

8 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## ‘Crystal’ wonderland

The ice that made driving hazardous also turned Colby into a winter wonderland Wednesday night, when Christmas lights illuminated this willow tree (above) on Franklin Ave. and threw up a sharp contrast to the tree's ice-covered branches. The freezing fog that had settled in over Colby by Wednesday morning was bitterly cold; it blanketed trees with frost and the streets with mist at the same time, as this adult and child could see as they left the Pioneer Memorial Library (below). Frost stuck to barren branches, but also formed borders around the last leaves clinging to the limbs of some trees, (right), and formed an unusual black and white canopy (bottom) over the streets in town.

EVAN BARNUM and SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



## Oil-price drop rattles Kansans

By Roxana Hegeman

Associated Press

WICHITA (AP) – When crude prices were high, Kansas oilman Robert Murdock made plans to drill 20 new wells next year. Not anymore.

Murdock, president of Hutchinson-based Osage Resources, said that when oil prices dipped below \$60 a barrel this month, “it changes your thinking as far as putting money into the ground.” So far, he’s scaled down his drilling plans for new wells at least by half.

“If prices continue to decrease, we may not drill any next year,” Murdock said.

It costs between \$2 million and \$3 million to drill a horizontal well a mile deep with a lateral of a mile, he said.

Plunging crude prices are hitting oil producers especially hard in places like Kansas, where the industry is dominated by smaller, independent operators who depend more heavily on the cash flow from producing wells to pay for drilling new ones.

The growth in new drilling across the country will almost certainly slow, analysts say, as drillers avoid rock that is either not very well understood or known to be not very prolific. When oil prices are high, that drilling can be profitable, but at low prices that drilling is either too risky or unprofitable. That is particularly true in Kansas, where the vast majority of oil wells are stripper wells – typically low-

producing wells that yield about 10 barrels or less per day.

Most of the big oil firms that rushed into Kansas in 2011 and 2012 to drill horizontal wells from the same Mississippian Lime formation that had spawned an oil boom in neighboring Oklahoma had already left last year after exploratory drilling proved disappointing. The state’s remaining independents, with their lower operating costs and lower-producing wells, still flourished when crude prices were high.

But if oil prices remain low, those smaller independents are expected to sharply curtail new operations.

“It is causing many companies to re-evaluate

See “OIL,” Page 2

## Accidents, roads keep Patrol busy

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press  
sdieter@nwkansas.com

Winter weather led to icy and wet conditions on local roads, which combined with low visibility led to a slew of slide-offs and crashes on the highways Wednesday.

In Colby, cars were seen driv-

ing down Range Ave. with their hazard lights on Wednesday night as conditions worsened, making it hard to drive even in town. Kansas Highway Patrol troopers reported injury accidents in Thomas and three nearby counties. Eight people were taken to area hospitals, several of whom seem to have

See “ACCIDENTS,” Page 2

## School sets interview dates

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press  
sdieter@nwkansas.com

The Colby School Board set aside several days next month for interviews as it decided how to conduct the search for a new superintendent at its meeting Monday night.

The board set special meetings on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 15 and 16, and two more the following Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 19 and 20, all at 5 p.m., to interview candidates for the job.

Before voting on the meeting dates, the board chose 25 interview questions to ask from a pre-arranged list. The district did not want to release the questions, for fear that some candidates would have an unfair advantage. Lance Krannawitter, principal of the grade school, left the room while the board chose the questions. At a special meeting Dec. 9, the

board spoke with Doug Moeckel, executive director of the Kansas Association of School Boards about what it wanted to see in a new superintendent.

Superintendent Terrel Harrison announced at the October board meeting she would leave the job on June 30.

In other business, the board:

- Voted to moved next month’s board meeting to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 12. The normal date for the meeting would have been Jan. 19.

- Approved the resignations of grade school secretary Julie Barnes and high school teachers’ aide Carol Hunter, and the resignation of Christina Beringer, assistant high school forensics coach. The board also voted to hire Emily Williams as a grade school teachers aide.

- Approved out of district attendance requests from Justin and Harley Weese.

## Standpipe repair required

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press  
sdieter@nwkansas.com

Colby will spend just over \$36,000 to repair the water standpipe near Interstate 70 after damage caused by ice forming on the inside.

City Manager Tyson McGreer described the \$36,485 proposal from Engineering America as a necessary step at the city council’s Tuesday night meeting. The council approved the proposal to remove a “riser pipe” from inside the standpipe and clean the interior of the tank. Engineering America, which manufactured the tank, will replace damaged floor caps and make other repairs to the inside of the tank.

With damage that has been done to the tank after years of ice forming on the inside, McGreer said, the city does not have any warranty remaining. At the last city council meeting, he detailed what repairs would have to be made with help from Brian Spano, an engineer for Penco. This engineering firm advises the city on many of its projects. Sealant and repairs to the interior of the tank should be good for 15 years, Spano said, and interior repairs should be good for 20.

About an hour before the start of this week’s meeting, McGreer got a proposed maintenance agree-

ment from Engineering America to maintain the standpipe for a yearly rate. Without time to look at the proposal in detail, he did not put it before the council, or say what the yearly rate will be.

It is believed that ice formed in the standpipe and damaged the riser pipe last winter, McGreer said after the meeting, a problem which was discovered this spring. In the first part of this year, Richmond, Calif.-based company Pax Water Technologies installed an experimental machine in the standpipe to mix water in the standpipe and keep the ice from forming. McGreer said the company has a perfected version of mixer it will install in the standpipe when the repairs are finished.

The riser pipe pumps water which enters the standpipe to the top of the structure to make sure the oldest water is used first, rather than becoming stagnant, McGreer said. With Pax’s new machine mixing water, he added, the riser pipe will not be needed anymore.

This should be at least a month from now, and maybe as long as two months, depending on the weather. McGreer said that although there is no guarantee the mixer will stop ice from forming, he is still fairly confident the mixer will work, and that assessments will be done to make sure it does its job soon after it is installed, he said.



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Weather



*National Weather Service*  
**Tonight:** Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 21. West wind around 5 mph.  
**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 44. West wind around 5 mph.  
**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 21. Southwest wind around 5 mph.  
**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. West wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.  
**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 31.  
**Monday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 50.  
**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. Breezy.  
**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 23.  
**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 43.

Wednesday: High, 26; Low 21  
Precip: Wednesday 0.11 inches  
Month: 0.82 inches  
Year: 17.66 inches  
Normal: 20.65 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)  
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
Friday 8:00 a.m. 5:23 p.m.  
Moon: waning, 7 percent  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Fog fills streets

EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press  
Headlights were needed to penetrate the fog at rush hour near Range Ave. and College, Ave. Wednesday afternoon. The freezing fog created a beautiful coat of ice on the trees in Colby, but also hazardous conditions. Eight people were injured in crashes along highways in northwest Kansas in the afternoon and evening.



Accidents, roads keep Patrol busy

From “ACCIDENTS,” Page 1

been seriously injured.

First, were two back-to-back injury accidents in Sherman County Wednesday afternoon. Two minor slide-offs were reported at the same time as the larger accidents, in which several out-of-state drivers were hurt.

At 3 p.m., the Highway Patrol reported, a 1999 Ford F350 fishtailed after hitting a patch of ice at mile marker 23.5 on Interstate 70, 4 1/2 miles east of Goodland. Logan McKay, 23 of Chuluota, Fla., was headed east when he lost control of the Ford, spun out, and hit a 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 driven by Gary A. Lawson, 72, of Plainfield, Ind.

About 27 minutes after that accident, a head-on collision was reported farther west at mile marker 22.2. Chayce G. Lanphear, 27, Westminster, Colo., lost control when he was headed east in a 2008 Toyota Tacoma. He went through the median and hit a 2005 Subaru Impreza head-on.

All five people involved in the two wrecks were wearing their seatbelts. They were also all taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center, with the

second accident apparently the more serious of the two.

Goodland Regional did not immediately give the conditions of the victims, but radio traffic between emergency responders indicates one of the people involved had severe injuries to their legs, while another had possible head trauma. The driver of the Impreza, McKenna E. Ganz, 21, Colorado Springs, was listed as disabled in the patrol report. Larry Ganz, 52, also of Colorado Springs, was taken to the hospital as well.

In Thomas County, a truck went off of the road at 9:55 p.m. Gerald Sheaks, 53, Oakley, was headed east in a 2004 Ford F150, when it went off the interstate and rolled near mile marker 39, just west of Brewster. Sheaks, who was not wearing his seatbelt, was taken to Citizens Medical Center, then transferred to another hospital. His passenger, Meagan Weaver, 25, Gove, had her seatbelt on and was not hurt.

Just 20 minutes later, a 2005 GMC Sierra lost control at 10:15 p.m. as it was going north over an icy bridge on U.S. 83 in Logan County near Monument Rocks south of Oakley. The vehicle struck the guardrail on the

bridge, sending Jaime Castro-Zuniga, 40, and his passenger Omar Acevedo-Depaz, 35, both of Garden City, to the hospital. The two men were treated at Logan County Hospital and released. Both were wearing seat belts at the time.

Reports from law enforcement officers on the weather service website detail two other accidents on U.S. 83, one in Logan County and one at the Logan-Thomas county line.

The last accident which the patrol reported Wednesday night happened when a Hays man was getting off I-70 at the south Oakley exit. Because of the slick conditions, John Howard Jr., 57, lost control of his 2010 Ford E350, which hit the closure gate on the west-bound off-ramp. It rolled and came to a stop upside down, facing northwest. Howard, who was wearing a seatbelt, was treated and released at Logan County Hospital.

The National Weather Service predicts that for will lower visibility on roads in northwest Kansas. But for the coming week the weather should consist of partially clear skies, the weather service predicts, with below-freezing temperatures but no precipitation

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the following day, space available. The deadline for Monday’s paper is noon Friday.

Santa pics with pets at vets

Swartz Veterinary Hospital is offering free pictures with Santa from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Bring your pets and kids. For information call Tammy Swartz at 460-1078.

Veteran to hold party for kids

Children ages 10 and under are invited to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Christmas party at 6:30 p.m. Monday at 220 N. Lake in Colby. Santa will be there and the kids will receive a special Christmas treat and \$2 bill. Contact Jim Griffin at 460-3296 for further information.

Run for after-school program

Area law enforcement agencies are sponsoring a “family-friendly” Ugly Sweater Run at 3 p.m. Saturday, with registration at 2:15 p.m. The 5K run will begin at the Community Building. Cost is \$5 for kids in fifth grade and under or \$20 for others. Kids enrolled in the Colby after-school program run for free; all proceeds go to the program. For information, contact Michelle Morris or Rachel Lamm at 460-4580.

All invited to Christmas potluck

All are welcome for a potluck meal and fellowship at noon Christmas day and the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S Franklin. Bring your favorite Christmas dish to share. For information call Kim Barnett at 460-2761.

No trash pickup on Christmas

Colby’s sanitation department will pick up the Wednesday, Dec. 24, residential trash route on Tuesday, Dec. 23. Thursday, Dec. 25, residential trash will be picked up on Friday, Dec. 26. Please have your tipper can to the curb by 8 a.m. information please contact Omar Weber at the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Sanitation trucks will not be running on Thursday, Jan. 1; residential trash will be picked up on Friday’s route, Jan. 2.

Living nativity set for next week

In memory of Theron Johnson, a living nativity will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday at the Jane Johnson ranch, 2626 Highway K-25, seven miles north of town. Refreshments will be served. Donations will go to Genesis-Thomas County food bank. For information, call 462-7525.

Christmas Eve soup luncheon sponsored by family

Everyone is invited to a free Christmas Eve soup luncheon, brought to you by the Plumisto family, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Wednesday at the Colby National Guard Armory. Delivery is available to the homebound. For information call Joyce at 443-1064 or Jackie at 269-7558.

Churches plan Christmas Eve

Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine, will hold Christmas Eve services at 6 p.m. next Wednesday, featuring candlelighting, carols and communion as families. The public is invited. For information, call 443-1448 or 462-8391.

The Mingo Bible Church will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service next Wednesday at the church at 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve. Everyone is invited. For information, contact Pastor Tom Peyton at (785) 462-2992.

Make a Difference - Please Recycle

Oil-price drop rattles Kansas operators

From “OIL,” Page 1

many drilling plans,” said Ed Cross, executive director of the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association.

Already, the number of rigs drilling oil onshore across the country has started to fall, according to weekly data from the drilling services company Baker Hughes, though the number remains far higher than last year at this time. The number of U.S. oil

rigs fell by 29 to 1,546 for the week ending Dec. 12. It is the largest decline in two years, but the level is still 135 higher than last year at the same time.

The Energy Department’s Energy Information Administration recently reduced its expectation for U.S. oil production growth next year by 100,000 barrels per day because of lower prices, but it still expects the nation’s production to rise 8 percent

to 9.3 million barrels per day, which would be the highest since 1973.

In Kansas, the full impact to the industry may not be clear until after the first quarter of next year, in part because drilling activity normally slows each year in November and December anyway, Cross said.

Also, while prices have been ropping for some time, it was not until this month that the steepest declines in crude prices hit.

When prices were high, the number of intent-to-drill applications filed with Kansas regulators peaked last April at 1,015 filings – almost double compared to the same month a year earlier.

By November, just 517 drilling intent applications had been filed, – only slightly ahead of last year for that month, according to the Kansas Corporation Commission.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

SATURDAY EVENING												DECEMBER 20, 2014												SUNDAY EVENING												DECEMBER 21, 2014																		
		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30			7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30			7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30																			
BROADCAST	ABC	I Want a Dog				CMA Country Christmas HD				Local Programs				Local Programs				CABLE	ABC	The Sound of Music (‘65, NR) Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer. HD				Local Programs				Local Programs				CABLE	ABC	The Sound of Music (‘65, NR) Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer. HD				Local Programs				Local Programs												
	CBS	Kickoff HD				(:25) NFL Football: San Diego vs San Francisco (Live) HD				(:15) Local Programs				(:20) Sunday Night Football: Seattle Seahawks at Arizona Cardinals (Live) HD					CABLE	CBS	60 Min. (N) Undercover Boss (N) The Mentalist (N) HD				CSI: Crime Scene (N) Local Programs				CABLE	CBS	60 Min. (N) Undercover Boss (N) The Mentalist (N) HD				CSI: Crime Scene (N) Local Programs																			
	NBC	The Sound of Music Live! (TV G) HD				Local				(:29) Saturday Night Live (N) HD				CABLE	NBC	(:20) Sunday Night Football: Seattle Seahawks at Arizona Cardinals (Live) HD				Local				CABLE	NBC	(:20) Sunday Night Football: Seattle Seahawks at Arizona Cardinals (Live) HD				Local																								
	FOX	Bones : "Conspiracy in"				Sleepy Hollow HD				Local Programs					CABLE	FOX	Simpsons Brooklyn Family Guy Bob's HD				Local Programs				CABLE	FOX	Simpsons Brooklyn Family Guy Bob's HD				Local Programs																							
	ION	(6:00) My Santa (:13)				Back to Christmas (:14, NR) Kelly Overton.				A Perfect Christmas List (:14) Ellen Hollman.						CABLE	ION			(6:00) 12 Wishes (:11)						Holiday Road Trip (:13) Shelley Long.				CABLE	ION		(6:00) 12 Wishes (:11)				Holiday Road Trip (:13) Shelley Long.																	
A&E	Criminal Minds HD				Criminal Minds HD				(:01) Criminal Minds HD				(:01) Criminal Minds HD				CABLE	A&E		Storage Storage Storage Storage Wars HD						Storage Storage Storage Storage					CABLE	A&E	Storage Storage Storage Storage Wars HD				Storage Storage Storage Storage																	
AMC	The Santa Clause 2 (:02, G)				★★★½ Tim Allen, Bob Bergen. HD				White Christmas (:54, NR) ★★★ Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye. HD				CABLE					AMC	The Santa Clause 2 (:02, G)				★★★½ Tim Allen, Bob Bergen. HD				The Santa Clause 2 (:02, G) ★★★½ Tim Allen, Bob Bergen. HD					CABLE	AMC	The Santa Clause 2 (:02, G)				★★★½ Tim Allen, Bob Bergen. HD				The Santa Clause 2 (:02, G) ★★★½ Tim Allen, Bob Bergen. HD												
ANIMAL	Pit Bulls and HD				Best Fest 2014 (N) HD				Pit Bulls and Parolees (:04) Best Fest 2014 HD					Pit Bulls and Parolees				CABLE	ANIMAL	North Woods Law HD				Best Fest 2014 (N) HD				North Woods Law HD					CABLE	ANIMAL	North Woods Law HD				Best Fest 2014 (N) HD				North Woods Law HD											
BET	Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family (:11) ★½				Jumping the Broom (:11, PG-13) ★½				★★★ Angela Bassett, Paula Patton.					Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family (:11) ★½					CABLE	BET	This Christmas (:07) HD				Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself (:09, PG-13) ★½				Tyler Perry. HD					CABLE	BET	This Christmas (:07) HD				Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself (:09, PG-13) ★½				Tyler Perry. HD										
BRAVO	Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (:12, PG-13) ★★				Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (:12, PG-13) ★★				Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (:12, PG-13) ★★					Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (:12, PG-13) ★★						CABLE	BRAVO	The Real Housewives of Atlanta (N)				Guide to Divorce				Real Housewives					CABLE	BRAVO	The Real Housewives of Atlanta (N)				Guide to Divorce				Real Housewives									
CARTOON	Sit Down King Hill King Hill Dad HD				Boondocks Dynamite				Family Guy Attack HD					Broly Legendary (:93)							CABLE	CARTOON	Sit Down King Hill King Hill Bob's HD				Bob's HD				Family Guy Family Guy					CABLE	CARTOON	Sit Down King Hill King Hill Bob's HD				Bob's HD				Family Guy Family Guy								
CMT	The Guardian (:06, PG-13) ★★				Kevin Costner. HD				Party Down South HD				Cops HD				Cops HD					CABLE	CMT	Redneck Island : "The South" HD				Redneck Island HD				Redneck Island HD					CABLE	CMT	Redneck Island : "The South" HD				Redneck Island HD				Redneck Island HD							
CNN	(6:00) Blackfish (:13)				Dinosaur 13 (:14, PG) ★★★				Timothy Larson.				Weed: Dr.				Weed 2						CABLE	CNN	Back to the Beginning				Back to the Beginning				Back to the Beginning					CABLE	CNN	Back to the Beginning				Back to the Beginning				Back to the Beginning						
COMEDY	(6:35) The Hangover (:09, R) Bradley Cooper. HD				Bachelorette (:12, R) ★★				Kirsten Dunst.				The House Bunny (:08)				CABLE	COMEDY	The House Bunny (:08, PG-13) Anna Faris. HD					The Hangover (:09, R) ★★★½				Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms. HD				CABLE	COMEDY	The House Bunny (:08, PG-13) Anna Faris. HD					The Hangover (:09, R) ★★★½				Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms. HD											
DISCOVERY	Airplane Repo HD				Airplane Repo HD				Airplane Repo HD				Airplane Repo HD					CABLE	DISCOVERY	Alaska: Last HD				Alaska: Last (N) HD				Edge of Alaska (N)					CABLE	DISCOVERY	Alaska: Last HD				Alaska: Last (N) HD				Edge of Alaska (N)											
DISNEY	Girl Meets I Didn't Jessie HD				Lab Rats Mighty Med				Austin HD				Dog Blog I Didn't Austin HD						CABLE	DISNEY	Forgot HD				Arthur Christmas (:11, PG) ★★★				Jessie HD					CABLE	DISNEY	Forgot HD				Arthur Christmas (:11, PG) ★★★				Jessie HD										
E!	Sex and the City (:08, R) Sarah Jessica Parker.				Two Weeks Notice (:02, PG-13) ★★½				Sandra Bullock.				Sex (:08)							CABLE	E!	Kourtney				Kourtney (N)				House of DVF (N)					CABLE	E!	Kourtney				Kourtney (N)				House of DVF (N)									
ESPN	(4:45) College Football (:15) College Football : "2014 Camellia Bowl": South Alabama vs Bowling Green (Live)				Sports HD				Sports HD				Sports HD								CABLE	ESPN	Sports HD				[30 for 30 : "The Bad Boys" HD				ESPN Films					CABLE	ESPN	Sports HD				[30 for 30 : "The Bad Boys" HD				ESPN Films								
ESPN2	(6:30) NCAA Volleyball Champ. HD				College Basketball : "Gotham Classic" (Live) HD				College Basketball: Utah vs UNLV				College Basketball: Utah vs UNLV				CABLE					ESPN2	2014 WSOPT : "APAC"				2014 WSOPT : "APAC"				2014 WSOPT : "APAC"						CABLE	ESPN2	2014 WSOPT : "APAC"				2014 WSOPT : "APAC"				2014 WSOPT : "APAC"							
FAMILY	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (:00, PG) ★★½				Home Alone (:90, PG) ★★½				Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci. HD				Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci. HD					CABLE				FAMILY	(6:30) Home Alone (:90, PG) Macaulay Culkin. HD				The Polar Express (:04, G) ★★★				Tom Hanks. HD							CABLE	FAMILY	(6:30) Home Alone (:90, PG) Macaulay Culkin. HD				The Polar Express (:04, G) ★★★				Tom Hanks. HD						
FOOD	Diners HD				Diners HD				Diners HD				Diners HD						CABLE			FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games				Top 10 Restaurants (N)				Cutthroat Kitchen : "I Would Do" (N)								CABLE	FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games				Top 10 Restaurants (N)				Cutthroat Kitchen : "I Would Do" (N)					
FX	Mike Molly Mike Molly Mike Molly Mike Molly Mike Molly Mike Molly				Anger HD				Anger HD				American Horror Story							CABLE		FX	Prometheus (:12, R) ★★★				Noomi Rapace.				Prometheus (:12, R) ★★★				CABLE					FX	Prometheus (:12, R) ★★★				Noomi Rapace.				Prometheus (:12, R) ★★★					
HGTV	Property Home				Property Home				House Hunters (N)				Hunters								CABLE	HGTV	Life (N)				Life (N)				House for Free (N)					CABLE				HGTV	Life (N)				Life (N)				House for Free (N)					
HISTORY	Pawn Stars Pawn Stars Pawn Stars Pawn Stars Pawn Stars Pawn Stars				Pawn Stars Pawn Stars				Pawn Stars Pawn Stars				Pawn Stars Pawn Stars				CABLE					HISTORY	Ax Men : "Failure to" HD				Ax Men (N) HD				Alaska Off-Road (N) HD						CABLE			HISTORY	Ax Men : "Failure to" HD				Ax Men (N) HD				Alaska Off-Road (N) HD					
LIFETIME	The Holiday (:06, PG-13) ★★				Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet. HD				Biography				The Holiday (:06)					CABLE				LIFETIME	Christmas Eve (:12) HD				Christmas with the Kranks (:04, PG) ★★				Tim Allen.							CABLE		LIFETIME	Christmas Eve (:12) HD				Christmas with the Kranks (:04, PG) ★★				Tim Allen.					
MTV	(6:10) Legally Blonde (:01, PG-13)				The Princess Diaries (:01, G) ★★½				Anne Hathaway.				Out of League (:10)						CABLE			MTV	(5:35) She's Out of My League (:10)				Friday After Next (:02, R) ★★				Ice Cube.								CABLE	MTV	(5:35) She's Out of My League (:10)				Friday After Next (:02, R) ★★				Ice Cube.					
NICK	Henry Nicky Thunderm Haunted Prince Prince				Friends Friends				How I Met How I Met				CABLE	NICK	Full Hse Full Hse Full Hse Full Hse					Prince Prince				Friends Friends				CABLE	NICK	Full Hse Full Hse Full Hse Full Hse				Prince Prince						Friends Friends														
SPIKE	Cops (N) Cops HD				Auction				Thrift (N)					Ocean's Thirteen (:07, PG-13) George Clooney.						CABLE	SPIKE	(5:34) Safe (:12, R)				Training Day (:01, R) Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke. HD				(:32) Transporter 3 (:08, PG-13) HD				CABLE	SPIKE	(5:34) Safe (:12, R)				Training Day (:01, R) Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke. HD				(:32) Transporter 3 (:08, PG-13) HD										
SYFY	(5:30) Volcano (:97) ★★				Christmas Iceastrophe (:14)				Volcano (:97, PG-13) ★★					Tommy Lee Jones.							CABLE	SYFY	(6:00) Battle of (14)				Blade: Trinity (:04, R) ★★½				Wesley Snipes, Jessica Biel.				CABLE	SYFY	(6:00) Battle of (14)				Blade: Trinity (:04, R) ★★½				Wesley Snipes, Jessica Biel.									
TBS	Big Bang Big Bang Big Bang Big Bang Big Bang Big Bang				Conan : "Conan to Go"				Ground Deal With					CABLE	TBS	Maea Goes to Jail (:09, PG-13) Tyler Perry. HD						Diary of a Mad Black Woman (:05, PG-13) ★½				Kimberly Elise. Holidays				CABLE	TBS	Maea Goes to Jail (:09, PG-13) Tyler Perry. HD				Diary of a Mad Black Woman (:05, PG-13) ★½				Kimberly Elise. Holidays														
TCM	The Thin Man (:34, NR) ★★½				(:45) Auntie Mame (:58, NR) Rosalind Russell, Forrest Tucker.				Father of the Bride (:50)						CABLE	TCM	On Ice The Disneyland Story The Reluctant Dragon (:41, NR)					King of the Wild Frontier (:55) ★★★				CABLE	TCM		On Ice The Disneyland Story The Reluctant Dragon (:41, NR)				King of the Wild Frontier (:55) ★★★				CABLE	TCM	On Ice The Disneyland Story The Reluctant Dragon (:41, NR)				King of the Wild Frontier (:55) ★★★											
TLC	Sex Sent Me to the ER Untold ER : "Punched!"				Sex Sent Me to the ER				Sex Sent Me to (N) HD				Untold ER : "Punched!"				CABLE	TLC	90 Day Fiance (N) HD				90 Day Fiance (N) HD				My Five Wives (N) HD				CABLE	TLC	90 Day Fiance (N) HD					90 Day Fiance (N) HD				My Five Wives (N) HD												
TNT	The Wizard of Oz (:39, NR) Judy Garland. HD				Transporter : "Diva" (N)				Transporter : "Diva" HD				The Librarians HD					CABLE	TNT	The Librarians (N) HD				Four Christmases (:08, PG-13) Vince Vaughn. HD				The Librarians HD				CABLE	TNT	The Librarians (N) HD				Four Christmases (:08, PG-13) Vince Vaughn. HD				The Librarians HD												
TRAVEL	Ghost Adventures HD				Ghost Adventures HD				The Dead Files (N) HD				The Dead Files HD						CABLE	TRAVEL	Layover : "Miami"				Layover				Layover : "Paris"				CABLE	TRAVEL	Layover : "Miami"				Layover				Layover : "Paris"											
TV LAND	Fam. Feud Fam. Feud Raymond Raymond Queens Queens				Queens Queens				Queens Queens				Friends Friends							CABLE	TV LAND	Golden Golden Raymond Raymond					Queens Queens							Queens Queens				CABLE	TV LAND	Golden Golden Raymond Raymond				Queens Queens				Queens Queens						
USA	Forrest Gump (:94, PG-13) ★★★				Tom Hanks, Joe Stefaneli.				Modern Modern				Covert Affairs								CABLE	USA	Jingle All the Way 2 (:14, NR)				Chrisley Chrisley							Modern Modern					CABLE	USA	Jingle All the Way 2 (:14, NR)				Chrisley Chrisley				Modern Modern					
VH1	Love & Hip Hop HD				Bad Boys (:95, R) ★★½				Martin Lawrence, Will Smith.				Baby Boy (:01, R) Tyrese Gibson. HD				CABLE					VH1	Saturday Night Live : "SNL Christmas" (TV14) HD				A Diva's Christmas Carol (:00, NR) ★★½				Sorority Sisters				CABLE	VH1	Saturday Night Live : "SNL Christmas" (TV14) HD				A Diva's Christmas Carol (:00, NR) ★★½				Sorority Sisters									
WGN	Blue Bloods : "The Job"				Blue Bloods HD				Blue Bloods HD				Blue Bloods HD					How I Met How I Met				CABLE	WGN	Santa Clause 3 (:06) HD				(:12) The Muppet Christmas Carol (:92, G) ★★★				(:16) Bones (TV14) HD				CABLE	WGN			Santa Clause 3 (:06) HD				(:12) The Muppet Christmas Carol (:92, G) ★★★				(:16) Bones (TV14) HD						
HBO	Divergent (:14, PG-13) Shailene Woodley, Theodore James. HD				The Newsroom HD				(:35) Divergent (:14, PG-13) HD				CABLE	HBO	(:55) Lone Survivor (:14, R) Mark Wahlberg. HD				Comeback Comeback				Now You See Me (:13, PG-13) Jesse Eisenberg.				CABLE	HBO	(:55) Lone Survivor (:14, R) Mark Wahlberg. HD				Comeback Comeback				Now You See Me (:13, PG-13) Jesse Eisenberg.																	
MAX	We're the Millers (:13, R) ★★★				Jennifer Aniston. HD				Fast & Furious 6 (:13, PG-13) ★★★½					Vin Diesel. HD				CABLE	MAX	The Hobbit The Purge (:13, R) Ethan Hawke. HD				Swordfish (:01, R) John Travolta. HD				Femme				CABLE	MAX	The Hobbit The Purge (:13, R) Ethan Hawke. HD				Swordfish (:01, R) John Travolta. HD				Femme												
SHOW	The Affair				The Affair				Homeland HD					Homeland HD					The To Do List (:13) HD				CABLE	SHOW	The Affair				Homeland (N) HD				The Affair (N)				Homeland HD				The Affair													





## Artists wind up the semester

December was a busy month in Rebel Jay's art room at Colby Community College. Deb Johnson of Colby (right) worked on her last oil painting of the semester last week – all dressed up with rings and all – painting with her hands. Alice Wolf (below) and Amy Bertrand (below left) each worked on their own designs Dec. 5 during Studio Friday. The guest artist was Jatón Denneler and featured Zentangle, a random design created with repetitive patterns. Jay (left, at left) spoke with Denneler at her own workstation which was covered with markers of all colors.

REBEL JAY  
Colby Community College  
and SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



## Audiobooks enliven holiday travel time and miles

Christmas is just around the corner so I am going to tell you about some enjoyable books to put on your reading list.

A book that I listened to on a trip recently was "Take This Cup," by Bodie and Brock Thoene, No. 2 of the *Jerusalem Chronicles*. When I check the audio book out, I did not realize it was book two, but the story was not dependent on book one. You can find the print edition in the new book section of the library.

The book is what I would describe as an extra-biblical historical fiction piece. It has a young protagonist, Nehemiah, born just a few years prior to Jesus' ministry. The boy is born to Sarah and Lamsa who are now living in the area described as where the Garden of Eden may have been. They are shepherds. Sarah is a masterful weaver of the sheep's wool. Both live a life devoted to the Lord.

Rabbi Kagba is a shepherd to his flock of those caring for sheep. He has taught young Nehemiah his religious lessons. Something happens that changes the direction of their lives and brings Nehemiah into a path to fulfill his destiny



**Melany Wilks**

• Library Links

as given by God. This book is captivating, imaginative and great historical description. If you like this type of story, you will enjoy this book.

When I went on vacation during Thanksgiving, I read a book entitled, "The Wednesday Letters," by Jason Wright (found in large print edition in our library). This book reminded me of Richard Paul Evans' or Nicolas Sparks' writing. It is about a husband that made a commitment to write his wife each week of their married life. The children found out and began reading the 1,500 or more letters. The two brothers and sister have issues that they are confronting. Some of the letters help to resolve issues, some open new challenges. It is heartwarming

and an enjoyable read.

Another item that will warm your heart is the book, "Love Letter," by Debbie Macomber, first of the *Rose Harbor* novels.

Jo Marie Rose is the owner of the Rose Harbor Inn, her new occupation. Mark Taylor has become her handyman. Together the two have been working frantically all summer. Ellie, Maggie and Roy each come for separate reasons, not the least are: love, faith and forgiveness. While Jo Marie wants to find out about Mark, she also is drawn into the lives of her guests. This book is also in our new book section.

Don't forget that you have until Tuesday to pay for your fines through canned or packaged food donations for Genesis. A library patron who has overdue fines may bring in canned foods to redeem them. We ask that the canned or boxed food have current dates; have labels intact; and be in good condition. Just bring food that roughly equals your fine, then fill out a small form at the front desk. Food for Fines does not apply to lost or damaged

items.

Other books you might be interested in reading are: "Harriet Beamer Takes the Bus," by Joyce Magnin; "Keepers of the Covenant," by Lynn Austin; "Lisette's List," by Susan Vreeland; "Pegasus,," by Danielle Steele; and "Some Luck," by Jane Smiley.

Our hours will change between Monday and Friday, Jan. 2:

- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday.
- 9 to 5 p.m. Tuesday.
- Closed Wednesday and next Thursday (Christmas Eve and Christmas).
- 9 to 5 Friday, Dec. 26.
- 10 to 4 Saturday, Dec. 27.
- 1 to 4 Sunday, Dec. 28.
- 9 to 6 Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 29 and 30.
- 9 to 5 Wednesday, Dec. 31.
- Closed New Year's Day.
- 9 to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2.

Our times are on our Facebook page and on our website (colbylibrary.com), as well as on the doors of the library.

As you prepare for the holidays, remember you can check out audiobooks

on CDs for your holiday travels. If you like e-books or audio books in digital format for your tablet, phone, iPod, or computer, use our Sunflower e-library platform for easy checkout. Also download a magazine using our Zinio digital magazine platform.

You can go to our website at Colbylibrary.com and click on the logos of Sunflower eLibrary and Zinio. To check out books and magazines all you need is to have downloaded the apps to your device, follow their instructions and have a Pioneer Memorial Library card.

We are also adding new DVD movies that you can check out from the library to enjoy for your holiday time together.

We look forward to seeing and serving you in the library!

*We want your local news:  
e-mail to  
colby.editor@nwkansas.com*

### On the Beat

#### COLBY POLICE Nov. 29

10:54 a.m. – Walk through at Colby Community Building.  
11:37 a.m. – Semi backed into a pickup in parking lot.  
11:53 a.m. – Caller reported subjects left and took belongings from residence. Report filed.  
1:47 p.m. – Dog at large followed kids home. Turned over to Colby Animal Clinic.  
9:41 p.m. – Narcotics violation report filed.

#### Nov. 30

10:15 a.m. – Helped sheriff's office on call.  
12:39 p.m. – Caller reported possible threatening text message received.  
2:47 p.m. – Caller reported a U-Haul truck that had been entered in the National Crime Information System is now on his lot. Report filed.  
7:26 p.m. – Report filed for possible suicidal person.

#### THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Nov. 28

11:45 a.m. – Helped police provide funeral block to Beulah Cemetery.  
11:59 a.m. – Caller reported man dumping trees and trash in ditches at County Rds. 23 and R.  
1:23 p.m. – Booked Ethan William Dewees.  
1:37 p.m. – Released Dewees.  
5:28 p.m. – Report filed on incident in the 1800 block of County Rd. O.

#### Nov. 29

9:52 a.m. – Report filed on information from Highway Patrol trooper about blood in restroom at eastbound I-70 rest area.  
12:27 p.m. – Caller reported

male subject walking south on U.S. 83 approximately four miles southwest of Rexford. All OK; gave ride to McCarty Dairy.

2:06 p.m. – One vehicle injury accident in the 2500 block of K-25.

#### Nov. 30

9:43 a.m. – False information report filed.  
10:38 a.m. – Booked Bruce Nathaniel Watkins Jr.  
6:33 p.m. – Caller reported hitting deer on U.S. 83.  
9:08 p.m. – Caller reported seeing vehicle lose control on I-70 at eastbound mile 37. Unable to locate vehicle.

#### Dec. 1

10:10 a.m. – Walk through at

Golden Plains School, Rexford.

10:55 a.m. – Helped with stalled vehicle at U.S. 24 and County Rd. 27.

12:07 p.m. – Report filed for threatening message left on phone.  
2 p.m. – Booked Tyler Jordan Fisher.

3:13 p.m. – Released Christopher Gilliland.

**Pancake & Sausage Feed  
Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>  
7 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**COLBY VFW  
220 N. Lake, Colby**



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**December 18th & 19th**

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2015 Calendars

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Register for various drawings

**December 19<sup>th</sup>**

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**will be here from**

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.**

**Join us for Christmas**

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**performed by Uncalled 4!**

### 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) \$6.51  
Corn (bushel) \$3.94  
Milo (hundredweight) \$7.38  
Soybeans (bushel) \$9.32

Thomas County Attorney's Office & Thomas County Sheriff's Office & Colby Police Department invite you to:

**UGLY SWEATER RUN**

**December 20th at 3:00  
(Registration begins at 2:15)**

**Grab your ugly or crazy sweater and meet at the Community Building for a 5k or 1 mile fun run!**

**Cost: \$20, Kids 5th grade or lower \$5**

**CGS After School Program kids run free thanks to a donation by Colby Police Department**

After the fun run get your picture taken by **Keesa Photography**, grab a drink from **Starbucks**, eat a snack, and hangout for the prize drawing!

**100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO THE CGS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM!**





Other Viewpoints

Tackle problems in state budget

To suggest that Gov. Sam Brownback and legislators must find a way to balance the state’s budget for the current fiscal year would be redundant.

They have no choice. The Kansas Constitution demands balanced state budgets. Deficit spending is not allowed.

How Brownback and legislators will reach the balancing point for a budget that, as of this writing, is projected to have a \$279 million gap between revenues and expenditures is unknown, however. What is certain is that the governor and legislators share responsibility for the state’s current financial condition and share responsibility for getting us out of it with as little harm as possible.

Many critics point to Brownback’s proposal in 2012 to rewrite the state’s income tax code by reducing the number of brackets and lowering the rates in the remaining personal income tax brackets. His proposal also included elimination of taxes on nonwage income for certain types of businesses. Compliant legislators ran with the idea, but the bill they passed and sent to the governor for his signature didn’t include most of the offsets, Brownback calls them “pay fors,” that would have reduced the financial impact of the tax cuts on the state budget.

In his initial proposal, Brownback recommended the elimination of more than 20 tax deductions and credits, including the earned income tax credit and deductions for interest on home mortgages and charitable contributions. Legislators declined to do away with those deductions, and most of the others Brownback wanted eliminated, but did eliminate tax credits for working Kansans who care for people with disabilities, children or spouses.

That wasn’t enough, and the state faces a \$279 million gap in the current year’s budget and a project deficit of \$435 million in the budget for the following fiscal year. (Legislation adopted previously includes further reductions in the tax rates.)

Brownback has recommended some steps to alleviate the revenue/spending gap in the current budget, including the transfer of funds among different accounts, reducing the state’s contributions to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System and instructing department heads to reduce spending, but his authority is limited. Much of the problem can’t be addressed without new legislation.

Elected officials from both political parties have criticized the proposal to reduce the KPERS contribution. That’s fine, but legislators must accept their share of the responsibility for the state’s financial problem and step forward and propose their own remedies – and quickly.

– Topeka Capital-Journal, via the Associated Press

Write us

The Colby Free Press encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

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Marian Ballard - Copy Editor  
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ADVERTISING

Kathryn Ballard - Advertising Representative  
kballard @ nwkansas.com

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sfunk @ nwkansas.com

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khunter @ nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Office Manager

Melissa Edmondson - Office Manager  
medmondson @ nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator  
support @ nwkansas.com

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Scary mouse gets its own fright

That mouse about scared me to death.

I was filling in as editor down at the Colby Free Press the other day. I have a desk there, but I haven’t used it much lately. The sports editor, Rich, wanted to trade me for his, and I said OK.

But like I said, I haven’t been there much. One evening, after the paper was out and we were working on the next day, I noticed that while the movers had carefully set up the wiring and screen for my computer – I figure Evan did that, but then we blame him for a lot of things – they’d just left the contents of my drawers in a box on the floor.

Since I’d been looking for some of that stuff, I started to poke around in it and found not only some books and pads, but snacks I’d left there. Crackers, raisins, stuff like that. And then I noticed a lot of packets had been nibbled on.

Now the Free Press lives in a historical building, parts of it well over 110 years old. It rambles around with additions, then kinda circles back on itself. There’s a window from an old back room to the newer warehouse, but no door.

And this means there are lots of doors, cracks, nooks, crannies and holes for mice to get in through. Every fall, when it starts to get



Steve Haynes

- Along the Sappa

cold, in they come. Last fall, Sharon, the publisher, had one that kept nibbling on an ear of corn she used as a decoration. Just a kernel or two at a time, mind you.

Finally the boys trapped it, kind of a sad ending, but she’s been without a pet – other than the black widow spiders – since then.

So, it didn’t surprise me when I found a mouse had been in my goodies. I decided I’d better clean up his mess, and I started to empty the box.

That’s when the little sucker came flying out of there like Mighty Mouse. He jumped right past my hand and, I swear, cleared the rim of the box by a couple of inches. I’m not sure who was more startled, him or me, but I know I jumped and let out a yelp, much to the staff’s amusement.

The mouse hasn’t been seen since, though I heard him, or a cousin, skittering around in

the ceiling. Evan put out three traps, and none of them has been snapped yet. Maybe he just kept on truckin’.

The newsroom still has a pet, however, a female wolf spider (at least I think it’s a female) that lives by the front window. Nothing harmful. Every once in a while, the news people feed her a box elder bug, a tasty fly or some other morsel they find in the office. They just drop it on her funnel-shaped web. She comes out sometimes to eat or just to bask in the sun.

I got to see her the other day when she was out sunning herself, and she’s getting pretty big, maybe two inches. (Though wolf spiders can be twice that size or more.)

While the newsies seem to like her, they are an odd crowd. I’m told the girls in the ad department and the front office won’t even go back there.

Wolf spiders are OK by me. They don’t bite, they eat bugs, and maybe it keeps us from having to call an exterminator. But that mouse! I’m sure he took a couple of years off my life. But while I told the guys it’d be war to the finish, they haven’t got him yet.

Steve Haynes is president of Nor’West Newspapers. When he has the time, he’d rather be reading a good book or casting a fly.

Christmas tops list of happy memories

As a kid on the farm during the Dust Bowl and World War II, there was nothing that meant more than the Christmas season. Nothing!

Well, if a cool rain shower happened to pop up on a hot August afternoon, that was something! But the Christmas season was the magical time of the year when kids were excited, and much better behaved than say, September.

No matter where you lived, no matter your station in life, Christmas was King, and everyone has stories to tell about Christmas as a kid.

I have a few. And I wish I could hear yours. We all remember the old saying about Christmas is for kids. But as I grow old, I can remember that most all of my adult Christmases were memorable, too.

And I also relished the Fourth of July, when my parents would send off for a box of fireworks that contained about every kind of stuff from snakes to sky rockets. For \$5.95, you could have a great time, and it became an annual event if the wheat harvest looked decent.

Strangely enough, I appreciated Labor Day, too, because school would start the next day, and I would see everyone again after a long, hot summer.

But then came Christmas, and the excitement began. Brother Max and I knew there probably wouldn’t be a lot of fancy toys like trains and dump trucks and erector sets, because we were farm kids, and somehow that meant that our



Kay Melia

- Gardener Remembers

family had less money to spend on playthings. But we did get a pony one year, and not many kids ever got something like that.

I suspect that the most notable Christmas gift I ever received as a kid was in 1941, when Christmas was only 17 days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. I was 11, and all of a sudden, no one was talking much about Christmas gifts.

It was traditional for my family to have Christmas dinner at Grandpa’s house, along with all of Dad’s brothers and sisters who were still living in the area. Grandma died in 1934, but the tradition continued, as all the family members would bring in tons of food.

The adults drew names for the event, but I don’t remember any gifts for the kids. Grandpa always provided a big box of apples or oranges, and the kids were encouraged to fill their pockets before we left, which we certainly did. It was the only time of the year that I remember having an orange. Grandpa also gave all

the kids a brand new \$1 bill.

At home, we always had our Christmas in the morning. It was the usual “scamper down the stairs” event, and it was always before chores were done.

On this 1941 Christmas morning, there didn’t seem to be much under the tree. There was the usual socks and underwear. There was also a new shirt for each of us that Mom had made from those feed sacks that originally contained chicken mash. Mom was really good with that old Singer treadle sewing machine.

Finally, Dad told Max and I to go out and look in the grain bin beside the garage. We did. When we opened the door, there was a gun barrel sticking out of the wheat. Max got a .410 shotgun, and off to the side was a bicycle for me. I could hardly believe it! What a beautiful thing it was, my very first bike.

In later years, Dad told me he had fashioned the bike out of parts he was able to find at junk yards and bicycle shops around the area, and then painted it at a body shop. He did it all for less than five bucks. But it was the most beautiful bike I have ever seen, before or since.

Kay Melia of Goodland has a long history of writing and broadcasting. Most recently, he wrote a gardening column for several newspapers. Now he returns to share some memories. You can contact him at vkmelia@yahoo.com.

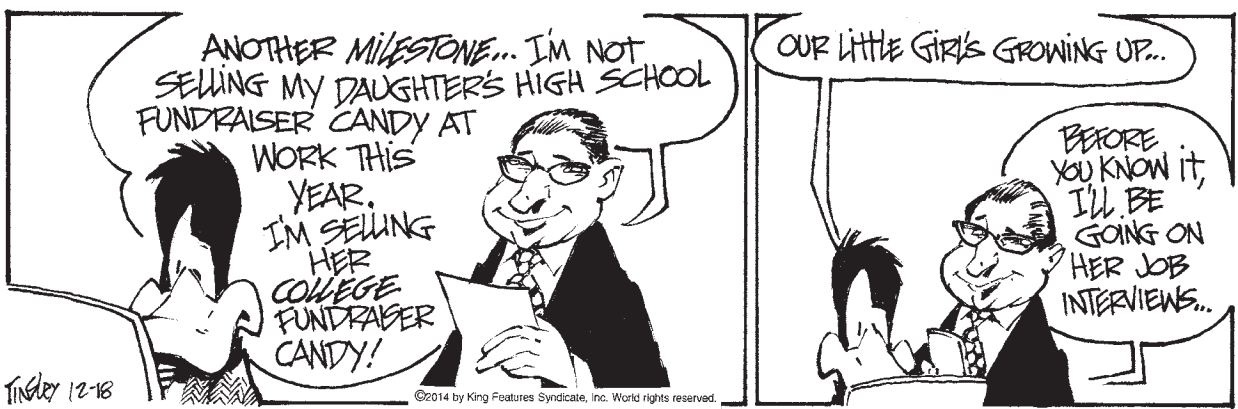
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Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley






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Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



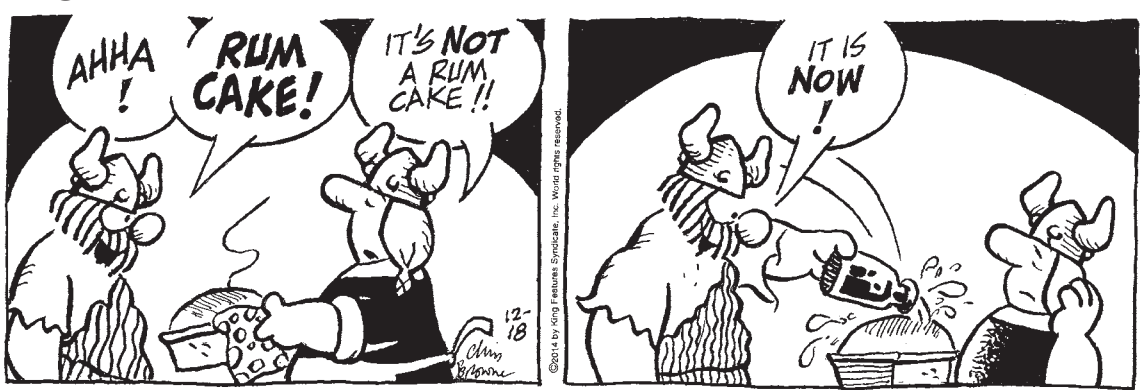
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Blondie • Chic Young



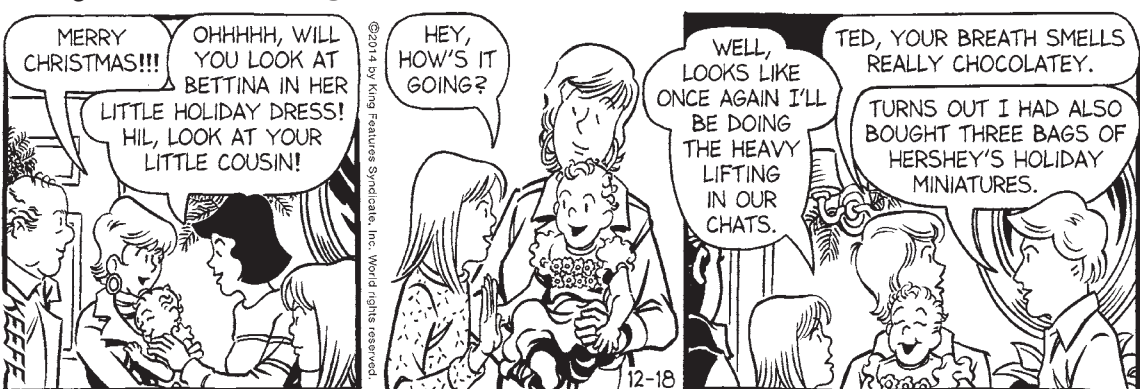
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



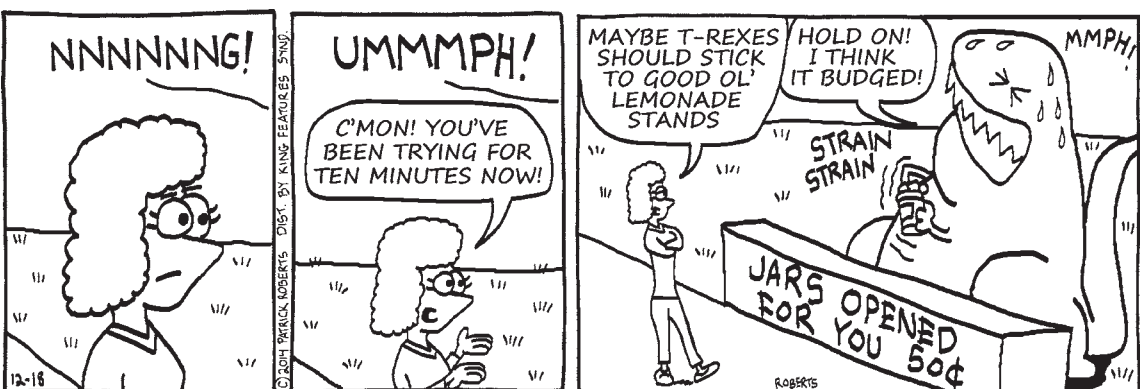
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



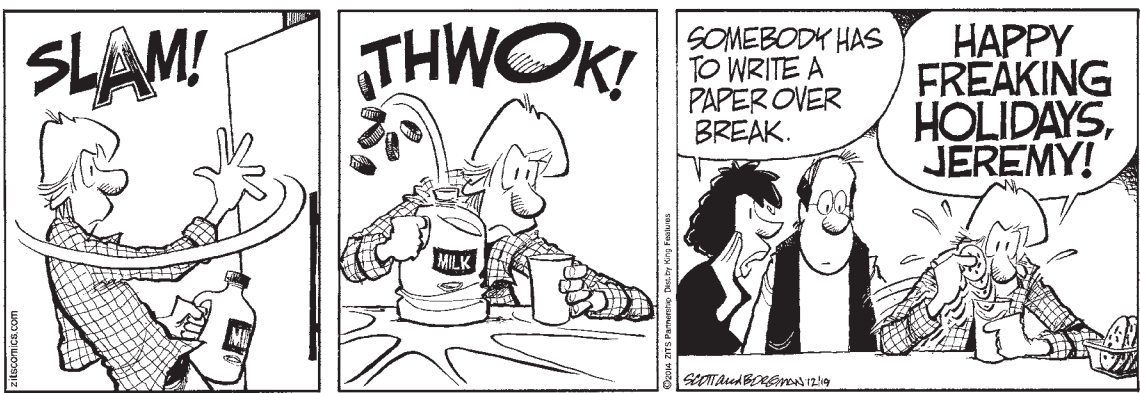
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Medicine spoon sits flat on table

**Q:** I would like to know the value of a silver medicine spoon that belonged to my grandmother when she was a nurse at the turn of the 20th century. The handle curves back and turns under. There is a red cross on the back of the handle stamped, "Red Cross Medicine Spoon JB & SM Knowles, Prov., RI, USA." The gold-washed bowl ends in a pouring spout and is marked on the back "Pat. 1901, Sterling 925/1000." What's it worth?

**A:** Your medicine spoon, patented in 1901, was sold by druggists. The bent handle allows the spoon to rest level on a table so a teaspoon of medicine can be poured into it. J.B. & S.M. Knowles of Providence, R.I., was in business from 1875 until 1905. Your spoon is worth about \$150.

**Q:** I have a Jim Beam decanter that's shaped like a baseball. It's 10 inches high, has a batter at the top and reads, "Professional Baseball's 100th Anniversary, 1869-1969." It has never been opened. What is it worth?

**A:** Jim Beam whiskey dates back to the late 1700s. The company started selling Kentucky Straight Bourbon in special containers in 1953. The bottles were made by Regal China Co. of Chicago. Your bottle is from the Sports Series. Jim Beam ceramic bottles are not as popular as they were and are not easy to sell. Your bottle, full or empty, in excellent condition might sell for \$80. In poor condition, it's worth \$15 to \$30.

**Q:** My father, born in 1889, worked as an electrician for the Sterling Bronze Co. of New York City. In 1916, at a house in upstate New York, he switched out a Sterling Bronze Co. six-light Colonial-style chandelier for a French Provincial model. He bought the Colonial model and left it to me in 1960. What do you think the chandelier would sell for today?

**A:** Sterling Bronze Co. was in business during the early decades of the 20th century. It made high-quality electric light fixtures, including chandeliers and sconces. We have seen pairs of Sterling Bronze Co. sconces auction recently for more than \$2,000. Chandeliers may not sell for as much, though, because it's hard to find new light bulbs that work in antique fixtures. If you have bulbs for it that work and look attractive, ask a nearby appraiser to look at your chandelier in person to estimate its value.

**Q:** I would like to know if my picture titled "Ulysses and the Sirens" is of any value. It's 7 by 10 inches and is signed by Thomas Moran.

**A:** Thomas Moran (1837-1926) was born in England but moved to Philadelphia with his family when he was a child. He worked as an illustrator in Philadelphia before moving to New York City, where he became a magazine illustrator and landscape painter. His original landscape oil painting of "Ulysses and the Sirens" was completed in 1900 and is 28 by 40 inches. It sold at a 1999 Christie's auction for \$178,500. Your small print of the painting would probably sell for under \$20.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 9 8 5 4  
♥ K J 7 6  
♦ 8 6  
♣ 7 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ A K Q 10 2  
♥ 10 8 5  
♦ 3  
♣ J 8 4

**EAST**  
♠ J 7 6 3  
♥ A 9 4 3 2  
♦ 10 4  
♣ 10 9

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q  
♥ A K Q J 9 7 5 2  
♦ A K 6 5

The bidding:  
West 1 ♣ Pass North 2 ♠ East 5 ♦ South  
Opening lead — king of spades.

Hidden Asset

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention, and certainly anyone who has played bridge long enough realizes that there are times when a player must improvise to be successful.

Take this case where South ruffed the opening spade lead and could see three potential losers — a heart and two clubs. Declarer had a choice of several lines of play to try to make the contract:

1. If the diamond ten fell on the first round of trumps, he could concede the heart queen to the ace and then use dummy's eight of diamonds as an entry to take two club discards.
2. He could play the A-K and another club at once, hoping that if the opposing clubs were not divided 3-3, he could ruff his fourth club in dummy without being overruffed by the ten.
3. He could lead the queen of hearts and hope it was ducked by the defender with the ace.

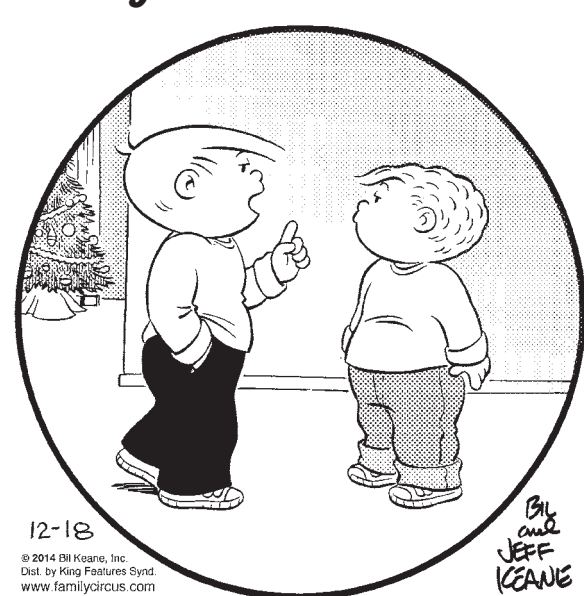
Eventually, declarer decided that his best shot for the contract was to lead the heart queen at trick two. In addition to the possibility that the queen might be ducked, this also allowed him to keep in reserve a follow-up plan that virtually guaranteed making the contract.

East took the queen of hearts with the ace and returned the ten of clubs at trick three. South won with the ace and thereupon led the five of diamonds to dummy's six!

This unusual move — deliberately losing a trump trick he did not have to lose — had the desired effect. East took the six with the ten and returned the nine of clubs, but he was fighting a losing battle. South won with the king, led the seven of trumps to dummy's eight and discarded the 6-5 of clubs on the K-J of hearts to finish with 11 tricks.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

	6		2		1			8	
5									9
				7					
9			5		8				2
	2					6			
7			9		6				8
				5					
2									7
	7		6		3			1	

Difficulty Level ★★

12/18

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle.

The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral.

The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

4	2	8	5	9	7	1	6	3
1	3	7	8	4	6	9	5	2
6	9	5	3	2	1	4	8	7
8	1	6	2	7	5	3	4	9
5	4	9	1	3	8	2	7	6
2	7	3	4	6	9	8	1	5
3	6	2	7	8	4	5	9	1
9	8	1	6	5	3	7	2	4
7	5	4	9	1	2	6	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★

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Cryptoquip

MSHWZ AKCHM, YMKQ  
JKCCRZF MFBKJMO ZWMSO  
RIQMC'F WRYM. ZWMD IMCM  
OMESQSZMAD YKBKIF ERC  
KAKCY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ACTRESS BARRYMORE WROTE A FILM'S SCREENPLAY, I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE BASED ON A DREW STORY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Jewel
  - 4 Sherlock's find
  - 8 Small salamanders
  - 12 Boxing legend
  - 13 React to yeast
  - 14 Dismal cry
  - 15 "Centennial" writer
  - 17 Great Lake
  - 18 "Please explain"
  - 19 Break up
  - 21 Miss Muffet's bugaboo
  - 24 One side of the Urals (Abbr.)
  - 25 Glutton
  - 26 Schlep
  - 28 Flops on Broadway
  - 32 Memo acronym
  - 34 Tend the lawn
  - 36 — E. Coyote
  - 37 Jeans material
  - 39 Comic DeLuise
- DOWN**
- 11 Coaster
  - 16 Scuttle
  - 20 Long lunch?
  - 21 Roe provider
  - 22 Sit for a shot
  - 23 Piratic potation
  - 27 Deity
  - 29 Goodyear alternative
  - 30 Sad
  - 31 Prognosticator
  - 33 Arcade game
  - 35 Stir-fry utensil
  - 38 Cattle call
  - 40 Mid-May honoree
  - 43 Wanderer
  - 45 Witness
  - 46 Morse symbol
  - 47 Diva's delivery
  - 48 Holler
  - 49 Metric measure
  - 53 Bill's partner
  - 54 Deposit
  - 55 Away from WSW

Solution time: 24 mins.

SPA	AVE	EC	CRAG
NED	LIRE	ROLE	
USE	CARD	TABLE	
BONGO	OWN		
AVE	EC	ONICE	
TABLE	TOP	YOUR	
HUE	SAMO	A T	EN
URAL	TOP	BRASS	
GAMEY	SEAN		
SEE	NATCH		
BRASS	BAND	BIO	
YOYO	OREO	SAW	
FEWER	NEON	POL	

Yesterday's answer 12-18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
		18				19		20		
21	22			23		24				
25			26		27		28		29	30
32		33		34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		41	
		42		43		44		45		
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52		53			54	55
56				57					58	
59				60					61	







## Deadline near for basketball

A final reminder that Friday is the deadline to enter a team into the Colby Recreation Men's Basketball League.

Please contact Colby Rec Director Dane Olofson at (785) 460-4440 either today or Friday.

Also, the Rec Department needs to know immediately how many children will be participating in Saturday's Candy Cane Hunt at Fike Park. The hunt is set to begin at 10 a.m.

## 'Dogs find win at Quinter

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High boys won one of their three games at the Castle Rock Tournament last weekend in Quinter.

They lost to Quinter and Cheylin in the first two games, but finished with a one-point win over Atwood on Saturday.

In the first game on Tuesday, the Bulldogs were matched against the Quinter Bulldogs.

The Quinter team took control of the game early and held on throughout the first quarter to lead 25-8. The Golden Plains team struggled to score in the second and finally got baskets from freshman Devin Carter and junior Koi Wessel shortly before the half to trail 42-12.

The Bulldogs found the basket in the second half and doubled their score in the third though Quinter still led, 60-24, going into the fourth.

Golden Plains added another six in the fourth while holding Quinter scoreless during eight minutes of continuous clock that finished the 60-30 Quinter win.

"They were very fast. We were apprehensive — we knew Quinter was going to be good," senior Braden Korte said. "How we played is not who we are. The score did not reflect what we are capable of doing."

Kade Wessel led the Bulldogs with 13 points. Other points came from Cole Ziegelmeier with four, Koi Wessel four, Nick Brown four, Brett Gerbitz three and Devin Carter two.

Playing in the consolation bracket, the Bulldogs faced league foe Cheylin.

The Bulldogs were determined, but both teams had trouble taking care of the ball under a full-court press.

Golden Plains stayed behind until tying the score at 27 by the end of the third quarter.

Koi Wessel hit another shot to regain the lead to start the fourth, but the Cougars tied it up once again.

With five minutes left to play the Cougars pulled ahead and extended their lead for the 40-33 win.

Koi Wessel put in 20 points for

# Brewster coach earns top state honor

By R.B. Headley

Colby Free Press  
rbheadley@nwkansas.com

Brewster High activities director and coach Shea Rothchild was recently named 1A "Boys Cross Country Coach Of The Year" for his efforts during the 2014 season.

Voters from the Kansas Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association meet to select their top award winners in each class from 6A through 1A.

"I was surprised and honored to receive the recognition," Rothchild said. "And I am thankful to my fellow 1A coaches for their recognition."

Perhaps it's a surprise that Rothchild would be surprised by

this honor.

He coached the Brewster Bulldogs through an outstanding 2014 campaign which featured either titles or high team places at every meet this fall.

The Bulldogs took second in their regional behind only eventual 1A state champion Natoma. Multiple state medal-winning senior Layton Werth took home the individual title while freshman Jacob Benham and junior Takoda Turner both reached the regional top 10.

Brewster brought a No. 3 state ranking into the final 1A showdown at Wamego and did not disappoint.

With Werth setting another school record (16:49.3), the Bull-

dogs claimed third place overall (65 points).

Fort Hays State University recruit Werth also earned a top three finish. He recently ran at a national and reportedly placed among the top 15.

More details about Werth's

achievement will be featured on an upcoming sports page.

While his top runner will be moving on, Rothchild and the Bulldogs should remain strong through upcoming seasons. Freshmen Adrian Mercado, Austin Bear and junior Quinton Clymer are

three more state competitors who will likely return to lead Brewster into 2015.

Rothchild added that will be receiving his official 1A Coach Of The Year award during an annual coaches conference Jan. 9-10 in Junction City.

## Friday brings final hoops before break

Friday

Girls/boys basketball: Holcomb at Colby, 6:30 p.m.

Girls/boys basketball: Golden Plains at Weskan, TBA

Saturday

Wrestling: Colby at Goodland Dual Tourney, 10 a.m.

Colby girls' leaders

Meanwhile, here are a few more leaders from the Eagle varsity girls' memorable 63-48 win over Ulysses Tuesday evening.

**Three-point shooting:** Kelly Sloan 100 percent (3 for 3), Hannah Strange 100 percent (1 for 1), Brenly Terrell 2-for-5 and Shailla Giebler 3-for-8.

**Rebounds:** Giebler 7, Strange 6, Terrell 4, Brielle McKee 3.

**Assists:** Courtney Van Eaton, McKee, Strange, Bailey Foss and Sloan each with 2.

**Steals:** Terrell 3, Giebler 2.

## Faltering NFL teams need more than hope for Christmas

Free Press office manager Melissa Edmondson should be offering our NFL columns after ripping through a spectacular week of picks at 13-3.

Really, 13-3? Every team in the league beyond Denver, New England and Arizona would send wives away for the holidays if it meant a 13-3 record by season's end. It's that unrealistic with two big weekends remaining.

So which teams are really screaming toward post-season

while others can start looking for a partridge in a pear tree?

**Going down:** Philadelphia's starting to look feeble as most expected with Mark Sanchez at quarterback. Nick Foles has never resembled a season saver even if he returns.

Check the San Diego Chargers off your party list and Indianapolis might be gimpiest team actually going in.. The Dolphins, Texans, Browns, Bills and Falcons are barely longshots at best.

**Moving up:** R.B. (Romo Bash-er) Headley can barely believe he's admitting this: but watch out for those Dallas Cowboys. Despite DeMarco Murry's hand injury, the Cowboys just look like a real threat unlike many other years. Also don't forget the last two Super champs: Seattle and Baltimore.

**Still a good chance:** Kansas City wins every tie-breaker with other hopefuls.

Lions and Bengals also have real potential.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

Cole Ziegelmeier reached high to secure this rebound during Golden Plains' one-point win over Rawlins County on Saturday.

the Bulldogs followed by Korte's four, Ziegelmeier three, Carter two, Kade Wessel two and Jesus Aragon two.

For the tourney finale on Saturday, the Bulldogs played the Rawlins County Buffaloes

Kade Wessel opened the first quarter with a bucket and the Bulldogs were on their way to a 14-9 lead by the end of the first with Kade and brother Koi posting up all but two of the Bulldog points.

Yet trailing 32-28 to start the fourth, it looked like the Bulldogs were facing another loss on their record.

However, Koi Wessel increased his offensive threat by putting up 10 straight points for the 'Dogs.

Still trailing by three, Domonic Luna hit a couple of free throws closing the gap. The Buffaloes scored again to regain a three-point lead.

Gerbitz arced a three and tied

the game up with 1:06 to play.

It was still tied with 9.1 seconds on the clock and it looked like there would be an overtime. The Bulldogs got the ball on the Bufaloe's end of the floor and pushed it downcourt.

Koi Wessel went in for a layup and got fouled. He went to the free throw line with 2.8 seconds on the clock to shoot for two.

Koi missed the first shot, but made the second shot for a 44-43 Bulldogs victory.

"We have been working hard in practice," Koi Wessel said. "This was a complete team effort to get a win."

Koi finished the game with 17 points while Kade had 11. Korte wen, Luna six and Gerbitz three. This gives the Bulldogs their first win of the season.

The Bulldogs will play one more game in Weskan on Friday before the semester break.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High junior Brenly Terrell was almost a blur with her team-high three steals in Tuesday's win over Ulysses. The Eagles are home on Friday for their final pre-holiday games against Holcomb.



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