



## Snow piles up around Colby

Six inches of snow fell in Colby on Wednesday and streets such as Franklin Avenue (above) were still snow packed today. A decorative tree (right) outside of Someplace Special was surrounded by snow. Colby Free Press publisher Sharon Friedlander (below left) played in a large snow mound with advertising representatives Kathryn Ballard and Janene Woodall.

MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press



# Snow storm hits hard across state

Colby people mostly stayed inside this morning as huge winter storm shut down schools and highways.

With about 6 inches on the ground in Colby by 8:30 a.m., snow was expected to fall all day. Many students got another "snow day" today, and traffic was thin this morning. People were being asked to stay off highways and not park on streets in town, although the storm had caused few injuries on the roads.

Joe Moore, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said we will probably see another wave of light to moderate snow later this afternoon, adding that snowfall was expected to total 9 to 11 inches in Thomas County.

He said forecasters expected "a sharp gradient" in northwest Kansas, which means Colby could see a few more inches and Goodland might see none.

"This is the final upper level

piece of energy associated with the system," Moore said, adding that the area will probably see just flurries after that. There could even be a few flurries Friday afternoon, but it's not likely.

"I think the storm met our expectations fairly well," Moore said, "and overall, we feel that it was a pretty good forecast."

Colby City Manager Tyson McGreer said the city is in a "snow emergency," which means people can't park their cars on the main streets marked for snow removal: Range, Franklin, Country Club, Goodland, Fourth, Pine, Hill, College, Davis, Horton and Willow.

He said the city declared the emergency Wednesday afternoon, and it should last until this afternoon or perhaps Friday morning.

"We'll kind of wait to see when it quits and how fast we can get things cleaned up," he said.

McGreer added that all other

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# Navy chorus coming here

The "Sea Chanters," the official chorus of the United States Navy from Washington, will present a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at the Colby High School Auditorium, sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association and the Colby Free Press.

The 20-voice chorus, accompanied by a three-piece rhythm section, will do selections ranging from patriotic to Broadway show-stoppers.

The chantey, or shantey, derives from the French "chanter," "to sing." These "folk songs of the sea" were used by sailors since time immemorial to coordinate

the rhythm of rowing and other ship's work.

There were several kinds of chanties, including the "short drag," the "long haul" and the "heaving," used when hoisting the anchor and other crew work. "Gangway" or "foc'sle" chanties, containing many verses, were sung in the foc'sle or other places where the men spent their leisure time aboard ship.

Today, the "Sea Chanters" include traditional chanties in their repertoire, including "Blow High, Blow Low," "High Barbary" and

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# School board hears about special events

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Teachers came to the school board meeting Monday night to tell the board about special events at the school and technology they are using in the classroom.

Trish Starbuck, art teacher at Colby Grade School, told the Colby School Board at its meeting Monday night that students dressed as cowboys and Indians for the school's Kansas Day celebration last month.

Starbuck said she is part of the schools' Kansas Day committee along with several other teachers and helped organize the celebration.

Elementary schools kids spent

Kansas Day, Jan. 29, going among activities in different rooms, including butter churning and making designs in tin pans. Townspeople came to help them with the activities and give presentations on every thing from agriculture and nutrition to ancient Indians and fossils. Presenters included Thomas County Extension agent Diann Gerstner and Mike Baughn, a county commissioner, trail historian, former sheriff and former mayor of Brewster.

Later, Starbuck said, the kids got to go outside to the playground, where the Colby Community College equestrian team brought a horse that they could look at. Colby Implement and

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# Sparks start grass fire

Sparks from a welding project ignited a grass fire Monday afternoon on the east side of town.

Fire Chief Bob McLemore said the fire burned four or five acres after Travis Vaughn inadvertently ignited some grass while welding.

"He was working on some horse pens," McLemore said.

The Colby Fire Department got the call at about 4 p.m., and had the fire out by about 4:30 p.m., he said. The blaze scorched some grass on a hillside just south of the pens on the east side of town, where Valley Drive meets Fourth Street.

# Checking out auction items



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

A potential buyer inspected guns Saturday afternoon at the TNT Auction House in downtown Colby. The place filled up

as people came to bid on everything from guns and swords to fishing rods and boxes full of household items.

