

Events set for holiday

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press
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A sleigh-full of events are being planned for the first weekend of December in Colby, ushering in some holiday cheer and lots of Christmas spirit.

Christmas Light Parade

The theme for Colby's annual Light Parade this year is "A Merry Little Christmas from A to Z". It will start at 5:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at the corner of Second Street and Franklin Avenue, with Santa leading the way to Santa City.

Prizes will be awarded for floats in the categories best organizational, best business, best decorated, best religious, most unique and best representation of theme.

"First place will be chosen from each category," said Holly Whitaker, director of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, "and will be given a \$50 Chamber gift certificate.

"(The parade is) now in its 15th year, and a holiday tradition in Thomas County. We are hoping many organizations, groups, businesses and individuals will help to make it another successful Christmas light parade."

The deadline to enter is Friday, Nov. 30. Registration forms are available at the Chamber office, 350 S. Range, Suite 10.

"If you haven't yet made it to the Christmas Light Parade," said Whitaker, "make this the year you do. It's great fun for the entire family, and afterwards, visit Santa Claus at Santa City and tell him your Christmas wishes."

For questions, call the Chamber at (785) 460-3401.

Santa City

The forested winter wonderland with animated woodland animals opens for visitors on Friday. Mrs. Claus will be giving children cookies and Santa will listen to Christmas wishes at Santa City, in the Scout Hut at Fike Park downtown.

Admission is free, though donations are encouraged to help cover expenses.

"Since 1979, Santa City has been a Christmas tradition in Colby," said Convention and Visitor's Bureau Director Leilani Thomas. "It is such a magical place. And, remember, it is not just for children.

"Your holiday isn't complete until you have visited Santa City, and after you have given your wishes to Santa, do not forget to say hello to Mrs. Claus, who has

a decorated sugar cookie waiting especially for you."

Santa City will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday and every weekend from 1 to 5 p.m. Starting on Monday, Dec. 10, it will be open weeknights from 6 to 8 p.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24.

Santa's Workshop

The Thomas County Community Foundation will once again be giving kids in preschool through fourth grade a chance to do their holiday shopping all by themselves - with maybe a little help from a friendly shopping elf - during Santa's Workshop, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. or until supplies last, Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range.

Children will get the chance to buy Christmas presents for their parents, grandparents or guardians for a suggested donation of \$4 per gift. Kids are limited to four gifts each.

All of the items are geared toward adults and have been donated by area people who have either made, baked or bought them.

By the time the kids are done shopping, their gifts are wrapped and ready to be placed under the family tree.

For questions, contact the foundation at (785) 460-9152 or tccf@st-tel.net.

Cookie and Candy Sale

Members of Kappa Upsilon sorority will be selling a mountain of candies, cookies and baked goods for \$7 per pound from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at the Colby United Methodist Church.

People can also buy tickets to the Holiday Home Tours during the event.

Nativi-TEA

At least 17 people have signed up to showcase their nativity scenes at the Colby Presbyterian Church's Nativi-TEA event from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2, at the church, 515 W. Fourth St.

"People from the church and the community display different varieties of nativity scenes from all over the world," said Administrative Assistant Wynn Duffey. "Some people bring one set, others brings many. They range from homemade sets to purchased ones and gifts, and they are all unique and worth seeing.

"This is a great way to experience the true meaning of Christmas and focus on why we celebrate this special holiday."

Fire blows through corn field



Efforts to salvage corn that had blown down in this field southeast of Rexford met with trouble Monday afternoon when a bearing went out on Shane Beckman's combine. Compounding his troubles, said Dave Williams, Rexford fire chief, the oil had been drained from a well motor, so the center pivot couldn't be started to help put the fire out. He said he heard that one of the towers on the irrigation system had been damaged. Firemen used two tanker trucks of water from Rexford to put the fire out, with the farmer's disc used to turn under stray sparks. Light winds helped keep the fire from spreading.

MARIAN BALLARD
Colby Free Press

State puts hold on computer fix

TOPEKA (AP) - A Kansas agency is delaying fixing problems with its motor vehicle system as a software vendor implements changes under a new state law.

The law that takes effect Jan. 1 will change truck and permit fees and allow county treasurers to sell permits to access state parks.

The system to help drivers renew license tags and register their cars caused long delays and lines at motor vehicle offices across the state after it was introduced in May, prompting anger from residents and county treasurers' offices.

The problems caused conflict between several counties and the Department of Revenue, particularly when some larger counties were forced to pay thousands of dollars in overtime and hire new workers in response to the computer glitches.

Repaving set for next summer

The Kansas Department of Transportation let bids for highway construction projects, mostly maintenance resurfacing work, last month, including four on K-25 both north and south of Colby.

Work on K-25 will start at the junction with U.S. 40 near Monument and come north to the Colby city limits under two contracts, both of which went to the Venture Corp. out of Great Bend.

The works will include 17.8 miles of asphalt overlay under the contracts, one for \$398,205 for 2.3 miles in Logan County, the other for \$2,680,911 for 15.5 miles in Thomas County.

North of town, to the Rawlins County line,

Dustrol Inc. of Towanda got a \$1,018,134 contract to overlay 11.5 miles.

In Rawlins County, Venture will do 13.2 miles from Atwood to the Nebraska line, all of which should leave K-25 in smooth shape.

Elsewhere in the area, Venture got a \$3,135,083 contract to mill and overlay 29.7 miles of U.S. 36 and K-27, from the K-27 junction at Wheeler east to the Rawlins County line, and south on K-27 to Sherman County.

Also included is all one-half of a mile of K-217 north to the former Wheeler post office.

In Wallace County, Venture will mill off the old surface and overlay K-27 from the Greeley

county line to Sharon Springs, and from U.S. 40 north to Sherman County.

For 29.8 miles through the county, excluding city streets, the contract is for \$2,258,008.

Under four small contracts, Venture and APAC Kansas/Shears Division, of Hutchinson, will mix and stockpile patching material for the department in all four counties.

Shears will get \$11,774 and Venture, for three sites, \$275,560.

Kristen Brands, district public affairs manager in Norton for the departments, said work could start any time between April and October, depending on the contractors' schedules. For questions, call her at (785) 877-3315.

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