



COLBY FREE PRESS

This is it Free Press unveils new size

This is it! The new-size *Colby Free Press*.

You may or may not have noticed the difference, but it is slightly smaller than the old *Free Press*. Grab Tuesday's issue and place today's on top of it. You'll see what we mean.

The type area is an inch narrower and the sheet is an inch and a half narrower.

The new size, pioneered a few years ago by *The Denver Post*, has become the industry standard. Nearly all the papers sold in this area have switched already, and it was decided it just made sense for us to switch, too. The other newspapers in the Nor'West Newspapers chain have also adopted the smaller page size.

Many ads were coming in for the new size, and it was a hassle to make them fit the old standard. It's getting hard to find the old-size paper.

Across the country, reports are that readers like the new size. It's just a little more handy, easier to

hold, fold and read. We hope you'll agree.

A lot of work and planning have gone into this change, said Steve Haynes, President of Nor'West Newspapers. The press crew ordered new paper and checked the new sizes. Editors and makeup people had to resize ads and page templates so everything would fit.

Next week, the *Country Advocate* will switch to the new size. At the same time, the *Advocate* will go to mostly standard-size pages, rather than the smaller tabloid. The cover and back page will stay about the same, however, and the *Advocate* will still look like the *Advocate*.

One of the things the change should do is allow us to hold the line for a while on advertising and subscription rates, which will not change. A postage increase could affect subscription prices later, however, Haynes said.

So there it is. Let us know what you think about the new size.

— *The Editors*

Good snows hit area, but only trace in Colby

By TOM (TD) DREILING
Free Press Publisher

It finally snowed.

On the first day of 2003. It wasn't much, but as the old saying goes, "Beggars can't be choosers."

Colby, according to the Northwest Research-Extension Center, received only a trace, although some reports in town this morning had amounts ranging up to one inch. The National Weather Service at Goodland said this morning that reports coming from western Thomas County pegged the snowfall at 3 inches.

A spokesman at the weather office said reports in extreme northwest Kansas and bordering states were generally in the range of 3 to 6 inches.

Goodland received 3.2 inches of the white stuff with a moisture con-

tent of only 0.09 inches. St. Francis came in with a report of 4 inches, as did Bird City.

One report coming from 12 miles north of Wheeler in Cheyenne County had a total of 8.5 inches, while 16 miles northwest of St. Francis the snowfall was 6 inches.

Other reports from the Tri-State Area included: Kit Carson County, Colo., 3-4 inches; Yuma County, Colo., 4 inches; and Dundey County, in southwest Nebraska, 4 to 6 inches.

The National Weather Service at Goodland said the snow just seemed to have abruptly stopped shortly after moving into the western part of Thomas County.

The weather office doesn't see any moisture for the next 6 days.

Colby's temperature on New Year's Day was 38 and the morning low today was 12.

Semi carrying load of corn rolls

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press

A tractor-trailer full of corn failed to make a curve west of Russell Springs on Tuesday, sending a Texas couple to the hospital in Leoti.

According to the report from the

Kansas Highway Patrol, Roddie Lee Busby was driving a semi-truck full of corn at 10:50 a.m. At mile-marker 148 on Highway 25, Hopertook the curve too fast and rolled the semi. Busby and Lindy Adelle Busby were taken to the hospital, examined and released.

Some portions of published budget are amended by commissioners

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners, at their Tuesday meeting, amended the published budget for the road and bridge fund and the East Hale township. The county transferred \$865 from East Hale to Barrett Township, and added \$15,000 for a loader payment to the road and bridge budget. Additionally, \$26,000 was also added to budget for payment to the state for culverts.

Chris Bieker, road supervisor,

also discussed end-of-year transfers. East Hale township transferred \$14,302.17 to 2003, and also brought forward \$5,380.73 in special equipment money. North Randall Township transferred \$14,260.19 of regular money, and \$12,864.81 to its special equipment fund. The county transferred \$156,371.59 to its special equipment fund.

Jon Starns, of Kingery Township, was at the meeting to consult with the commissioners on a road issue. Pam Medford has requested that a



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

S&T Telephone workers marked underground lines this morning at Friendly Acres trailer park on Franklin Avenue, in prepara-

tion for repairing the telephone pole and junction boxes that were damaged by a vehicle Tuesday night.

New Year's Eve

Driver is hospitalized, and car, pole damaged

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press

A one-vehicle accident New Year's Eve took out a telephone pole at Friendly Acres trailer park in Colby and put a Scott City man in the hospital.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said this morning that Kristofor Eugene Lauber, Scott City, was driving a 1996 Dodge 4-door northbound on Franklin av-

enue Tuesday night at 11:35 at a high rate of speed.

He ran the stop sign at Franklin and College Drive, hit a dip, and became airborne for approximately 97 feet, said Chief Jones.

"He then lost control of the vehicle," Jones said, "hit the curb on the west side of Franklin Avenue, went across the private driveway at Friendly Acres, and the door of the vehicle hit the telephone pole at a

height of 3 feet.

The impact caused the vehicle to roll onto its top, where it continued into a tree, and then hit two telephone junction boxes."

The telephone pole was broken at the bottom and being held upright by power lines.

The vehicle is registered to Anna Marie Ming, also of Scott City. Jones said that according to Ming and several other witnesses, Lauber

did not have permission to drive the car.

"The investigation is continuing at this time," Jones added, "to find out what the condition of the driver was at the time of the accident. He was tested for DUI."

Hospital officials at Citizens Medical Center said this morning that Lauber was stable, but no other details could be released at this time.

Tax credit program still seeking participants

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Citizens Medical Center has an additional \$25,000 in tax credits from the Department of Commerce and Housing in Topeka for those wanting to take advantage of this program, said Tama Unger, director of fund development.

Although the Kansas Community Services Program has been in place since 1996, she said, Colby was only recently included in the tax credit plan for the year 2001-02.

Since September of 2001, she said, the hospital facility raised

\$239,286 and the money is being used to build the new diagnostic services addition, which will house a variety of services.

Some of those services will include CT, X-ray, sonogram, nuclear medicine, occupational medicine, mammography and bone density, along with providing a permanent location for the MRI unit.

"The tax credit program would not have been the success it is, though, if not for the generosity and support of the contributors," Unger said.

Those businesses and individuals

who supported the tax credit program in 2001 by contributing included Criss, Inc. (Gene and Pat Criss), BankWest of Kansas, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Charles K. Davis, S & T Telephone Coop Association, Dr. James and Anne Brull, Paul and Jenny Niblock, First National Bank, Stephens Construction (Curt and Jackie Stephens), and one anonymous donor.

During the year 2002, contributors were Western Sprinklers (Lou Hines and Max Bell), Criss, Inc., Pioneer Inc. (Jim Keller), Gene and Pat Criss, and Farmers and Mer-

chants Bank.

For those wanting information about how to benefit from the tax credit, Unger encourages them to call her at (785) 462-1214.

As for state officials, she said, that Bill Acree, program director in Topeka has had nothing but enthusiasm and commendation for the community with respect to their outstanding response with the program in northwest Kansas.

"I would be happy to show anyone around the new diagnostic services center if they are interested in a tour," she said.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 38
Low this morning, 12
Temperature at 11:45 today, 37
Soil temperature, 33
Records for Jan. 2: 69 in 1922, -17 in 1942
The forecast
Tonight, clear, lows near 20, west winds up to 15 mph. Friday, sunny, highs near 50, west winds up to 20 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy, lows in the mid 20s. Saturday, sunny, highs in the mid 50s. Sunday, partly cloudy and breezy, highs in the mid 50s.

Briefly

'Great Strides' meeting Friday

The first committee meeting for the Northwest Kansas "Great Strides" walk-a-thon to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be held at 5:30 p.m., Friday, at Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby. Amy Samaripa from the Foundation's Heart of America Chapter in Kansas City will be in attendance to answer questions. Anyone interested in getting involved should please feel free to stop by, or call Doris Reed at 465-7907.

School bells begin to ring

The countdown is underway. The holiday break from classes for schools in Thomas County will end on Monday, Jan. 6, at regular times. However, some sports activities will begin earlier than that (see today's Sports Page). Classes were dismissed for the break on Friday, Dec. 20.

Feed to benefit amusement group

The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold a pancake feed

fashion a trail road for Medford to use.

"We don't like to micro-manage," Commissioner Glen Kersenbrock said. "We'd rather have people work out their difficulties on their own."

Thomas County Treasurer Donita Applebury and Thomas County Appraiser Mary Cech talked with the commissioners about the paper trail that tax abatements follow.

To this point, it was explained, tax abatements had gone from Cech to

in the basement of Sacred Heart Church on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Thomas County Amusement Association. The public's support is appreciated.

Food bank schedule noted

The Genesis Food Bank will be open its regular hours on Wednesday, Jan. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., said Rosalie Seemann, president of Genesis.

CPR class planned this month

The American Red Cross will be sponsoring a CPR Class on Thursday, Jan. 16 at the Colby Community College Student Union. To register or for information, call Mary Smith, Red Cross Chapter manager at 462-7161.

Wellness Fair nearing

With the Wellness Fair nearing, businesses are being asked to take part in promoting community health and wellness by

Applebury to the commissioners, then back to Applebury. The problem with this system was that the commissioners were seeing a different figure on abatements, due to penalties that have to be figured into the abatements.

From this point on, abatements to be considered by the commissioners would go from the appraiser to the treasurer, where Applebury would determine the final figure for abatement, then to the commissioners for consideration.

In other business:

• Beer licenses were renewed for Colonial Steakhouse, Camp-Inn, Co-ag of Rexford, and Bubba's Corner in Brewster.

EMTB Course continues

Kathi Wright, Thomas County EMS director, said the EMTB (basic) Course is continuing on Mondays and Wednesdays — through April and additional information is available by calling her at 462-4585.

Landfill on winter hours

The Thomas County landfill is now on its winter hours. The hours are: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

