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Two floats in light parade tie for award

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkanas.com

The main street of downtown Colby was full of eager children and adults who turned out to watch the 15th annual Christmas light parade pass by on its way to Santa City on Sunday night.

Thirty-four entries participated in the parade, with the theme “A Merry Little Christmas From A to Z.”

It was judged by City of Colby Mayor Gary Adrian, Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce President Tina Harris and Colby Free Press society reporter Christina Beringer, who joined emcee Sacha Sanguinetti, station manager for Rocking M Radio, on the reviewing stand at Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue.

Clearing the way for Mr. and Mrs. Claus on their way to Santa City was a Thomas County Sheriff’s department vehicle. Santa and Mrs. Claus were driven by Dale Deaver in a trailer pulled by his 1941 Chevrolet pickup.

After the parade, each of the entries were scored and winners were decided.

There was a tie for the best organizational category between Ashly’s Dance Center and Nicole’s School of Dance. Ashly’s float featured student dancers waving and ballerinas danc-

ing to music in a large gift box. Students on Nicole’s float performed a choreographed piece to “Christmas Time” with flashlights for props; it was followed by a group of girls who trailed the float dancing to the music.

SPH Farm won the best business float. Their John Deere tractor was covered in an array of Christmas lights and featured candy canes.

The winner for the best decorated vehicle was Henry Millwright and Fabrication, who covered their winch and truck with bright lights.

The Bland Family won the most unique float. Two peddlers rode their peddle bike that was made to look like a larger-than-life gift box for the entire length of the parade.

Swartz Veterinary Hospital won the best religious category. Their live nativity scene featured lights with people dressed in costume.

The Best Representation of Theme award was given to Colby Ag Center, who decorated their Case IH Steiger 550 Quad Trac with twinkle Christmas Lights, presents, a Merry Christmas sign and a large sign that featured the parade’s theme.

Judges were given the option to create an additional category for best music. This award was given to the Colby High School Band, which debuted its new

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Employees of Swartz Veterinary Hospital (top) rode one of 34 floats in the parade of lights Sunday night on Franklin Avenue. Shirley and Bob Coleman (above) took a sleigh to Santa City where the parade ended and they heard kids’ Christmas wishes. Several hundred people turned out to watch the parade, which included floats and farm equipment (left) all covered in Christmas lights.

SAM DIETER
MARIAN BALLARD
Colby Free Press

School board tables motion

By Sam Dieter
Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkanas.com

The Colby Public Schools board tabled a motion to give the Golden Plains School District two square miles of land at its Nov. 19 meeting.

District 316, the Golden Plains district, requested the transfer for the land located six miles north of Gem. Several school board members laughed as they heard that a member of the Golden Plains school board started building a house inside the Colby School district, only to realize that after moving there he won’t be able to stay on the Golden Plains school board. After some discussion, the Colby school board decided to tell District 316 to offer them another piece of land in exchange with an equal valuation for tax purposes.

In other business, the board:

- Approved its board goals. Superintendent Terrel Harrison said additions had been made to the goals from the last meeting.
- Approved early graduation requests, pending completion of needed credits, from high school seniors Mishaela Benson, Lauren Mountford, Brandy Olivers, Brad Schroeder, Chelsy Schroeder, Bailey Terrell and Molly Tolle.
- Heard Board President Tracy Rogers ask if the board had any position on how he should vote at the Kansas Association of School Boards 2012 convention from Friday to Sunday in Topeka. The board had no requests.
- Approved an out-of-district attendance request for Maggi and Carli Nieman to go to Golden Plains

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Veteran to recruit soldiers

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkanas.com

A Selden veteran is spearheading local efforts to recruit American soldiers, both veterans and men and women who are currently serving, to become members in the Army Historical Foundation and to become a part of a living history of registered soldiers at the National Museum of the United States Army.

Norbert Korte, who served in 1983 and 1984 at the National Guard in Colby during the Panama War at the age of 17, explained that his volunteer work to promote

the foundation and the Registry of the American Soldier will help give recognition to the people who helped free our country.

“I’ve been interested in giving back to veterans,” said Korte, “and I’ve always wanted to get involved in something worthy; to preserve history and recognize men and women for their service to our country.”

The foundation, explained in a recruiting letter by retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer and 2008 membership committee chairman, “is dedicated to preserving the heritage of the American soldier and is working to educate future Americans about

the selfless service of the Army’s dedicated soldiers.

“...By joining the (foundation) as a member, you would be a part of our efforts to honor the Army’s soldiers and build the National Museum of the United States Army.”

Korte said he’s recruited five members since he began his efforts about a year ago, and he hopes to share this opportunity with many more people in the area.

“It all started when I began

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