



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Businesses to be closed for New Year's

Along with a number of other business closings, there will be no *Colby Free Press* on New Year's Day, and the paper's offices will be closed.

All city and county offices will be closed on New Year's Day, including City Hall, the public works department, the Thomas County courthouse, the county landfill and all county offices. District court offices will close at noon on New Year's Eve.

All post offices; the state driver's license exam station and veteran's affairs office; the Pioneer Memorial Library; federal offices, including the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Thomas County Conservation District, will also be closed. The library will close at 5 p.m. today and Tuesday.

Some businesses in Colby will close for New Year's, although many will stay open.

Colby Dodge, Tubbs and Sons Ford Sales and P&D Auto be closed on New Year's Day and Tubbs and Sons will close at 3 p.m. Tuesday. BankWest, Adams Bank and Trust, People's State Bank, Sun-

flower Bank, The Bank, F&M Bank and its Dillons location will all be closed on Wednesday.

The Dillons Pharmacy will close at 7 p.m. Tuesday and be closed New Year's Day. Dillons will stay open for its regular hours, however, and so will both Walmart and the pharmacy there. Dollar General will close at 8 p.m. on New Year's Eve, but reopen the next day.

The Hi Plains Co-op and the Prairie Museum of Art and History will both close on New Year's Day, and the co-op will close at noon the day before.

McDonald's, J&B Meat Market, Gambino's Pizza, City Limits, El Dos de Oros, Montana Mike's, Pizza Hut, Sonic, Village Inn, Subway, Taco John's and Starbucks will all be open for their regular hours on New Year's Day. On New Year's Eve, Taco John's will close at 5 p.m., and Subway will close at 8 p.m. Arby's will be open from 11 a.m. to close on New Year's Day and close at 8 p.m. Tuesday.



Brent Wiedeman (left), president Farmers and Merchants Bank, talked with Dr. Stephen Vacik, president of Colby Community College, Thursday in the bank lobby. F&M gave the college \$25,000 to help with its goal to raise a quarter of a million dollars by the end of the year. The college Endowment Foundation

has promised to match as much as \$250,000 that the college raises by Tuesday for Vacik's "Campaign for Change." Audrey Hines (far left), a member of the college Board of Trustees, and Velma Goodheart, vice president of the bank, looked on.

ASHLEY MOSER/Farmers and Merchants Bank



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Melda Moore (left), and Norman Whitaker got to examine Joyce Thierer's native American tools, a hoe made from the shoulder bone of a bison, Dec. 19 at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. They were in the audience during the museum's *Food for Thought* program, listening to Thierer talk about agriculture over the years.

Origins of crops and farming explored in *Food for Thought*

By Sam Dieter

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A Kansas professor talked to about 50 people over lunch at the Pioneer Museum of Art and History Dec. 19, asking them, among other things, to consider where their food came from.

Joyce Thierer talked about early agriculture as part of the museum's *Food for Thought* speaker series. A history professor at Emporia State University, Thierer presented "Our Food, Our Land," representing the Kansas Humanities Council's "The Way We Worked" speakers bureau.

Local farming and local eating, Thierer said, are nothing new. She covered the history of agriculture and food from woolly mastodon hunts to modern farming.

She talked about crops that had been grown in Europe and the Middle East for thousands of years, like emmer wheat, which is the result of cross-pollination between several types of desert grass. Thierer said archaeological sites in different parts of the world show that people raised the ancestors of crops grown today in Kansas.

"This goes all the way back to say this is local food consumption," she added.

She passed replica arrows and Indian tools through the audience: a hoe and shovel made from buffalo bones, an antler for digging and a walking stick that doubled as a shovel to dig up wild onions —



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Joyce Thierer, an Emporia professor, talked about agriculture Dec. 19 at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

or a spear to kill rabbits.

The presentation ended with pictures of Kansas pioneers. While farmers moved from using buffalo bones to horses and then tractors, Thierer said, people

still grew and harvested their own food.

Crops and animals, she said, have spread around the world.

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Selden celebrates town's anniversary

Selden celebrated 125 years as a town — and the Christmas season — over the weekend before Christmas with games, carols, soup, some history and lots of hot chocolate.

The afternoon started off with bingo games, with more than 40

prizes donated by area business and individuals. Participants got one card free but could buy others, with all the proceeds going into the blackout prize of Selden Greenbucks. The \$240 prize was won by Ashton and Londyn Schiltz, who chose to share the win-

nings.

Following the games, a soup supper featuring chili, chicken-noodle and oyster soups, was provided by the Selden American Legion. Guests brought side dishes

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School board appoints member to fill vacancy

Colby's school board will soon have a new member, Chad Applebury.

Applebury was approved by the board at its meeting Dec. 16 to fill a vacancy left by Ed Geihlsler's resignation last month.

Applebury is from Colby, graduating from Colby High School in 1998. He is the wastewater supervisor for the City of Colby. He and his wife Aimee have two children, fifth-grader Eli, and first-grader Karyssa.

Applebury completed a survey before the meeting to give the board more information about himself. He will attend training and must take a few additional steps before he can be sworn in as a member.

There were no other applicants for the open position. He said he wanted to become a board member

to help out the community and get involved.

In other business:

- High school Principal Jeff Wallingford told the board that Donna Roberts had been recognized as the Teacher of the Month and that the school expects to have two student teachers and a Korean exchange student next semester.

- Middle school Principal Rob Ross reported his students collected more than 750 pounds of food for Genesis-Thomas County food bank during the school's "food fight."

- Board members held a closed-door session for 10 minutes to discuss nonelected personnel, centering around the idea of changing the pay rates for activity bus drivers. No decisions were made after the session.

State's abortion law changes named 2013's top Kansas story

The Associated Press

TOPEKA (AP) — A conservative social agenda that rewrote the state's abortion, gun rights and voter ID rules dominated Kansas' top stories of 2013, underscoring the state's persistent move to the right under Gov. Sam Brownback.

Reporters and editors for The Associated Press picked the state's changes to abortion laws as Kansas' top story, as legislators enacted a sweeping law that bans sex-selection abortions, blocks tax breaks for providers and prohibits them from furnishing instructors or materials for public schools' sexuality courses. The new restrictions also affect providers' websites and spell out what information patients must receive before their pregnancies are terminated. Most of the law took effect in July, with lawsuits pending in state and federal court, as the state's legal costs mounted.

Government leaders were also busy on other social issues. With a push from the National Rifle Association, Kansas became the first state to attempt to restrict the use of state funds for lobbying or advocacy on gun issues, and it also enacted a law declaring that the federal government has no power to regulate firearms, ammunition or accessories manufactured, sold and kept in Kansas. Lawmakers also passed a measure to ensure that people with valid concealed carry permits can bring their weapons into more public buildings.

The year also saw Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach champion a law that requires new voters to provide proof of their U.S. citizenship when they register, as an anti-fraud measure. The law took effect in January, and the list of voters whose registrations were on hold — preventing them from legally casting ballots — grew to

more than 18,000. Kobach initiated a federal lawsuit, working with Arizona, in hopes of forcing federal officials to modify their registration form to aid in the law's enforcement, and the American Civil Liberties Union launched its own litigation.

The year's no. 2 story came Dec. 13 when the FBI foiled an alleged plot by a Wichita avionics technician to detonate a car bomb inside the city's Mid-Continent Regional Airport. Terry Lee Loewen was charged with plotting with undercover FBI agents to collect explosives, put them in a vehicle and drive them into the airport terminal in an act of "violent jihad."

Prosecutors claimed Loewen

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