



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Snow storm makes way out of area

By Sam Dieter

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Many schools remained closed this morning as a two-day snow storm finally moved out of the area, and city and state crews stayed busy plowing roads and helping motorists who slid off the highway.

School remains cancelled today at Brewster and Golden Plains schools, which was posted on both of their websites, and Golden Plains has cancelled its basketball games tonight against Cheylin. Heartland Christian School and Triplains Schools in Winona were listed on NWKS Radio's website as being closed and Triplains will not have basketball tonight.

Colby Public Schools and Sacred Heart posted on their websites that they would have a two-hour late start today.

Jesse Lundquist, a meteorologist with the Goodland office of the National Weather Service, said the snow started on Wednesday morning, moving north, and became heavier Wednesday night. The snow lasted all day Thursday, with flurries into the night.

"The snowfall peaked probably early to mid-morning Thursday," Lundquist said.

He added that the heaviest snow fell east of a line from Stratton, Neb., through Colby to Russell Springs. A total of nine inches fell here during the

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Colby residents used every method at their disposal to dig their way out of the snow that fell here Wednesday and Thursday. A bulldozer with a scoop cleared the parking lot of Majic Spray car wash (far left). Kole Butts, 10, shoveled off his porch (left) and Dean Schielke (above) worked on a sidewalk with a snow blower.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



School board agrees to new way of evaluating

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The Colby School Board agreed to ask for a new method of evaluating teachers and staff at its meeting Monday.

"We have to let the state department (of Education) know which evaluation we

will do by March first," said Superintendent Terrel Harrison.

The board decided to go with an evaluation system developed by McREL, a company that does research and development for schools, out of three choices. Harrison said that the new system will cost the district about \$20 per teacher.

She said the district will suggest us-

ing this system to the Kansas National Educational Association during its yearly negotiations with the teacher union. Staff will be trained to use the system in August. The 2013-2014 school year will be a pilot year for using the system, Harrison said, and it will be fully implemented in the 2014-2015 school year.

"We've been using (another) system

for years," Harrison said. "This is just something that the waiver has required us to do."

She said the district has been evaluating teachers and staff with a system that it came up with. It had to choose a new system because the state is trying to get an "ESEA Flexibility Waiver" from certain provisions of the federal No Child Left

Behind Act.

To get the waiver, Kansas schools must use a system that meets six criteria, said Andrea Schuette, a teacher who was on the committee that choose the evaluation. The district learned this in October and has been choosing between McREL, the

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Checking low vision



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Optometrist Mark Wahlmeier, of Vision Source in Colby, helped Jenna Juenemann, 10, of Oberlin see better Feb. 12 at the KanLove Kids Clinic in Oakley. The Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, the state School for the Blind in Kansas City, Kan., and the Kansas Optometric Association organized the clinic.

Goodland weather service holds storm spotter class

The National Weather Service and Thomas County Emergency Management invite everyone to a free storm spotter class at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, downstairs at the Community Building in Colby.

The class is to anyone with an interest in the weather or in volunteering as a spotter. This program is conducted once a year by meteorologists from the Goodland Weather Office. The class will cover wireless emergency alerts, new impact-based warnings,

thunderstorm organization and evolution, associated clouds and their meaning, thunderstorm hazards, storm safety and what and how to report.

For information, call Joy Hayden at the weather service at (785) 899-7119. A complete listing of the spotter training schedule across the Tri-State area is available on the service's web page, www.weather.gov/goodland.

Town Hall meeting set in Colby

Kansas State Sen. Ralph Ostmyer of the 40th Senate District and Rep. Ward Cassidy of the 120th House District will be visiting Colby on Saturday, March 2, to seek your ideas on issues being addressed in the 2013 Kansas legislature.

They will be in Colby Community College's Stu-

dent Union in Room 106 from 10 to 11 a.m. March 2. Information will be presented from many of the issues being considered and discussion will be held on anticipated issues and their impact on all of us. Everyone is invited to attend.

Congressman plans local office hours

A staff member from Congressman Tim Huelskamp's office will be in Colby from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the Fireside Lounge of the Colby Community College student union to talk with constituents.

Staff members hold regular "office hours" around the congressman's "Big First" District, where they hear the concerns of

constituents as well as to provide in-person assistance for anyone needing help with federal agencies or programs. This might include the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service, Medicare or Social Security. Bring any relevant paperwork, the office advises.

For questions, contact Rep. Huelskamp's Dodge City office at

(620) 225-0172.

Congressman Huelskamp serves on the House Small Business and Veterans' Affairs committees. He is a member of the Republican Study Committee.



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