



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Snow brings smiles

**By TOM (TD) DREILING**  
*Free Press Publisher*

The smiles you see today are the result of snow that came yesterday. And the forecasters were right on target.

The National Weather Service called for a rain/snow mixture for northwest Kansas over the weekend in its Friday forecast appearing in the *Free Press*.

It did exactly that.

Snowfalls ranging from 2 to 8 inches were reported in the territory, with moisture amounts anywhere from 0.25 inches up to near 0.50 inches.

“Widespread and very beneficial,” said Mick McGuire, of the National Weather Service office at Goodland.

In the immediate Colby vicinity, the snow depth totaled 2 inches with the moisture content at 0.30 inches — the first moisture of the month. Saturday’s moisture amounted to 0.08 inches with Sunday’s coming at 0.22 on the heels of 2 inches of snowfall.

At the airport in Goodland, where the weather service is located, the snowfall measured 2.1 inches, McGuire said.

The Sharon Springs and Atwood areas reported snowfalls of 7 inches, perhaps a little more than that in some places, while over in the Selden vicinity reports of from 6-8 inches were reported.

The Rexford area had 3-4 inches and around Brewster 3 1/2 to 4 inches were common.

St. Francis’ report was 3-4 inches, Burlington and Stratton, Colo. had 6-8 inches, while in and around Benkelman, Neb., the total snowfall was 7 inches. Trenton, Neb. reported 4 inches.

The forecast calls for warming temperatures. See the weather box elsewhere on page 1.

## State crowns top speller

TOPEKA (AP) — An 11-year-old Pittsburg girl, Nina Mathew, is this year’s All-Kansas Spelling Bee champion.

Nina, who won the contest Saturday in Topeka, is the first Crawford County speller to claim the state title in 20 years.

Nina, a sixth-grader at Pittsburg Middle School, earned the right to represent Kansas in the finals of the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., in late May.



### Warming trend

Tonight...mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. North wind 10 to 20 mph. Tuesday...mostly sunny and warmer. Highs in the lower 50s. North wind 10 to 15 mph. Tuesday night...clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Wednesday...mostly sunny and warmer. Highs in the upper 60s. Wednesday night...clear. Lows in the upper 30s. Thursday...mostly clear. Highs in the upper 70s.

#### The numbers

Sunday’s high, 32  
Low this morning, 22  
Soil temperature, 44  
Year ago, 67 and 41  
Weekend precipitation, 0.30  
Month’s precipitation, 0.30  
Weekend snowfall, 2 inches  
Records, 86 in 1952 and 14 in 1961



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel were recognized with the “Community Service Award” at Friday night’s Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce banquet. They were recognized for their continued involvement in the Colby area.

## Honors are handed out at Colby Chamber event

**By PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

More than 240 people attended this year’s annual Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce banquet on Friday at City Limits Convention Center, making it one of the more successful events in recent years, officials said.

In addition to the annual reports from the outgoing and incoming presidents, new Chamber board members were installed, along with recognizing those who served one or more three-year terms.

Brian Staats, the incoming president, thanked the retiring board members Jon Eicher, Jan Haigler and Brent Wiedeman for their service and welcomed the new members, Donna Inlow of Oakley, Rex Jamison of Brewster, and Charles Schwanke and Todd Stramel of Colby.

The “Business Persons of the Year,” Mike and Jackie Wiens, were introduced by Sharon Dunn, who was a member of the Chamber board for many years and past president. In her remarks, Dunn spoke about the couple and their business, Someplace Special.

“Their mission was to serve the Colby area and offer quality, unique products,” she said. “After meeting with their very first customer in the living room of their home, Mike and Jackie opened the doors of Someplace Special Floral and Gifts in May of

1987 — just in time for the Mother’s Day rush.”

The award was given to the Wiens based on many reasons to include not only the way the couple handles each customer with personal attention and respect, but also based on their continuing efforts to expand their business and offer new items.

“Even with the changing economic years,” Dunn said about the couple, “Someplace Special could always be depended upon to brighten someone’s day.”

Dunn also highlighted the many ways the couple helps the community noting the recent addition of a cooler at Citizens Medical Center and the annual Christmas Open House.

“They have always provided exceptional customer service to wedding parties and put extra time and care into flowers chosen by a family for a funeral,” she said. “They literally spend each and every day spreading cheer and delivering smiles.”

The Wiens have three daughters, Johnna, Kaylin and Madison. They are members of Sacred Heart Church and Mike is active in the Chamber.

Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel were this year’s “Community Service Award” recipients and Staats talked about why they were selected.

“This very special couple exemplifies the true meaning of volunteerism,” Staats said. They

have practiced the art of volunteering through many services to include the Thomas County Historical Society, Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library, Thomas County Kiwanis Club and the board of the Kansas Kiwanis Foundation.

In speaking about Kenton, Staats said, “he is always in charge of the yearly Kiwanis Pancake feed where many people enjoy his secret homemade pancake recipe.”

Kenton is also president of the board of trustees of Colby Community College. Sheila was also recognized for her involvement as a member of the Sweet Adelines.

Other activities highlighted included the couple’s dedication to Colby College athletics, Colby College booster club and support of high school athletics.

The couple met during a computer dating dance while attending Brown Mackey College, Staats said.

“They now have two daughters and one grandchild whom they visit as often as they can,” he said.

The annual banquet is hosted by the Colby Ambassadors and Colby Diplomats with the theme this year, “Making a Positive Difference.”

*Editor’s note: In the Wednesday edition of the Free Press, the president’s message and highlights from the guest speaker will appear.*

## Hospital update

# Boyles resigns; Sears’ removal by a 12-6 vote

**By PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

Recent developments at Citizens Medical Center, Inc. have prompted the need for clarification regarding Friday’s front page article about board members Judith Sears and Terry Cousins.

Michael Boyles, who resigned Friday as the hospital’s chief executive officer but was at the annual meeting, said today that Sears was not voted off the board of trustees by a unanimous vote, but rather by a majority of the entire membership consisting of all 20 members.

The action was taken Thursday night and, according to one of the people on the membership board, the vote was 12-6 in favor of removing Sears with one person abstaining and one person not voting on the issue.

Following the removal of Sears, the next motion would have been to remove Cousins from the board; however, before that action could be taken, Cousins chose to resign.

In the Friday article, it was reported that the vote was “unanimous” by the board of trustees to remove Sears, which was incorrect since the it is the voting membership that votes out a board member and not the trustees. Even if the vote would have been by the trustees, it would not have been unanimous because both Sears and Cousins were still trustees at that time.

In addition to Sears and Cousins no longer serving as trustees, the entire membership voted to add Rich Epp to its general membership.

The remaining five trustee members to include Vern Schwanke, Terry Wendall, Sheila Frahm, Bob Standage and Curt Stephens then met at noon on Friday, Boyles said, and it was after some discussion that everyone decided it would be best if he resigned.

“I believe there’s a lot of healing that has to happen,” Boyles said today. “The primary reason I resigned is because in the last year the personal attacks on me have taken their toll.”

Boyles said he had hoped to stay in Colby until his son graduated from high school, which would have been six years from now.

The board has a tough job ahead, he said, and he didn’t want to be an “added burden.”

He said he enjoyed Colby and while he wanted to stay, he said he believed it wouldn’t be fair to the community.

“There’s just too much turmoil and hopefully they (the board) can find a solution since they will be leading the way toward finding one,” Boyles said.

Another development that was effective on Monday, March 31 was the severing of the management contract between the Colby hospi-

tal and Rural Health Development of Cambridge, Neb.

Roger Petrik, president of Rural Health Development, confirmed the news earlier today, adding that it was a “mutual parting.”

He said that Rural Health had been contracted with Citizens Medical Center for the past six years on a yearly contract. When the two parties agreed to part ways, he said, it was within the current contract year.

“There is a 60-day out clause within the contract,” Petrik said. In other words, since the contract was terminated, the hospital will be paying the monthly fee for the next 60 days.

Rural Health Development also was willing to look at a longer term of pay out in the event of cash flow issues with the hospital,” he said.

The management contract included the hiring and paying for an administrator, along with offering various consulting on an as needed basis, Petrik said.

Rural Health Development also did mock surveys regarding nursing issues at Prairie Senior Living Complex and at the hospital.

Although Citizens Medical Center was the largest hospital contracted with Rural Health, Petrik said his management company has seven other hospitals and 20 other nursing homes in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Colorado.

“We wish the entire Colby medical system a good future,” Petrik said following news that his company was no longer involved with Citizens Medical Center.

In one other recent development Carol Bonebrake, attorney for the hospital’s board of trustees said today that oral arguments with the Kansas Court of Appeals will begin on Tuesday, May 20, at 1:30 p.m. in Topeka. The appeal is regarding Judge Jack Burr’s ruling in not allowing the hospital to suspend Dr. Victor H. Hildyard from the facility.

The panel of judges who will be hearing the appeal include Bob Lewis of Atwood, Lee Johnson from a rural Kansas community and Carol Beim of Wichita.

Regarding the peer review proceedings that involve Dr. Hildyard and the board of trustees, the timelines required are in 30-day increments with the next step in the process being that the panel can either present to the full board or a committee of the board for a recommendation, Bonebrake said. Based on the presentation from the hearing panel, it will be the recommendation of either the committee or the full board to determine whether or not to suspend Dr. Hildyard’s privileges. As to the exact timelines though, Bonebrake would not comment on when the next step in the process will take place.

## Briefly

### Dible benefit scheduled Saturday

A benefit for Ken (Butch) Dible, former resident of Colby and a former reserves police officer, will be held Saturday at the National Guard Armory in Colby from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. He has been diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia and is receiving treatment in Wichita. Drawings, a silent auction, karaoke, homemade chili, noodle soup and cinnamon rolls are on the menu. The Colby Police Department will have its Ident-a-kid program available starting at noon. Ryan Wark will have his stock car 8FR available for all to see. Free will donations will be accepted.

### Health Care group to meet

The Area Citizens for Health Care will have their next meeting on Tuesday, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby Community Building’s Little Theater.

### Easter egg hunt Saturday

The Colby Kiwanis Club will sponsor its annual Easter Egg

Hunt on Saturday at Fike Park for children from birth to 9 years old. For those three and under, the hunt will begin at 10 a.m.; ages 4 to 6 at 10:10 a.m.; and children 7 to 9 at 10:20 a.m.

### Fair board meets this week

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet on Thursday at the 4-H building at 8 p.m. Committee reports will be given from building and grounds, carnival, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising. In old business the group will discuss a replacement for ground’s keeper, the barbecue, a slab dance and the queen and princess contest. The meeting is open to the public.

### Brewster Band plans soup supper

The Brewster Band and guests, and the Goodland High School Jazz Band, will hold a soup supper and benefit concert at 5:45 p.m. on Friday at the Brewster School. Proceeds from the supper will be used by the Brewster Band to attend

and perform at a music in the park program in Denver.

### Barbershop Chorus to hold concert

The Tumbleweed Chorus will hold their annual concert on Saturday, April 26. The choir will present “Dixieland Harmony” at both 3 and 7:30 p.m. at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$8 or in advance for \$7. For tickets or information call 462-6552 or 462-8640. The concert will also feature guest appearances by Very Light Opera Company and Patent Pending.

### Church open for prayer

Rev. Carol Rahn, pastor for the First Presbyterian Church in Colby, has announced the church will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. while the country is at war. Those wishing to pray or have quiet meditation may use the church at 515 W. Fourth Street.

