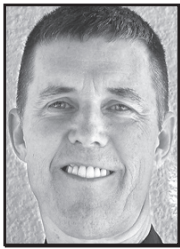


# Shine like stars with faith; let your testimony glow

*"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life" (Philippians 2:14-16).*



**Robert Alexander**

• From the Pulpit

Even if you're not a football fan or a Denver Bronco fan you have probably heard of Tim Tebow. He won the Heisman Trophy given to the best college football player of the year, and he led his team to two college national championships.

But if you don't give a rip about football you probably don't know that. What you probably know is that he is not a silent witness of his faith, which also makes him a large target of critics. He makes it clear on the field and off the field that Jesus Christ is more important to him than all the trophies in the world or all the money in the world.

One of the first times the critics jumped on him was for a 30-second Super Bowl spot they hadn't even seen. They just knew he was an outspoken Christian and an outspoken pro-lifer. When the Super Bowl aired the spot there was nothing in the spot that even the critics would classify as controversial.

Tim Tebow's critics have a legion of followers. Those same critics want all Christians to keep their faith to themselves.

I'm a Tim Tebow fan in that I like it that he and other pro athletes are, despite criticism, speaking out for their faith and in some cases speaking out for the unborn.

Christmas is about speaking out for our faith in Christ and speaking up for the life of the unborn. We don't have to be an NFL star or a star of any sport to do that. God has made us stars and he is your biggest fan.

As our biggest fan he sent his Son to earth on a mission to save us - people knit together by his hands in our mother's womb. Having given us physical life and spiritual life he has called us stars, and he has called us to shine so that others may see what God has accomplished in Jesus His Son to save the world. He wants us to shine on Christmas as a time to recognize that Jesus was born to live and die for all sins and all sinners.

He wants us to speak up for the defenseless, among

whom the most defenseless are the unborn and babies. His Son, Jesus, was once defenseless Himself. He doesn't want us to cave to the critics and be silent about the Good News or about how God values all human life. In his Son's birth God spoke volumes about his love for the whole world. In our life God wants to keep speaking volumes about his love and what that means for life in general.

No one likes to be criticized. We all like to be liked by everyone. So an appealing approach to life would be to think "I'm going to leave witnessing to my pastor," or "I'm not an evangelist," or "Witnessing is not my gift." Those are lights-out copouts.

Pleasing everyone is not possible no matter how hard we try. Can a star in the heavens say "I'm not going to shine tonight"? All Christians are stars, according to God's Word, and wherever we are is our field or stadium of play, is our chance to shine on the Star, Jesus Christ.

In the beginning, when God created the stars in the heavens, he gave them sufficient fuel to blaze for a long time. God has filled us with his Holy Spirit to keep us shining for a long time. Psalm 147:4 tells us God calls each of the stars by name. In light of that we can be assured that God is our biggest fan. He created us. He saved us by sending his Son to be our Savior from sin. He knows each of us by name and will guide and empower us to shine whatever venue we happen to be in.

Earthly trophies are great, if you're good enough to win them. In Christ we have a huge trophy that has our name engraved on it. Heaven is that trophy. There's plenty of room on that trophy to engrave millions more.

We may never be in the public venue like Tim Tebow, but we have the power to witness to people one at a time. Whatever our venue or sphere of influence, we can influence people with the Christmas message of God's love for life in Jesus Christ. Shine on brothers and sisters, shine on Christ.

*The Rev. Bob Alexander is pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church at Fifth and Country Club in Colby. He may be reached at 462-3497.*

## High Plains Lions Club

The High Plains Lions along with the Gem Lions were guests of the Atwood Lions at their Christmas party Monday, Dec. 12, at the Atwood Country Club. Hors d'oeuvres and punch were served from 6 to 7 p.m., with dinner at 7. Sarah Maaske, Atwood's club president welcomed everyone.

The dinner of stuffed pork chops with a strawberry pie dessert was followed by a gift drawing. Winners from Colby were Justin Burris, Mary Hurtt, Virgil Jones, Melinda Morton, Caroleta Herl, Larry Brenn and guest Linda Jones.

The Colby club passed around cards to sign, for Brenn's birthday and a sympathy card for Larry and Deb Koon. Deb Koons father died a few hours before the event.

Atwood, Gem and Colby members exchanged Christmas greetings and the party adjourned.

The Colby club's next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 9, at the Student Union.



SHERYL BRENN/Colby High Plains Lions Club  
Lions from Colby and Gem joined the Atwood Lions for their Christmas party Monday.

## Poisonous mistletoe low-risk when couples use to steal kiss

It's a parasite. It's poisonous. And except where it's native, mistletoe also is a popular product every holiday season.

So, this year's product scarcity (due to ongoing drought in Texas) has been disappointing.

After all, mistletoe promotes wintertime fun - perhaps a bit of romance. In parts of Europe, stealing kisses "under the mistletoe" has been a tradition for 500 years. The harvested plant is now part of North Americans' Christmas décor, too. It may be the ribboned sprig atop an entry door or the "kissing ball" under a chandelier.

"That's probably one reason Americans have so few mistletoe problems," said Jennifer Smith, K-State Research horticulturist.

"Where it grows in the wild, mistletoe can literally suck the life out of a tree. It may pose a problem for livestock. You need to keep it under control.

"But, where mistletoe is holiday décor, its toxic leaves, berries and stems typically end up well beyond easy reach - particularly for our shortest family and friends."

U.S. trend studies have found children and pets are at greatest risk for accidental poisoning, Smith said. Their body mass is small. Plus, a toddler or pup may gnaw on almost anything that attracts its attention.

"For safety's sake, you need to sweep up and dispose of mistletoe pieces that happen to fall to the floor," she said.

Fortunately, the same studies suggest U.S. mistletoe isn't as hazardous as previously thought.

U.S. Poison Control Centers get more than 100 mistletoe-related calls each year, (800) 222-1222. North America's varieties contain the chemicals that can cause gastrointestinal distress, a slowed heartbeat and more serious reactions.

As likely as not, though, the great majority of U.S. reported cases will develop no symptoms. Extreme reactions will be rare. And, the death count will be zero.

"The two Americans known to have died from mistletoe poisoning since 1960 had used it to brew tea," Smith said.

## Deaths

### Lori Depe

Lori Depe, Brewster, died today, Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, at the Logan County Hospital.

Services are pending with the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, 462-7979.

## Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners for Dec. 6 were Gail Vacca, first; Elaine Ptacek, second; Ken Ptacek, third; Cookie Koenig, fourth; Lyle Worthy, fifth; and Mary Molstad, sixth.

Winners for Tuesday were Ken Ptacek, first; Katie Melvin, second; Larry Barrett, third; Dane Ulmer fourth; Jean Snyder, fifth; Jay Davis, sixth; and Kevin Taylor, seventh.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day  
**Hi-Plains Co-op**

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Wheat (bushel)       | \$5.95 |
| Corn (bushel)        | \$5.69 |
| Milo (hundredweight) | \$9.73 |
| Soybeans (bushel)    | \$9.81 |

## Corrections

In the item "Property Transfers" on Page 5 of the Wednesday, Dec. 14, *Colby Free Press*, the final transaction should have read Jarrod Taylor to Jason M. Schwarz. This was an error in information provided to the *Free Press*.

In the article "Tech support, fax scams reported by Colby citizens" on Page 1 of the Thursday, Dec. 15, *Free Press*, the business name for Colby Glass Tinting was incorrect. This was an editing error.

Candidate John Davis' appearance in Colby will be from 11:02 to 11:22 Saturday at the Thomas County Courthouse. The wrong date was given in the article "Presidential candidate to stop here" on Page 1 of the Thursday *Free Press*. This was an editing error.

The *Colby Free Press* wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

## Unusual items land in Salvation Army kettles

SALINA (AP) - Some donors to the Salvation Army in the Salina area are displaying an unusual sense of humor, unless they think the agency's clients really need to-kens for a car wash.

KSAL-AM reports (http://bit.ly/s5G1go ) the Salvation Army

has kettles and bell-ringers at more than 20 locations throughout Salina this holiday season.

Salvation Army Capt. Mike Wolf says tokens for a car wash are among several odd items found in the kettles. There was also a fake million-dollar bill and a diamond

engagement ring - which was returned to a woman who lost it while putting money into a kettle.

Wolf says the kettle campaign has brought in about \$2,000 less than at the same time last year, but there's always the chance that someone will drop in a gold coin.

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Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

# Services Directory

## Schedule of church services



Mingo Bible Church

- GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.
- COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
- ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May, Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.
- COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten-5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.
- BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.
- FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**, meeting at Civic Center Sundays at 2 p.m.
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.
- COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.
- PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)
- WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)
- MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.
- SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypres.org.
- WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.
- REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6p.m. Shoponline at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.
- COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com
- FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.
- OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.
- LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.
- BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
- THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.
- REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
- BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike PINKELMAN, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/ Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

*This feature is sponsored by these business firms as a contribution to the religious life of the community.*

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**RESERVE THE DATE**  
January 26th, 2012

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