program office at 462-6744.

### Bluegrass benefit is March 19

There will be a benefit dance and concert for the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival at City Limits from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, March 19. Featuring Marshal Bailey and the Silver Bullets, cost is \$10 for adults and free for children under 12. Tickets are

available at the Dillon's branch of Farmers and Merchants Bank and the Colby Convention and Visitor's Bureau. For information call 460-7643.

### School to hold open house

Heartland Christian School will have a preschool and kindergarten open house from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 25. All parents whose children will be kindergartners next year — or 3 or 4 years old and ready for preschool — are invited, along with their children. Hands-on activities for children in the classroom followed by a parent information meeting in the Heartland library. For information, call the school at 460-6419.



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