

Family

Summer events on tap

By Leilani Thomas
On the Road Again!

Summer is definitely here — so good to see the beautiful flowering trees and plants. May also brings us graduations and Mother's Day. Colby Community College held their ceremony on Saturday, May 13. Honorary degrees were given to Betty Firestone and Jay Donelan and posthumously to Jim Firestone. Colby High School Graduation and baccalaureate was held Sunday, May 14. Both ceremonies were held at the Community Building.

May also brings the end of the spring sports season, many concerts, car races, and making plans for Memorial Day Weekend. May 6-7, the Kansas Sampler Foundation held its festival in Garden City. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with communities from across Kansas about their attractions and events, to eat ethnic foods of all kinds, to see and purchase the latest "Made in Kansas" products and to hear some of the best entertainment from across Kansas. This all took place at the zoo in Garden City.

May also brought National Tourism Week. During the week we honor those in the Tourism Industry and thanked the travelers for their patronage. The Colby Convention and Tourism Committee held an appreciation luncheon for the volunteers who

worked for us during this past year at the Visitor Center. Our volunteers under the direction of Ralph Fischer are often the only contact some visitors have with our community. It is important they leave with a positive impression and our volunteers do a fine job of making that happen. We are very grateful for them and appreciative of them.

Anita Cochran from KSN or the NBC affiliate in Wichita was in Colby for a TV Shoot. Footage was shot from the Visitor Center, Oasis Travel Center and Prairie Museum of Art and History. It was seen May 15 on either the 5 or 10 p.m. news slot. We are pleased to be a part of this "Hometown" series.

Reappointed to the Convention and Tourism Committee were Howard Culver, Scott Crawford, Leesa Wark, and Pat Toth. Vel Brown has been appointed for her first term. Mike Woofter is leaving the board.

The members wish to thank him for his vision, dedication and passion for the past several years of service.

Finally be watching for more information about the 50th anniversary of the day President Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act that began the Interstate Highway System. Colby will be part of that national event to be held June 21. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

Senior Center closed for Memorial Day

By Emma Rogers
Senior Center

The Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park, will be closed Monday for Memorial Day. There will be no home meal delivery or bus service. The center will open again on Tuesday.

There are plenty of activities scheduled at the center for the week

of May 30-June 2, including exercise at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. Wednesday is Popcorn Day. Thursday exercise is at 9:30 a.m. Friday and it's Denim Day.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center in Colby wishes to invite those 60 and older and their guests to attend daily luncheons in Colby Monday through Friday. Reserva-

tions may be made by calling (785) 460-2901 the day before. Home delivery is also available for those unable to attend due to social or physical disabilities. Those who work are also invited to come to pick up a meal. Those meals are available at noon to be picked up. For individuals 60 and over a contribution of \$2.50 per meal is requested. Anyone under 60 years of

age is invited to attend or pick up a meal at a cost of \$4.50 per meal.

The menu for the next week includes: Monday - Center closed for Memorial Day. Tuesday - hot dog with kraut, mashed potatoes, seasoned corn, bread or bun, plums. Wednesday - turkey, sweet potatoes, five cup salad, dinner roll, cookie. Thursday - taco salad, fruit mix with bananas, chips, applesauce bars. Friday - chicken and rice casserole, beets, watermelon, biscuits, cook's choice complement.

The building is also available for rental for events. For information on lunch reservations, call 460-2901.

The Thomas County Public Van is owned by the county but is scheduled and dispatched by the Senior Progress Center. The van is not a taxi service. It will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

It must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance of its use and be ready at least 30 minutes in advance of appointment. Sometimes there are four to six calls per time frame.

Calls for the van need to be made between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday.

Bagworm control season starting

LEAVENWORTH — It is an annual ritual for some property owners, but picking bagworms from shade trees and woody ornamentals is a waste of time, according to a Kansas State University Research and Extension Master Gardener coordinator.

"The young worms are beginning to hatch, and more will be coming along in the next few weeks. All of the bags on your plants are empty or soon will be," said Leon Stites, who coordinates K-State's Master Gardener program in Leavenworth County.

Newly hatched bagworms are about the size of a pinhead and virtually impossible to see.

"But, they're the most vulnerable to controls that they'll ever be. This early vulnerability is why we typically recommend treatments in June," said Stites, the agriculture and natural resources agent based with Leavenworth's K-State Research and Extension office.

Most of the tiny larvae stay close to where they hatch. Some, however, will spin a long string that can carry them to a new location like a silk parachute in the wind.

"These little guys' size doesn't deter them," he said. "They immediately start to feed. They also start spinning their own bag, which they'll carry along as they eat and grow."

Gardeners will testify that the worms' favorite foods are junipers and arborvitae. But, the larvae also will feed on a wide range of other

landscape and forest shrubs and trees.

"As summer progresses, so does the amount of silk surrounding the worm. Gradually this silken coat becomes a 1- to 2-inch long bag, studded with leaf and twig fragments. It provides an increasing amount of protection," Stites said.

This older stage is when many homeowners first notice the pests. The larvae not only are maturing in August (at which point they'll seal themselves inside their bag) but also are eating greater amounts as they increase in size.

While they're still feeding, the larvae's growing bag starts to function as a tent, protecting the worms from water and applicator sprays. Because each worm sticks natural materials into the silk it spins, its bag also camouflages the larvae from natural predators, Stites said.

"By August, bagworms are so tough that controls just don't work on them," he added.

On small plants, sometimes the best control is to wait until the worms are large enough to see and then pick them off by hand.

"Even when they're mature and hanging in their bag like a Christmas tree ornament, you have to look closely to get them all," Stites warned. "They do spend the summer camouflaging themselves."

Where hand-picking is impractical, spraying with Bacillus thuringiensis is an alternative natu-

ral control method — if the worms are still small. But is a naturally occurring disease of lepidopterous species such as bagworms.

Commonly used inorganic insecticides are Orthene, Malathion and Sevin.

"No matter the type of spray, however, thorough coverage is a must," Stites said. "If you can't reach all of a large evergreen, bagworms eventually may kill whole sections of it."

A photo to help in identifying bagworms while they are still small and most vulnerable is on the Web at http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_hfrr/extensn/problems/bagworm.htm.

K-State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well-being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county Extension offices, experiment fields, area Extension offices and research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus in Manhattan.

Babies

Abby Marie Micek

Matthew and Melissa Micek of Atwood announce the birth of their daughter, Abby Marie Micek, Monday, May 22, 2006, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Abby weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and

was 20 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Howard and Carol Hart of Topeka and Kenny and Pauline Micek of Atwood.

Abby was welcomed home by brother Kenneth.

Community Calendar

- SATURDAY, MAY 27**
Thomas County Landfill closes at noon for Memorial Day
- SUNDAY, MAY 28**
Landfill closed
- MONDAY, MAY 29**
MEMORIAL DAY
Memorial Day services, Beulah Cemetery, 10 a.m., followed by short service at Sacred Heart Cemetery and open house at American Legion
Thomas County Courthouse closed

Student News

Jalyn Reid, a senior at Brewster High School, received the Dale Dennis Excellence in Education award sponsored by United School Administrators and Jostens of Kansas.

Principal Sherri Edmundson said Reid has demonstrated the characteristics necessary to receive this award given in honor of one of Kansas' educational leaders. Winners of the award display citizenship, community and school service, scholarship and common sense.

Faced with a Drinking Problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help Meetings are Open to the Public City Hall Basement Mondays & Thursdays - 8:30 p.m.

AUCTION

Multiple Lot Real Estate Auction
Friday, May 26, 10:00am
Ellis County Fairgrounds - Hays, KS

Powersports Absolute Auction
Saturday, May 27, 10:00am
Ellis County Fairgrounds - Hays, KS

Real Estate auction will be conducted by Golden Edge Realty, LLC - Leana Garrett, Broker - 785-743-5508
Kisner's Auction and Appraisal Services, LLC - Roger Kisner, Listing Agent/Auctioneer - 785-623-1596
Cooperative brokerage services provided by Manhattan Realty Services - Duane McKinney, Broker - 785-776-1010
Purple Wave Auction, Inc. - Aaron McKee, CAJ, MARE - 785-537-2657
www.goldenedge.com - www.kisners.com - www.purplewave.com
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