



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Car chase tops list of headlines

The *Colby Free Press* put together a roundup of the top 10 articles from the past year. This is part one of the roundup:

**1** Maybe the most exciting news story this year was a car chase that came through downtown and ended along the railroad tracks in the northwest part of Colby in August.

A man wearing military fatigues led Kansas Highway Patrol troopers on a wild chase around Thomas and Logan counties on Aug. 9, dodging tire-killing road spikes as he scribed a large square between Colby and Oakley. The chase ended near the railroad tracks west of Range Avenue, where officers found the man hiding under a pickup.

Trooper Tod Hileman of the Highway Patrol said the chase began on Interstate 70 when a trooper stopped the man's car near mile marker 43, about 11 miles west of Colby and two west of the Levant exit. After stopping, the driver took off, racing east on the freeway with the trooper in pursuit.

The chase went south on K-25, east on U.S. 40 through Monument to Oakley, where the man dodged road spikes and alleged tried to run down a deputy, then north to the Nine-Mile junction on U.S. 24. There the man turned back west toward Colby, careening through downtown and west through residential neighborhoods.

Troopers, deputies and city officers converged on French Avenue north of Seventh, where the chase finally ended. Acting Police Chief

Ron Alexander arrested the man and walked him up the block, accompanied by troopers, to a city police car. He was handcuffed and taken to the city-county Law Enforcement Center.

The chase covered about 72 miles in a rough square. The whole thing consumed an hour or less, starting some time before 10:30 a.m. on I-70 and ending at 11:18 with the man in custody.

**2** In November, part of the Frontier Ag grain elevator in Oakley collapsed, destroying two bins and spilling several thousand bushels of corn, which knocked over nearby railroad cars and blocked the Denver-Kansas City line of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Pappy Lies, emergency manager for Logan and Gove counties, said that no one was hurt when the concrete tubes at the southeast end of the elevator collapsed about 2:22 p.m. Nov. 21.

In the collapse, the bottom part of three bins was destroyed and the top part was left hanging at an angle. The flow of grain buried the tracks.

Troopers from the Kansas Highway Patrol, deputies from the Thomas and Gove county sheriff's offices, emergency managers from Logan, Thomas and Russell counties, Oakley city police and firemen, the Kansas Department of Transportation works and others came to help, Lies said.

Ben Branvik, grain marketing manager for Frontier Ag in Good-

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SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

When two bins of the Frontier Ag grain elevator in Oakley gave out Nov. 20, enough grain spilled out to knock over several rail cars on the Union Pacific tracks just south of the elevator. The collapse was one of the top 10 stories of 2012.

## Snow falls again

By Sam Dieter

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The town woke up this morning to see light snow falling after a storm Monday left about 3 inches at the Kansas State University experiment station.

The National Weather Service had predicted the snow today could last until about 3 p.m., but the flakes stopped by midmorning and the sky was mostly blue by noon. Temperatures were just below freezing and some of the snow was starting to melt. An observer for the service in Brewster reported a trace of snow, with two inches already on the ground.

The service expected northwest winds of 20 mph with gusts to 50 this afternoon. Tonight, the skies should be partly cloudy with a low around 7 degrees. Much of the area was under a hazardous weather outlook, along with nearby parts of Nebraska and Colorado.

The rest of the week is expected to be mostly clear, the service said, with low temperatures as low as 1 above Thursday night and in the teens Friday and Saturday, and highs in the 20s and 30s in the daytime, warming to the 40s by the weekend.

The brief snow this morning



followed the storm New Year's Eve, which kept people busy digging out with shovels and plowing snow throughout New Year's Day.

The K-State Research and Extension Center reported 3 inches

of snow here Monday, with seven inches already on the ground. This snowfall Monday represented only a tenth of an inch of precipitation.

The storm tapered off here by Monday evening, but Joe

Moore, an intern meteorologist at the Goodland weather office, said there were reports of snow until 4 a.m. Tuesday in Sherman County.

Monday's snow storm kept people busy shoveling their sidewalks, including Kaysten Barrett and his friends, who went to work Tuesday afternoon (left), and Ralph Schmidt (below), who got to work right as the snow fell Monday morning.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



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