

# Enjoying lunch and music



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

April Teeter, Stephanie Hellmuth, Melinda, Evan and Josh Olson enjoyed a performance by the McLemore Family at the first picnic in the Park event at Fike Park Thursday. There will be a picnic in the park each Thursday through June and July.

# Menlo holds annual reunion at VFW post

Menlo alumni families and friends held their annual reunion May 29 at the VFW Post in Colby. A delicious meal served by the VFW was enjoyed.

A business meeting followed the dinner with David Moos presiding. Minutes were read and approved.

Special year classes were recognized.

1944 class members present were Lois Cogdill VanHorn and Nina Duffey Brandt.

1954 class in attendance were Ruby Ogier Weed, Fay Hasik Klinge, Albert Stillman and Delores Wessel Dellere.

Introductions were made and school experiences reminisced about.

Deceased alumni remembered were Fay Steiger, Harvey Steiger, Chester Duffey, Kenneth Channell,

Franklin Pearce, Dean Bastin, Harold Duffey and Beulah Mahanna Morse.

Bills were presented and allowed for payment.

Dale Farmer will handle mailings for the coming year. David Moos will serve as chairman and Hazel Duffey as secretary-treasurer.

Prizes were awarded to Nina Duffey Brandt for traveling the farthest to attend and to Frances Depperschmidt Collins as oldest class member present.

Marvin Murphy and Mrs. Lynn Duffey were recipients of prizes for attendance drawings.

Correspondence read was a letter from Neva Farmer Makin who could not attend.

Annual meeting for 2005 will be Saturday night preceding Memorial Day at the Colby VFW Post.

# Ministers rally in Kansas

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — Nearly 100 Johnson County ministers rallied Thursday in support of an effort to get rid of Kansas lawmakers who voted against a proposed state constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage.

"I don't hate gay people," said the Rev. Jerry Johnston, of the First Family Church in Overland Park. "I love all people. But this issue goes

beyond homosexuality. Johnston said Thursday's session was just the beginning of a statewide battle.

Kris Kobach, an Overland Park Republican who is vying for his party's nomination in the 3rd Congressional District race, told the audience Thursday that allowing gay marriage would open a floodgate of litigation and destroy the institution of marriage.

# Many farmers, families depend on outside income to keep going

WICHITA (AP) — Just 10 percent of Kansas farmers earned all their household income from their farms, with growing numbers of rural families turning to outside jobs to make ends meet, a new survey shows.

Final data released Thursday for the 2002 Census of Agriculture — an in-depth snapshot of U.S. agriculture taken every five years — chronicled changes among the state's 64,414 farms and the people who run them.

The survey by the National Agricultural Statistics Service also provided for the first time a census-based look at net farm income. In Kansas, that figure was \$13,070 per farm in 2002.

But the value of Kansas farmland and buildings soared by 19 percent between 1997 and 2002, the census showed. The average value per farm rose by more than \$88,000 during the five-year period between the surveys. The average value per acre went up by more than \$100 to \$687 per acre in 2002.

Meanwhile, Kansas women made gains in the state's farm economy. Some 21,632 farmers in Kansas are women, or nearly 9 percent of the state's farmers.

Inroads for women are being made in specialty crops or livestock such as horses, said Eddie Wells, a statistician with the Kansas Agri-

cultural Statistics Service. More women also are participating in government programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program that do not require physically heavy field work.

Through CRP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture pays landowners to keep some land off-limits to grazing and farming.

"The more traditional agriculture in Kansas still is strongly leaning toward male orientation," Wells said.

The number of Kansas women listed as the primary operators of grain farms, for example, plummeted from 1,863 women in 1997 to 898 women in 2002.

Kansas farm women also still have a long way to go before they catch up to the national statistics, which show 27 percent of farmers nationwide are women.

In Kansas, the numbers of fam-

ily farms grew, making up 57,238 farms, while the number of corporate farms in Kansas declined to 2,242.

Nationwide the number of corporate farms also fell — reversing a trend that has continued without interruption since 1978, the Agriculture Department said. Land in corporate farms nationwide also declined from 1997.

For the first time the census tracked the use of computer and Internet use in agriculture. In Kansas, 41 percent of farmers reported using a computer for the farm business and 48 percent reported having Internet access.

The survey defined a farm as any place where \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold.

In Kansas, the survey counted 64,414 farms in 2002, down from 65,476 in 1997.

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