

## Moving the storm

City workers were still busy Tuesday cleaning up from last week's blizzard. Front-end loaders scooped up snow from city streets and loaded it into trucks (above). Another city loader piled the loads up in an open field in Buffalo Park, south of the old Union Pacific tracks and east of Franklin Avenue (right).



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

## Run on snow blowers after big storm cleans out dealers

By Sam Dieter  
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Last week's storm brought a bump in sales for businesses in town that help people dig their way out the snow.

Hardware stores enjoyed a spike in sales of snow blowers, shovels and sleds. Gas stations went through lots of scrapers and windshield washer fluid.

"I think we got rid of all six of them," said Mark Blatt, manager at Rasure Lumber, of the store's snow blowers, "and then we sold probably 40 sleds."

Blatt said the store also sold about 100 50-pound bags of ice-melting rock salt and

lots of snow shovels.

"We don't have any (shovels) until tomorrow," Blatt said. "We might have gone through 30 or 40."

The tally was similar for other hardware stores in town. Curt Beringer, son of Beringer Hardware owner Mark Beringer, said the store sold three snow blowers and probably about 20 snow shovels, almost the entire inventory. Ice scrapers and several bags of ice salt went also.

Kathi Wright, assistant manager at Orscheln Farm and Home, said the store sold about 75 bags of ice salt, 25 or more sleds, 30 or more shovels and lots of ice scrapers, but only got rid of one snow blower.

"Snow blowers are not popular until

there's a big snow," she said.

Sears, on the other hand, sold its entire inventory of snow blowers, 10 to 15 of them.

"We still have people coming in today looking for them," said owner Sherry McDonald.

Gas stations also did well.

"We sold out of all of our scrapers," said Barb Walters, manager at Oasis Travel Center.

That comes to about 50 scrapers, she added. The store also sold about 120 gallons of windshield washer fluid, and about 19 of its 20 "Go Treads," a device put on car tires to help motorists gain traction.

Conoco and 24/7 Travel Shop also reported selling lots of wiper fluid.

## School year for 2013-14 to be familiar

By Sam Dieter  
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The 2013-14 calendar approved by the Colby School Board at its February meeting looks much the same as this year's.

Secretary Mary Beth Flanagan pointed out that it includes the same number of teaching days, 171, as this year. The biggest difference is that spring break has been pushed forward a week to coincide with spring break at the college, so it runs from Friday, March 14, to Sunday, March 23, 2014. Parent-teacher conferences will be March 17 and 18.

School will start Thursday, Aug. 22, and end for winter break on Friday, Dec. 20. The first quarter will end Thursday, Oct. 17, and there will be no school that Friday.

The second semester will start Monday Jan. 6, not Jan. 3, since that is a Friday. Jan. 3 will be a work day for teachers. The fourth quarter will begin after spring break, and the last day of school

will be Friday, May 23.

Graduation will be Sunday, May 18, 2014. The last day of class for seniors will be Wednesday, May 14.

Business manager Jo DeYoung said that the Kansas National Education Association, the recognized teachers' union for the district, had already approved the calendar in negotiations with the board.

In other business, the board:

- Approved contract extensions for administrators without any discussion. The contracts of Activities Director Larry Gabel, Curriculum Director Weiland and Grade School Principal Lance Krannawitter, Middle School Principal Rob Ross and High School Principal Jeff Wallingford, were extended until June 2014.

- Accepted the resignation of Chelsey Calvin as a grade school aide, and approved supplemental contracts for Dee Hovda as an assistant track coach, Brian Quagliano as an assistant baseball coach and Sara Weber as an assistant softball coach.

## Death penalty costly, emotional

By Sam Dieter  
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A University of Denver professor, an expert on the death penalty, told a Colby audience he can't make up his own mind about the issue.

"I don't take a position on the death penalty one way or another," Dr. Scott Phillips said, "because I am torn by the very issue I am presenting."

Phillips, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the university, drew about 200 people to Colby Community College Tuesday night. His lecture "Is the Death Penalty an Effective Public Policy?" was part of the college's Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture series.

Phillips told the crowd he has a wife, a 6-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son, and if any of them were killed, he's "100 percent certain" he would want the murderer to die.

"That's how we think about murder," he said. "That's how we think about the death penalty. We think about the people we love."

But as he outlined everything we think the death penalty should do, he showed all the reasons why it does not necessarily do what we want.

In 1972, Phillips said, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the death penalty unconstitutional, putting all death row in limbo. Another case in 1976 allowed states to continue sentencing criminals

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## College teams getting ready for 2014 reaccreditation visit

By Kayla Cornett  
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Crystal Pounds, computer information systems instructor and webmaster at Colby Community College, told the college trustees Monday that Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation work is going well and the college is right on track with the timeline.

Pounds, who heads up the reaccreditation team, said the working groups have had three work days so far and the teams are pleased

with the progress they've made.

She said there is one work day left, on April 26, and all draft reports will be in after that day.

Chairman Arlen Leiker and trustee Kenton Krehbiel said they are pleased with the groups they are working with. They got a lot done in a short time, Leiker said. Pounds said she thinks the four-day class week has been a good thing, because the groups can take a block of time on Friday to get work done.

Pounds said the accreditation visit will be Sept. 8 to 10, 2014,

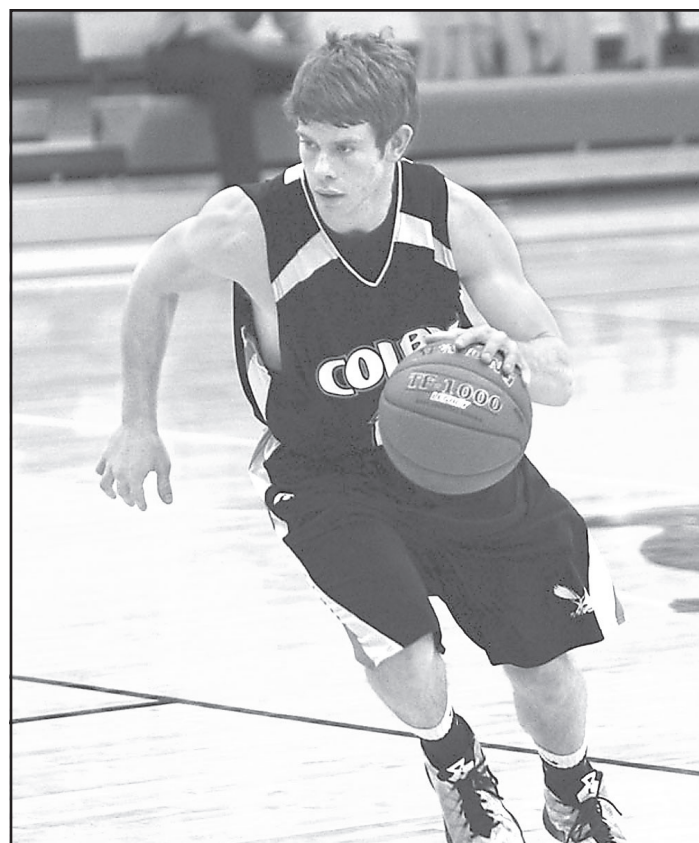
and they're hoping to bring the campus liaison to the college next year so they can get some practice and make sure they're as prepared as they can be.

"I encourage all of you to get involved," she said, "and we'll let you know all those dates, so hopefully we all know what's going on."

The board also heard from Joyce Washburn, dean of academic affairs, who talked about a report on the college's performance agree-

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## Lookin' for a basket



MONICA KANE

Senior Todd Kane drove with the ball Thursday night during a substate semifinal game against Ulysses High School in Pratt. The boys lost 60-39. For details, see Page 10.

## Delivery slowed by switch

Because of changes in the Postal Service system, some copies of the Colby Free Press may be delivered one to three days later than you're used to, especially those outside the immediate area.

Because the service closed the Colby mail-sorting "plant" Tuesday, mail from the 677 area is being trucked to North Platte, Neb.

We are working with postal officials to minimize the impact, but the bottom line is, some papers may reach readers a couple of days later than normal.

If your delivery changes, please let us know when you were getting the paper and when it came this week. Where possible, we'll make adjustments.

Contact the Free Press at (785) 462-3963 or email Circulation Manager Melissa Edmondson at medmondson@nwkansas.com.

