

COLBY PRESS

Friday

December 5, 2008

Volume 119, Number 193 Serving Thomas County since 1888

Holiday events abound

Santa, music, food and fun fill Colby area

Leilani Thomas

Colby Convention & Visitors Bureau

We are in the midst of the holiday season, with so many activities. What a beautiful time of the year. The sights and sounds of the season surround us. We encourage you to take part in as many activities as possible.

Santa City opened Thanksgiving weekend and will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. It will be open weeknights from 6-8 p.m. beginning Monday, Dec. 15, and one final time on Christmas Eve from 1-3 p.m.

Santa will be at home to talk with the children in a "Western Winter Wonderland," which is a sight to behold for children and adults alike. No admission fee is charged and Mrs. Claus is providing sugar cookies.

The Christmas Light Parade will be at 5:45 p.m. Sunday in downtown Colby. Join in the fun as lighted vehicles, horses, implements and so much more travel from Second and Franklin to Santa City in Fike Park. Prizes are given by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce for the entries in various divisions.

The United Methodist Women is sponsoring its annual Christmas Home Tour on Sunday also. Homes on this year's tour are Lon Frahm's carriage house and pond retreat and the homes of Janice and Lynn Kreider, Tanya and Brian Staats and Judie and Jim Withers Tickets may be purchased from Methodist women or at the

homes on the tour. Lunch with Santa will be offered Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Colby Grade School cafeteria by Colby American Association of University Women. There will be a craft fair from 9-4 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. Kappa Upsilon is sponsoring the Puddle Duck Cake Walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, in the Community Building.

Musical programs include the college vocal music concert at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Cultural Arts Center, the college jazz and concert bands program at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the arts center, the fifth-grade music program at 2:30 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, in the grade school auditorium, and the fifth grade and high school Winter Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the high school auditorium.

Other special musical presentations include the college and Methodist Church choirs performing a cantata at the church at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. That afternoon, the Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will present a concert in the Frahm Theatre at 3:30 p.m.

Basketball and wrestling are in

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Snow doesn't slow activity about town

It snowed off and on most of Thursday but that didn't stop Colby residents from going about their business. Down by the Colby Grade School, a crossing guard (above) helped a student navigate the traffic. About the same time, the UPS man, Nathan Armbruster, (left) was out delivering packages to businesses and residences and Jeanette Hockersmith (below) used a unique ice scraper, a CD case, to clear her front windshield before taking off.



Two win money in Christmas contest

ing their ticket numbers to those in the Christmas on Us ad in Wednesday's Colby Free

Rylinda Barnett picked up her ticket at Colshopped at Great Western Tire.

Both women checked their ticket numbers against those published in the paper on are giving away \$2,000 this holiday season to Wednesday night and found matches. Barnett's number was in the ad for City Limits Bar and Grill and Karnes' was tucked into the Unicel ad.

While Barnett wasn't sure what she was go-

Two women are each \$50 richer after matching to do with her winnings, Karnes said she a second person will get \$500. was headed for Creations Gallery to do some Christmas gift buying.

There were eight numbers published in the paper in the Christmas on Us ads on pages 8 by Ag, and Kristy Karnes got hers when she and 9. As of this morning six unclaimed. One

of them might be yours. Colby merchants and the Colby Free Press shoppers. There will be eight more instant winners of \$50 each for people who pick up tickets at participating merchants. Then on Saturday, Dec. 13, one lucky person will have their ticket drawn for \$1,000 in spendable scrip and

The money is all in scrip, spendable at the merchants, who participate in this fun, holiday

The next set of Christmas on Us ads, with winning instant ticket numbers, and complete rules will be in the Monday edition of the Colby Free Press.

Get your tickets at Office Works, Unicel, City Limits Bar and Grill, Creations Gallery, Colby Implement, The Loft, Great Western Tire, Beringer Hardware, Colby Ag Center or the Colby Free Press and win Christmas

Budget chasm widens

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - The state's financial hole is getting deeper.

The latest bad news is smallerthan-expected revenue collections in November. General revenues for the month were 3.3 percent or nearly \$14 million — less than anticipated.

The Kansas Legislative Research Department's latest report on revenues came less than a month after state officials and university economists issued a new financial forecast. That prediction was more pessimistic than the one Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and legislators had used in making past budget decisions.

But it might not have been pessimistic enough, Alan Conroy, the Research Department's director, said Friday. The economy may be even weaker than the forecasters thought it was, he said.

"It was our best guess," said Conroy, who is one of the forecasters. "Unfortunately, in this environment, the situation is changing on a daily basis."

The state expected to collect nearly \$410 million in revenues during November, including almost \$181 million in individual income taxes, the largest source of general revenues.

But the state collected about \$396 million in revenues. And individual income tax collections were less than \$175 million -\$6.2 million, or 3.5 percent short of the mark.

The Research Department's report cautioned against reading trends from a single month's worth of data. But Conroy said, "It is a concern."

The weak point is individual income taxes," he said. "If the economy continues to weaken more than we anticipated, those numbers may be high.' General revenues from July 1,

when the 2009 fiscal year started, through Nov. 30, were about \$2.24 billion, again about \$14 million short of expectations.

The Research Department already was projecting that the state would end the current fiscal year on June 30 with a \$141 million budget deficit. It also has said that if the gap between anticipated revenues and current spending commitments isn't addressed, the gap will exceed \$1 billion by June 30,

Sebelius already has asked agencies to draft recommendations for trimming 3 percent from their current budgets and told them to anticipate deeper reductions in fiscal 2010.

But some Republican legislators are criticizing the Democratic governor because she hasn't yet used her legal authority to impose cuts before the 2009 Legislature convenes Jan. 12.

Sebelius planned to spend the day in budget meetings, spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said. The governor and her staff are preparing her recommendations for the next legislative session.

Briefly

Light Parade will be Sunday

Colby's Christmas Light Parade will begin at 5:45 p.m. Sunday at the corner of Second St. and Franklin Ave. and continue to Santa City in Fike Park. Entrants should register by Friday by calling the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at (785) 460-3401 or stopping by the office at 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 10.

Kids can shop at workshop

Children from preschool through fourth grade are invited to shop at Santa's Workshop from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Pioneer Memorial Library Conference Room at 375 W. Fourth St. Elves will help the children

pick out up to four gifts for a \$4 per gift donation. The project is organized by the Thomas County Community Foundation and all donations will go to charity.



Together group plans potluck More Fun Together, a group of people over 50,

who are alone, will hold a potluck meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church at 515 W. Fourth St. Participants are asked to bring a dish to share. Table service and beverages will be provided. Call the church at (785) 462-6342 for information.

Poker fund raiser Saturday

A poker tournament Saturday at Twisters Bar and Grill will raise money for the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Thomas County. The \$250 pot will be winner take all. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. and play

starts at 2 p.m. Registration will be a \$25 donation in advance, or \$30 at the door. Call 460-9125 for information.

Soup supper planned The Colby High School Dance Team is sponsor-

ing a soup supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. They will be serving chili, cream of potato, chicken noodle and cream of broccoli soups; beverages, brownies and crispy rice treats. Donations will be accepted.

Homes to be toured Sunday

The United Methodist Women's 2008 Christmas Homes Tour will be visiting four homes from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Lon Frahm's carriage house and pond retreat and the homes of Janice and Lynn Kreider, Tanya and Brian Staats and Judy and Jim Withers will be on display. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children 5-12 from any group member, at the church office or at the door.

Time to sign up for food

The Prairie Land Food sign-up, formerly SHARE, will have sign up until Monday, at the State Farm Insurance Office, 905 East Fourth St.. A food package is available at a reduced rate, which includes volunteer hours. Christmas specials are also available.

Lions plan pancake feed

The Colby High Plains Lions will hold a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building. A \$4-per-person donation is suggested.

Lunch with Santa planned

Children and adults can all enjoy lunch with Santa from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Colby Grade School cafeteria. The event is a fund raiser for the American Association of University Women. Tickets are \$5 each and will get participants lunch, a special treat, a coloring book and a visit with Santa.

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