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KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press



Radio station holds on air toy drive

Jim Turcotte (above, left) and Joel Janecek from KENF radio broadcast live from Walmart during a toy drive Thursday. Janecek interviewed Sara Berry-Herrn, who works at Walmart. The toys will go to the Kiwanis Club, who will give them to Genesis-Thomas County for distribution to local kids.

Cold night predicted for parade

By Kevin Bottrell

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It should be a cold, cloudy Sunday night for the annual Christmas Light Parade in downtown Colby and there may even be some snow on the ground.

The National Weather Service in Goodland is predicting a high temperature of 29 degrees during the day and a low of 13 at night and no precipitation.

The parade will begin at 5:45 p.m. at the intersection of Second Street and Franklin Avenue. It will head north on Franklin to Fike Park Road and on to Santa City. Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby Convention and Visi-

tor's Bureau, said there were 30 entries as of this morning. This year's theme is "Visions of Sugar Plums."

After the parade, Santa City will be open. Thomas said it will stay open until all the kids who come have seen Santa. For those who need to warm up, the American Legion will have a soup supper following the parade with proceeds benefiting Santa City.

In the mean time, will Thomas County get its first big snow of the winter? The weather service says Saturday may be the day. The service is predicting three to six inches of snow southeast of a line from Cheyenne Wells, Colo., to

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Murder suspect in court Monday

A court appearance is set for 1:30 p.m. Monday in the Decatur County murder case against Dylan Coryell Jr.

While a preliminary hearing had been set for November, it was continued until Monday. Jeff Wagaman, deputy chief of staff for Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, said both parties agreed to the continuance.

Wagaman said Coryell, 24, is being held in the Decatur County jail with bond set at \$500,000, cash or surety.

The court appearance will include a review and status update, where lawyers for the state and defense will discuss the status

of discovery and the court may schedule a preliminary hearing.

Coryell faces three charges for allegedly shooting Airman Corey Cook, 22.

The first count is for premeditated murder in the first degree with an alternative charge of felony murder in the first degree. A felony murder charge applies when a death occurs during a planned felony crime, regardless of whether the death was planned.

The second count is aggravated battery for alleged injuries to Sarah Campbell, and the third is for aggravated burglary for entering the home where the shooting occurred. Both are felonies.

Colby native goes on Honor Flight at 93 years old

By Kayla Cornett

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Ninety-three-year-old World War II veteran Edna Bremenkamp Poole got the chance to visit the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., for the first time since she was discharged from the service 64 years ago when she went on an Honor Flight in early November.

The national Honor Flight Network

was developed in 2005 to give veterans the ability to visit the World War II, Korea and Vietnam memorials, as well as other sights around the nation's capitol, at no cost to them. On Nov. 4 and 5, Poole, a Colby native now living in Lawrence, and her son, Kevin Poole, along with 24 other veterans made the trip.

The Lawrence Journal-World reported that the Grace Community Church in Overbrook raised more than \$11,000 for the veterans' airfare and lodging on the

two-day trip.

"Nothing in my life has been better," Poole said of the trip. "It's a must for any veteran."

Poole enlisted in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in 1942 when she was 24 and was made a first lieutenant during her tour. Poole had two brothers already serving.

She was discharged in 1947 and returned to Colby to live. She took a job at Dr. J.L. Jensen's medical practice for about three years, and then worked at

St. Thomas Hospital from 1948 to 1975, where she was a nursing supervisor. She also served on the St. Thomas Hospital board during that time, which she said was very rare for a nurse to be on.

Poole met and married Rufus Poole, a deep-sea diver and Navy veteran, in 1948, and they raised two children in Colby. Kevin currently resides in Lawrence and Remi Myers lives in Loganville, Ga.

Rufus Poole died in 1985 and his cremated remains were sent to the Arlington

National Cemetery. Poole was able to visit the cemetery and the columbarium that held her husband's ashes on her trip.

According to the Journal-World, most of the Honor Flights out of Kansas do not include an overnight stay in D.C., but Poole's trip did, so organizers were able to add a visit to the cemetery as a bonus.

At the World War II monument, the veterans were given medals, posed for pictures and shook hands with former U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole.

Return to wetter weather may drive beef prices higher

By Roxana Hegeman

The Associated Press

WICHITA — Consumers can expect to pay more for their beef this coming year if the return of wetter weather allows cattle ranchers to begin rebuilding herds rather than sending cows to slaughter, a leading market analyst told hundreds of livestock producers Thursday.

Cattle prices will likely remain strong for many years, Randy Blach, the executive vice president of CattleFax, said at the Kansas Livestock Association's convention in Wichita.

Blach said that the number of females slaughtered could drop by a million cows during the next two years as the industry goes from liquidating herds to expanding them.

About a third of the nation's livestock herds are located in ar-

reas that suffered from drought this year, Blach said. The drought led many producers to send breeding cows to slaughter as hay prices skyrocketed. But if forecasts projecting more rain in those regions hold up, ranchers are expected to keep more of those cows for their operations.

"Lean beef prices are going to get higher," Blach said.

Beef prices — already bolstered by a strong export demand — had already risen by 14 percent between 2010 and 2011. They could reach an average of \$5 a pound in 2012, according to the CattleFax projections.

In addition to higher beef prices for consumers, the impact of taking 1 million cows out of slaughter will vary depending on the type of livestock operation involved, he said.

So-called seedstock operations, also known as breeders, will benefit from the higher prices for their calves. But people who run stocker operations — typically ranchers

with a surplus of grass who buy calves in the spring and sell them in the fall as feeder cattle — will likely have to revert into a cow-calf operations where they maintain a cow herd.

Fewer cattle going to slaughter also will make it even tougher for the feed yards that would have fattened them and the meatpacking plants that would have processed them.

That is because for years now the nation's cattle inventory numbers have been mostly declining. There are not enough cattle in U.S. herds to support the packing capacity of slaughterhouses or the feeding capacity of feedlots. The impact of lower cattle inventories on the nation's beef supply has been offset, by about 75 percent, by increased production as heavier cattle are being slaughtered, Blach said.

Another factor expected to drive up the price of beef at the

Brunch at the country club



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

The Colby Women's League held a Christmas brunch Thursday at Meadow Lake Golf Club. The league took donations for local charities and organizations.



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