



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Hoxie city workers took down cross strings of Christmas lights today. Snow and ice hung so heavily on the light strings that a semi truck traveling on Kansas Highway 23 earlier in the week collided with the strings and pulled down and bent two power poles. After Thursday's melt, and a little help by city workers, snow and ice was off the wires and they could be removed.

## Colby center offers theology training

Redeeming Love Ministries is planning training centers offering an accredited School of Theology in Colby and Hill City.

The center's chancellor, Dr. W.G. Romine, II, spoke about the reason for bringing this type of school to the area.

"Because education is an opportunity," Romine said, "2007 brings endless possibilities to change your future."

The Redeeming Love Ministries Training Center is a ministry school under the covering of the Redeeming Love Church Ministries, Inc. and Jubilee School of Ministry in Fairfield, Iowa.

"Due to the nature of this training, a person may only attend four times without enrolling," he said.

For those wanting to attend the center in Colby, Romine said the orientation schedule times are from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Redeeming Love Church, 345 N. Franklin. The dates include Saturday and Jan. 13

and 20.

Those receiving a certificate of diploma have included Terry L. Wolf, Hill City, third year; and Teresa M. Poage and Von Poage, both from Norton in second year. In addition, Paul Glendy, WaKeeney, and Shirley Hazlett, Atwood, are in the class of 2006.

In keeping with the mission of the church, Romine said the mission statement is "to unfold the prism of people held outside of God's light. Because we are . . . A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

In addition, the 2006 commencement service is scheduled at 3 p.m., Sunday, at the Redeeming Love Church.

For questions about the training centers, call Romine or Rev. Orvella L. Romine, dean, at (785) 462-6294.

## Choir to perform Monday

Wesleyan Chorale from Kansas Wesleyan University will perform a concert at Colby United Methodist Church on 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Wesleyan Chorale is the select vocal ensemble that performs variety of vocal literature including traditional and contemporary classical works and popular music.

The admission to the concert is free.

Established in 1886 by the Methodist Church, Kansas Wesleyan University provides a faith-based and values-centered education in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional studies with relevance for a lifetime.

## Congressman sworn in

WASHINGTON (AP) — During her campaign for Congress, Democrat Nancy Boyda kept asking voters if they'd "had enough" of Republican leadership.

After she was officially sworn in Thursday as Kansas' newest member of the U.S. House, Boyda pledged to make Congress work "for the people, not for special interests."

Boyda, of Topeka, was one of 55 new House members sworn in at a noon ceremony at the Capitol. Her upset victory over incumbent Republican Rep. Jim Ryun helped Democrats gain control of Congress for the first time in 12 years.

Watching her take the oath of office was her husband and campaign manager, Steve Boyda, along with her two children, a stepdaughter and her father.

Between the ceremonies, Boyda hosted an open house in her new offices for supporters, family and friends.

Also taking the oath of office on Thursday were Republican Reps. Jerry Moran, of Hays, Todd Tiahrt, of Wichita, and Democrat Dennis Moore, of Lenexa.

Boyda, who considers herself a centrist Democrat, says she plans to vote for all the legislative items in the Democrats' agenda for the first 100 hours. That includes ethics re-

form, raising the minimum wage, expanding government funding for stem cell research and cutting interest rates on student loans.

### PATROL DEPUTY WANTED

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office is currently seeking applications for a Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, and meet required standards in the following categories: background investigation; written, oral and psychological testing, keyboard skills; health screening.

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office is an equal opportunity employer and provides employees single health insurance, sick leave, vacation, KPERS retirement benefits, overtime provisions, and uniforms (cleaning supplied). Salary depends upon qualification and experiences.

Persons wishing to apply may pick up an application at the Thomas County Sheriff's Office, 225 N. Court, Colby, Kansas 67701. (Phone: 785-460-4570). Applications must be returned by 5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 19, 2007.

# What drought? Kansas is not that bad

SALINA (AP) — If anyone in Topeka knows drought, it would be Tracy Streeter.

For starters, he's director of the Kansas Water Office, the state's lead agency in water planning. Furthermore, by law, the Water Office is responsible for identifying drought conditions in Kansas. He's chairman of the Governor's Drought Response Team.

And at the Kansas Water Authority's quarterly meeting last month in Great Bend, Streeter was talking up the drought. He twice said the state might be in a historic drought and that the relentless decline of the water level in Kanopolis Reservoir — it's at its lowest level since 1989 — was due to the weather.

"I wish I had a crystal ball to predict when the drought will break," Streeter said. "Obviously, lack of rainfall is the primary culprit ... We've got a very complex issue here in the midst of perhaps a historic drought."

But here's the thing — if when you say "drought" you mean unusually low rainfall, Kansas has only flirted with drought in recent years.

That's according to the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, Neb., which posts the Standardized Precipitation Index for the entire country. And a review of the Palmer drought index since 2000 confirms that, by any objective measure, weather conditions in central Kansas are on the dry side — indeed, some parts of Kansas, in particular the northwest corner, have seen periods of serious drought — but they don't compare to drought that's been seen here before.

Through the end of November, the Standardized Precipitation Index for 2006 showed that the only part of Kansas that is unusually short of rain is the southeast corner, which is moderately dry.

And 2005? The only part of Kansas that didn't see near normal rainfall for the year was east-central, which was moderately wet.

What about 2004? Normal, except for the south-central/southwest corner, which was moderately wet.

2003? Northwest Kansas was moderately dry; the rest, normal.

It isn't until you go back to 2002 that significant portions of Kansas

were drier than normal — north-west and west-central were extremely dry, north-central was severely dry and northeast was moderately dry.

But even in 2002, one of the driest years since 1970, central Kansas — the area that contains the Smoky Hill River Basin below Cedar Bluff Reservoir — received rainfall that was classified as near normal.

The question of whether Kansas is in a drought isn't merely academic. A record number of streams in Kansas had low flow this summer. The Smoky Hill River, which flows into Kanopolis Reservoir before it reaches Salina, where it supplies the city with water, was no exception.

Flow into Kanopolis through November is the lowest ever measured, breaking the low-flow record set in 1983. This year's flow was less than half the flow in 2002.

That low flow, in turn, has allowed the level of Kanopolis Reservoir to fall to the lowest level in 17 years. It has been below normal for 15 months and, if it hasn't recovered by early March, will set an all-

time record for the most consecutive days below normal.

Whether Salina faces a water shortage next summer will depend on the winter and spring. Today, the lake is 7.5 feet below normal, but one serious rain spell could erase that. In April 1973, the Kanopolis Lake level rose 20 feet in 10 days. There have been five years in which it rose more than 20 feet in a month.

But when state water officials say the lack of streamflow is due to drought, it implies the cause is both temporary and unusual. Pressed for what he means when he says "drought," Streeter acknowledges that by established measures, much of Kansas hasn't seen much drought lately.

"If you look at the Palmer (drought index) or some of those, they don't indicate we are in a horrible drought right now," he said.

David Pope, chief engineer of the Division of Water Resources and one of the most powerful figures on the Kansas water scene, says the drought might not be the worst Kansas has weathered, but it nonetheless is real.



Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

## Schedule of church services

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234 Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, Rev. Carroll H. Morony, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867. Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**, (SBC), Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 11:00 a.m.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. http://www.gbmg-umc.org/colby-umc/

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Saturday Evening 7p.m. Worship, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10a.m., Sunday worship, 11a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 7p.m.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**COLBY EVANGELISM CENTER**, Rev. Robert Cooper, 815 West 3rd - 462-2062, Sunday School 9:45; Sunday service 10:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Power Hour at 7:00 p.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Prayerettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Mission, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

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