

Leaders, sports top new year

New Year's is always a great time to reflect on the past and anticipate the future.

It was a very active year statewide as Kansas celebrated 125 years of statehood. It was a grand celebration in Wichita in October and we were pleased to have had the opportunity to participate. Locally we all celebrated the opening of the Colby Aquatic Park. It was a huge success.

We now look forward to 2012. We will be traveling to Denver Thursday through Monday, Jan. 9, to work the Sport and Travel Show at the Convention Center. We truly enjoy talking with folks about our community and its attractions and about the outdoor recreational opportunities available in northwest Kansas.

We look forward to working with the 2012 Leadership Thomas County Youth program. The Thomas County Leadership board of directors is proud to announce the 2012 Youth class.

Fifteen sophomores from Thomas County have been selected to participate. Students from Brewster are C.J. Felzien, Dara Roulier, Ashley Barrie and Layton Werth. Amy Myers and Kirsten Bandy represent Heartland Christian School. Colby High School students are Andrea Barton, Chelsie Calliham, Jaden Morrison, Walter Vacic, Abigail Friesen, Michael Schiferl, Andrew Taylor, Luke Cox and Reed Stephens.

The first class will be held Wednesday, Jan. 11, at Sunflower Bank. The class will also be performing a class project for Thomas County



Leilani Thomas

• On the Road Again!

youth.

Basketball is big news during January. Colby Community College and Colby High School have regularly scheduled games. Enjoy the soup suppers which usually are held in conjunction with the high school games at the Community Building. The ever popular Orange and Black Classic basketball tournament will be Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 19 to 21, with games at the high school and Community Building.

Sixteen high school basketball teams will vie for the tourney championship. Boys and girls teams from Colby, Holcomb, Hugoton, Liberal, McCook, Scott City and Palmer Ridge will be participating. Also coming are Wichita South boys and Blue Valley Northwest girls. Games will begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and at noon on Saturday. This is a very popular tournament and we encourage you to support this event.

The Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament will be held at the Community Building Friday and Saturday, Jan. 13 and 14.

A high point for wrestling fans could be the

college's wrestling dual vs. Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland on Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Colby High School gym.

The museum is holding a photo exhibit by Bill Coe. An artist reception will be held for him at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, at the museum. The exhibit will be in place until Monday, Feb. 13.

Booked for Lunch will be at noon Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The book review will be by Carol Rahn discussing "God's Little Secrets."

Food for Thought will be held at Prairie Museum on Thursday, Jan. 19. Larry Dilts will discuss "Railroads on the High Plains." Also on the 19th, Pioneer Memorial Library will hold their game night.

Pheasants Forever is holding their annual dinner and auction at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at City Limits Convention Center.

The U.S. Air Force Brass Band is scheduled to play on Thursday, Jan. 26, in Colby. Time and location will be announced.

So it's "out with the old" – it was a great journey – but now we anticipate "in with the new." We wish each and every one of you a blessed, healthy and happy new year.

Leilani Thomas is director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, a long-time civic volunteer and a passionate observer of the tourism industry.

Senior Progress Center

Monday the Senior Progress Center will be closed. The board will meet Tuesday.

Activities for the week: **Monday:** center closed, no meals or transportation. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. health department; board following lunch. **Wednesday:** snack day. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 pinochle. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 pool game.

Menus for the week: **Tuesday:** Polish sausage with kraut, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, cornbread, plums. **Wednesday:** pasta, beef and tomato casserole, tossed salad with tomatoes, green beans, garlic bread, peaches. **Thursday:** harvest turkey soup, tropical fruit, crackers, cookie. **Friday:** pork roast with gravy, scalloped potatoes, seasoned carrots, cooks' choice fruit.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service. A contribution of \$3 per meal is suggested for seniors.

Make reservations at (784) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

Red Barn

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 2 p.m. Barnswallows.

Tuesday: 7 p.m. book club. **Wednesday:** 10 a.m. ladies' Bible study.

Thursday: 2 p.m. Come On Down.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. Koffee Klatch; 2:30 p.m. Stitch and Chatter.

Increase denied insurers

Some Kansas small business owners paying workers compensation insurance got a break recently when Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance, refused a proposed rate increase and actually got the rate to drop slightly.

Commissioner Praeger refused a recommendation for a workers comp rate increase from the National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc. She said the rates – a proposed 1.7 percent overall increase for the voluntary base rate, and a 5.3 percent overall increase for assigned risk workers comp rates – were too high. The Commissioner based her refusal on recent legislative changes in the state Workers Compensation Act.

Because of Commissioner Praeger's position, the council amended its filing, lowering the existing voluntary base rate by a half-percentage point and only increasing

the proposed assigned risk rate by 3 percent.

Voluntary workers compensation base rates are used by all insurance companies writing workers compensation in the competitive market. Assigned risk rates are used for insured businesses in the Kansas Assigned Risk Plan, a state organization for those businesses who are unable to obtain coverage in the competitive market.

The filing applies to all insurance carriers writing workers compensation policies for businesses in the state. The new filings were approved by the Kansas Insurance Department on Dec. 2, with an effective date of Jan. 1.

The Council on Compensation Insurance prepares workers compensation rate recommendations and manages the nation's largest database of workers comp information.

Carol gets mixed response

BOSTON (AP) – For travelers stuck in a Boston subway station on Christmas Day, it was a reason to chuckle, a bit of holiday levity.

For MBTA brass, however, it was a serious breach of protocol.

A spokesman for the T says a dispatcher who programmed an LED message board in the Park Street station to scroll the lyrics of "Deck the Halls" instead of

the usual service announcements faces punishment, from a written warning to possible termination.

Maryam Monalisa Gharavi, a Harvard University student who witnessed the words "deck the halls with boughs of holly fa la la la la la la la" light up the message board as a metallic monotone voice filled the air, tells the *Boston Globe* the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority ought to lighten up.

Gharavi says everyone on the platform smiled.



Student News

Colby Public Schools

Activities: Monday: no school, Christmas break; Colby Community College Christmas break.

Tuesday: lunch money due; no school; college break; 4:45 p.m. girls' junior varsity, boys' C-team basketball vs. Goodland; 6:30 p.m. girls' varsity, boys' junior varsity basketball vs. Goodland; 8 p.m. boys' varsity, girls' C-team basketball vs. Goodland. **Wednesday:** no school, Christmas break; college break; noon – parent-teacher organization, grade school; 7 p.m. booster club. **Thursday:** college break; 6:30 wrestling. Goodland. **Friday:** college break; last day to add or drop classes; 4:45 p.m. girls' junior varsity, boys' C-team basketball vs. Holcomb; 6:30 p.m. girls' varsity, boys' junior varsity basketball vs. Holcomb; 8 p.m. boys' varsity basketball vs. Holcomb. **Saturday:** 9 a.m. wrestling, Salina South.

Menus: Monday – Wednesday: no school. **Thursday:** breakfast: chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, mixed fruit. **Friday:** breakfast: blueberry muffin, apple juice; lunch: hamburger with bun, tater tots, baked beans, sliced peaches.

Sacred Heart

Activities: Monday – Wednesday: no school, Christmas break. **Thursday:** 7:30 a.m. staff meeting; 8 a.m. classes resume.

Menus: Thursday: sausage pizza, tossed romaine salad, garlic bread sticks, marinara sauce, banana. **Friday:** hot ham and cheese with bun, potato wedges, broccoli, grapes, chocolate pudding.

Heartland

Activities: Monday – Tuesday: no school, Christmas break. **Wednesday:** start of third quarter and second semester. **Friday:** 4 p.m. junior high basketball, Healy; 7 p.m. high school basketball, Healy.

Golden Plains

Activities: Monday: no school;

Tuesday: high school basketball, St. Francis. **Thursday:** middle school basketball, Brewster. **Friday:** high school basketball, Logan.

Menus: Rexford: Tuesday: breakfast: biscuit, gravy; lunch: chicken a la king. **Wednesday:** breakfast: scrambled eggs; lunch: pizza. **Thursday:** breakfast: breakfast pizza; lunch: lasagna. **Friday:** breakfast: French toast; lunch: pork chops.

Selden: Tuesday: breakfast: breakfast burrito; lunch: chicken chunk. **Wednesday:** breakfast: biscuits, gravy; lunch: spaghetti. **Thursday:** breakfast: waffle sticks; lunch: wiener wrap. **Friday:** breakfast: scrambled eggs; lunch: burrito.

Brewster

Activities: Monday: no school. **Tuesday:** 6:30 p.m. high school basketball vs. Hoxie, Winona; second semester begins. **Thursday:** 4:30 junior high basketball vs. Golden Plains. **Friday:** no school;

6:30 p.m. high school basketball, Tribune.

Menus: Tuesday: breakfast: oatmeal chocolate chip muffin; lunch: spaghetti and meat sauce, green beans, fruit, bread sticks. **Wednesday:** breakfast: French toast sticks; lunch: chicken patty, mashed potatoes, broccoli mix, cooked carrots, fruit. **Thursday:** breakfast: scrambled eggs; lunch: ham square, green beans, strawberries.

Colby Community College Activities: Monday: offices open. **Wednesday:** 5 p.m. wrestling vs. Western Wyoming; 6 p.m. basketball vs. Cloud County. **Saturday:** 6 p.m. basketball, Seward; 6 p.m. wrestling vs. Northwest Tech.

Send us your calendar and menus. E-mail colby.society@nwkansas.com or mail Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Wednesday

12:37 a.m. – Security check at the B-Hive.

8:03 a.m. – Caller reported subject sitting by her office, wanted him to leave. Subject was brought to station.

8:21 a.m. – Burglary/theft re-

port filed.

5:16 p.m. – Alarm company called about panic and fire alarm. Made contact, everything OK.

6:45 p.m. – Caller found drivers license outside Walmart. Returned items to owner.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Wednesday

7:12 a.m. – Released Edward Eugene Aaron.

8:55 a.m. – Forgery/theft: report filed on 10 cases for fraud at J&J Oil, Oakley.

2:45 p.m. – Released James Le-roy Rogers.

3 p.m. – Served arrest warrant on Jeffery Jay.

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