

Musical celebration!



JAN BARNUM/Courtesy photo

The Soaring Singers (foreground), made up of sixth grade band members, performed during the finale of the “Music In Our Schools” concert, Tuesday, at the Colby Community Building. About 375 students were involved and the groups included: Colby

Grade School Honor Choir (Soaring Singers), Fifth grade choir, seventh and eighth grade choir, Colby High School women’s ensemble and concert choir. Then all the choirs sang together. The finale was all students performing “America the Beautiful.”

District puts on biggest concert of the year

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Music students in the Colby School District performed their biggest concert of the year Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. This was the second year the district has put on such a concert

Colby Grade School music

teacher Jennifer Koel said 344 students performed at the concert, which was part of the district’s activities for Music in Our Schools Month.

The performance included the district’s Soaring Singers, and students in music from fifth through 12th grades. Each vocal group and band performed one piece each be-

fore the last three numbers.

Koel said those were a mass performance of the combined choirs, followed by all of the bands, and for the finale, all of the students played and sang “America the Beautiful.”

The groups had a brief rehearsal session shortly before the concert, and organization was a challenge because of the number of people

involved. “Logistically it was kind of difficult,” she said. “It shows what we are doing in elementary through high school. It showcases our musicians.”

The concert also afforded families the chance to go to one concert, and see their children perform at the same time.

Koel said she and the district’s other music teachers, Stacey Williams, Jill Nichols and Amanda Kidder planned the concert.

She was pleased with the concert, and said today they had already received several compliments on how well it turned out.

“It went well,” Koel said, adding the event also had a large crowd in attendance.

Gambling bad trend, legislator says

From “GAMBLING,” page 1

kept the measure bottled up.

Reitz said the rising costs of meeting Kansas Supreme Court and federal education mandates meant that gambling was just the beginning of a bad trend for Kansas.

“With No Child Left Behind, we’re going to have gambling and taxes in a big way,” said Reitz, R-Manhattan. “That dog doesn’t hunt with me.”

But supporters like Morris and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said Kansans already gamble out-of-state or at Indian casinos, meaning the state experiences gambling’s pain without any revenue gain.

“We are shipping to other states — voluntarily — a large amount of money that could stay within Kansas,” Sebelius said during a news conference. “I also think we’re passing up opportunities to, frankly,

expand our economy.”

Senate leaders see expanded gambling as a way to generate revenue to help pay for a plan to spend an additional \$660 million over three years on education to meet a Kansas Supreme Court mandate.

But while the two issues are tied, Morris said he wants to pass a three-year schools plan even if a gambling

bill fails.

“If we don’t have gaming for that third year, we’ll probably have to have taxes of some kind to fill the gap,” Morris said. “But my anticipation is that we don’t have a choice. We need to go ahead and pass that three-year plan and we’ll be obligated to find a way to pay for it.”

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Trash, other debris problem in city and county

From “COUNTY,” page 1

The topic was tabled until Gatlin can get more information.

In other business:

• Lynette Koon told the commissioners there is a growing problem with debris around the recycling center.

Koon said she would like the board to talk with Colby City Administrator Carolyn Armstrong and determine whether staff members could assist with pickup of the debris. The issue was tabled until a later date.

• Between the two executive sessions the commissioners approved the purchase of a copier from Office Works in the amount of \$4,819. The price will be split equally between budgets of the appraiser’s office, road and bridge department, and Kansas Community Corrections office.

• Commissioners approved \$2,742 in abatements, reviewed the monthly reports of the emergency medical service and economic development alliance and the fact

Steele plans to attend a health law seminar March 22 sponsored by Citizens Medical Center.

• Commissioners -directed Thomas County Public Health Nurse Juanita Gatz to meet with Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn and local doctors about which services can or will be provided to jail detainees. A report from Gatz is expected in the near future.

• Monday’s meeting of the Thomas County Commission started and ended with executive sessions. At 9 a.m. all of the county department heads met with Thomas County Commissioners Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen behind closed doors for 13 minutes for “nonelected personnel issues.”

At 10 a.m. Koon met with the commissioners for eight minutes, again for nonelected personnel matters.

According to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, closed door sessions with people not elected to their job are legal. The Act outlines specific reasons when such meetings can and cannot take place.

Surplus Property Sale

Friday ~ March 17, 2006
CCC Student Union ~ 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Items to be sold include tables, sofas, chairs, exercise equipment, desks, computer stands, desk stands, tractor used at CCC farm, bale elevator, water purifier, wood cabinets, power rake, projection device, cement picnic form, shop lights, mower, vacuums, chain saws, photograph records, laser disc players, 15" color monitors, Ricoh laser printers, HP laserjet printers, computer cases, Microline Turbo Printers, Compaq Armada Laptop PI, Premio PII computers (up to 350 Mhz, 64 MB Ram, NIC, 8 MB video, Floppy drive, 8X CD). Computers do not include software. All items sold as is without warranty, expressed or implied.



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