

Babies

Zoey Elizabeth Bandy

Zoey Elizabeth Bandy, daughter of Hannah and Brett Bandy of Colby, was born Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 21 inches.

Brother Nathaniel welcomed the baby home. Grandparents are Bruce and Leatte Bandy of Colby.

Great-grandparents are Tom and Jane Bandy and Pauline and Duane Fishel, all of Colby.



Zoey Bandy

Sage Henry Elling



Sage Elling

Sage Henry Elling, son of Andrew Elling and Jenna Williams of Colby, was born Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches.

Grandparents of the baby are Scott and Donnie Williams, Sonia Elling and Steifon Mathews, all of Colby.

Andrew Eugene Kerr

Andrew Eugene Kerr, son of Shawna and Kris Kerr of Colby, was born Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches.

Sister Neally Libertus welcomed the baby home. Grandparents are Neil and Connie Libertus, Coolidge, Mary and Bob Carter, Syracuse, Dorothy Libertus, Coolidge, and Betty and Raymond Landerpool of Syracuse.



Andrew Kerr

Hunter James Glassman



Hunter G.

Hunter James Glassman, son of Travis and Kendra Glassman of Colby, was born Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Grandparents of the baby are Kent and Brenda Evans of Menlo and James Glassman and Bonnie Hagel of Oakley.

Hunter is the great great-grandson of Dorothy Evans.

Kaiden Matthew Fierce Seigler

Kaiden Matthew Fierce Seigler, son of Kevin and Alexandra Seigler of Goodland, was born Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Grandparents of the baby are Tim and Lydia Borders of Goodland, Kevin Seigler of Bellville, Texas, and Lisa Williams of Stephenville, Texas.



Kaiden S.

Brady Joseph Woofter



Brady W.

Brady Joseph Woofter, son of Jayson and Tara Woofter of Colby, was born Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 18 inches.

Brother Boston Woofter welcomed Brady home.

Grandparents of the baby are Jay and Susan Woofter of Hoxie and Rich and Sheila Krannawitter of Colby.

Museum takes up dance

Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum in Logan says Kerry Ferguson, Kensington, will be offering dance lessons for beginning and advanced learners. Eight weekly sessions will be held on Sunday afternoons, beginning on Jan. 8.

Beginning classes will be from 2 to 3:30 with advanced sessions from 3:30 to 5. Classes will be held at the Logan City Building.

Participants must be 13 years

or older. Instruction may include waltz, two-step, swing, polka, cha cha and lots of new fun steps.

Registration deadline is Monday, Jan. 2.

This learning opportunity is provided by the Hansen Museum Continued Education Program and offered to the public.

For information or to register by phone, call (785) 689-4846.

Frosty the Snowman arrested

CHESTERTOWN, Md. (AP) – Who says “Frosty the Snowman” has to be jolly?

A man in a “Frosty the Snowman” costume was arrested Saturday during the annual Christmas parade in Chestertown, on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. He’s accused of scuffling with police and kicking at a police dog.

Sgt. John A. Dolgos tells *The Star Democrat* of Easton that 52-

year-old Kevin Michael Walsh became agitated when a dog-handling officer tried to escort him away from the crowd.

Walsh told the Associated Press that he has dressed as Frosty in the parade for at least 10 years. He says he was wrongfully arrested. He says an officer hassled him after he remarked about the police dog’s presence.

Stock up at the library now for the long holiday weekend



Melany Wilks

Library Links

she is marrying. They must return home for Christmas to meet her intended husband to be. The fun thing is that she has not exactly made up her mind which gentleman she is going to marry. Here is the love story and the suspense of this heartwarming book. We have this in both regular and large print editions.

Another item is “Lost December,” by Richard Paul Evans. Luke Crisp has just come to the end of his funds and future; he must return to his corporate father for help. This prodigal son story is set in the theme of Christmas and the events of the son’s return. We have this in both print and audio (CD) formats.

In large print we have added Fern Michaels’ newest book “Christmas At Timberwoods.” It is about a security manager for a lo-

cal mall. Heather Andrews is told by the creator of the mall’s holiday display that there may be a tragedy on Christmas Eve. At first Heather does not believe Angela, the display designer. However, the more she gets to know her the more she is sure she must investigate to stop a crisis on Christmas.

A third item is “Christmas Treasures,” by Thomas Kinkade and Katherine Spencer. Rev. Ben has just had bypass surgery. He must decide whether it is time to retire. He realizes his work with the people of this congregation really is a gift and can he give it up?

Other books we are adding are: “1225 Christmas Tree Lane,” by Debbie Macomber; “An O’Brien Family Christmas,” by Sherryl Woods; “Lawman’s Christmas,” (*McKetricks*, Book 14), by Linda Lael Miller; “The Snow Angel,” by Glenn Beck and Nicole Baart; “The Christmas Singing: A Romance from the Heart of Amish Country,” (*Ada’s House* series), by Cindy Woodsmall; and “Christmas in Sugarcreek,” by Shelley Shepard Gray.

Remember to bring canned foods to pay your fines to the Pio-

neer Memorial Library. Food for Fines runs until Friday, Dec. 23. What is Food for Fines? A library patron who has overdue fines may bring canned foods to redeem the fines on his or her account. We ask that the food have current dates, have labels intact and be in good condition. You can redeem your library fines by filling out a small form at the front desk; give the items and your slip to the library staff so they can remove any fines on your record. Food for Fines does not apply to lost or damaged items. If you have a lost item, please come talk to our library staff and solve the problem. We will be donating the food items to the Genesis-Thomas County food bank. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 460-4470.

Plan on getting your items to read, listen to and view early before Christmas!! We are open until 8 p.m. each night next week except for Friday the 23rd. We will close at 5 p.m. on Friday and be closed Saturday through Monday, Dec. 24, 25 and 26. Have a very Merry and Happy Christmas! See you in the library!

Northeast states cut heating aid to poor

By Andrew Miga

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Mary Power is 92 and worried about surviving another frigid New England winter because deep cuts in federal home heating assistance benefits mean she probably can’t afford enough heating oil to stay warm.

She lives in a drafty trailer in Boston’s West Roxbury neighborhood and gets by on \$11,148 a year in pension and Social Security benefits. Her heating aid help this year will drop from \$1,035 to \$685. With rising heating oil prices, it probably will cost her more than \$3,000 for enough oil to keep warm unless she turns her thermostat down to 60 degrees, as she plans.

“I will just have to crawl into bed with the covers over me and stay there,” said Power, a widow who worked as a cashier and waitress until she was 80. “I will do what I have to do.”

Thousands of poor people across the Northeast are bracing for a difficult winter with substantially less home heating aid coming from the federal government.

“They’re playing Russian roulette with people’s lives,” said John Drew, who heads Action for Boston Community Development, Inc., which provides aid to low-income residents in Massachusetts.

The issue could flare just as New Hampshire votes in the Republican presidential primary.

Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, said she hopes the candidates will take up the region’s heating aid crunch because it underscores how badly the country needs a comprehensive energy policy.

Several Northeast states already have reduced heating aid benefits to families as Congress considers cutting more than \$1 billion from last year’s \$4.7 billion Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that served nearly 9 million households.

Families in New England, where the winters are long and cold and people rely heavily on costly oil heat, are expected to be especially hard hit. Many poor and elderly people on fixed incomes struggle with rising heating bills that can run into thousands of dollars. That can force them to cut back on other necessities like food or medicine.

“The winter of 2011-12 could be memorable for the misery and suffering of thousands of frigid households,” New Hampshire’s Concord Monitor newspaper said in an editorial. “Heating oil prices are expected to hit record highs, and federal fuel assistance may reach a record low for recent years.”

Higher home heating oil prices and more families seeking aid due to the sour economy are straining resources. There’s a 10 percent surge in new applicants in Boston, Drew said.

“Our whole program could hit a rock soon,” said Mark Wolfe of the National Energy Assistance Directors’ Association.

Families can expect to pay, on average, about \$3,300 to heat a home with oil this winter in New England, Wolfe said. That’s about \$500 more than last winter. About half of the region’s homes use oil heat.

Congress, which is locked in a bitter battle over reducing spending, still must decide how much money to give the program for the budget year that began Oct. 1.

In fall 2008, amid concerns about rising fuel

prices, the government nearly doubled fuel assistance, releasing \$5.1 billion to states for the following winter.

But last February, President Barack Obama proposed cutting the program nearly in half, calling for about \$2.5 billion. The House is considering \$3.4 billion for fuel assistance, while the Senate reviews a \$3.6 billion proposal.

Snowe, along with Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., are pushing for \$4.7 billion, last year’s funding level, but they face long odds.

The government has given an initial round of funding, \$1.7 billion, to the states.

In Maine, one of the coldest states, the average benefit has been reduced by about \$500. The state’s average benefit last winter was about \$800 among 63,842 households. The average income of recipients was \$16,757. About 80 percent of Maine households use oil heat.

“It’s a very serious situation,” Dale McCormick, director of MaineHousing, a state agency that administers heating aid, said. “We can’t send out money we don’t have.”

That view is shared by home heat aid advocates across New England and into New York and Pennsylvania. Most of those states have cut benefits. New Hampshire has tightened eligibility requirements.

Vermont’s average benefit was cut from \$866 to \$474. New York’s maximum benefit this year is \$500, down from \$700 last winter. Pennsylvania’s minimum benefit is dropping from \$300 last year to \$100, Wolfe said.

“We have a lot of terrified people who can’t see how they are going to survive,” said Drew.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.90
Corn (bushel)	\$5.70
Milo (hundredweight)	\$9.75
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.70

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby

Christmas Open House

December 14th, 15th, 16th

9:00 to 3:00

-2012 Calendars Register for various drawings!

-Hot Cider

-Goodies & More

785-460-3321

www.fmbcolby.com

Merry Christmas

Stop by either location!

Colby Free Press

Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce

Welcome:

320 N. Lake, Colby KS **DUFFEY CHIROPRACTIC CARE, INC.**

785-460-3224