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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

David Zum Brunnen entertained the crowd while performing Saturday evening at the Colby High School Auditorium. The play "War Bonds: The Songs & Letters of World War II" on event was put on by the Western Plains Arts Association.

'War Bonds' brings era to life

By Andy Heintz

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David Zum Brunnen's personal ties to the show, "War Bonds: The Songs & Letters of World War II," go beyond just have put the production together with his partner and co-star, Serena Ebhardt.

It includes one emotional letter from his own father about the Nazi concentration camps American soldiers encountered near the end of the war.

The couple did the production Saturday at Colby High School.

The show is in its fifth year, said Musical Director Julie Florin. This was the first time the play had been shown in Colby.

The show revolves around a couple's relationship during the war. It covers the events leading to American involvement, as well as describing the lives of soldiers and their wives during "the duration."

Brunnen is the narrator for much of the two-person show, while Ebhardt sings songs from the war era that reflect the mood of the country before and during the war. Some of those included "White Christmas," "Rosie the Riveter," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B," "This Is the Army, Mr. Jones," and "This Is My Country."

Throughout the play, Brunnen reads real letters written by veterans who fought in the war. The letters reveal the emotions of soldiers, ranging from sadness at the death of their comrades, shock at the violence of war, anger over discrimination described by African American soldiers, the bond between

soldiers and their wives, the jubilation felt by soldiers on hearing the war was over, and reactions to the inhumane conditions soldiers found in the concentration camps.

Brunnen said the first letter about the camps featured in the play had been written by his father, Chester Zum Brunnen, who encountered three of the camps while serving in Europe.

The play also included letters soldiers wives wrote to their husbands during the war. The letters conveyed how hard it was for both the men and women who were separated from their families during the war. The letters also reflected how women were empowered when they learned they could perform jobs that were previously thought to be only for males.

Hoxie man killed Sunday

Two drivers, an elderly Texan and a 19-year-old from Colby, were rushed to hospitals after a four-car, head-on accident Friday night near Oakley in far south Thomas County, and a Hoxie man was killed Sunday in an accident west of town.

Sheriff Mike Baughn said Denver L. Cox, 60, was injured just before 3 p.m. after being pinned under a vehicle he was trying to secure to his trailer.

Baughn said the pickup slipped while he was trying to secure it at the Farm and Ranch Realty auction log on U.S. 24 west of Colby. The vehicle rolled off the trailer and pinned him underneath, Baughn said.

An ambulance and the Colby Fire Department rescue squad were called to the scene in attempt to save him.

In the wreck near Oakley, Baughn said, a GMC pickup driven by Stan Stigall, 88, Shallow Water, Texas, was southbound on U.S. 83 about 6:30 p.m. It col-

lided head on with a northbound car driven by Maranda Retzloff, 19, Colby, who was attempting to pass, the sheriff said.

Stiegall was taken to the Logan County Hospital in Oakley and eventually flown out to a hospital in Wichita, Baughn said.

Retzloff was taken to the Oakley hospital and eventually to Citizens Medical Center in Colby, Baughn said. She was driving a Dodge Neon. Baughn said the accident is still being investigated.

With on-duty sheriff's officers on the way to Oakley, a Colby police officer was sent to another wreck, this one about 7 1/2 miles west of town on U.S. 24.

Baughn said 1999 semi-trailer grain truck driven by Tanner Corder of Colby was struck by a 1999 Mazda Pickup driven by John Jacobs of Levant at the Mile Post 49.5 on U.S. 24. Baughn said the grain truck was pulling onto the highway from a field when Jacobs' vehicle struck the trailer. No major injuries were reported.

Grocery stores open for Thanksgiving

If you forget potatoes to go with the turkey this Thanksgiving, you're in luck. Wal-mart and Dillon's will both be open regular hours for the holiday.

If you want to go out to eat on Thursday, however, it'd be wise to call ahead to see which restaurants and fast-food businesses will be open.

The Village Inn, on South Range Avenue near I-70, says it will be open. Several other restaurants, and a few fast-food places (including Wendy's) plan to close.

The Colby Free Press will be closed Thursday and there will be no paper that day. The Wednesday paper will be printed and delivered a day early, on Tuesday, so carriers can be with their families for the holiday. No paper will be delivered on Wednesday.

There will be no mail on Thursday, and post offices in Colby, Rexford and Brewster will be closed. So will all state and federal offices and banks. All will reopen Friday, and mail will be delivered Friday and Saturday.

Colby city offices and Thomas County offices will be closed both Thursday and Friday. The Thomas County landfill will be closed both days, but will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Pioneer Memorial Library will close both Thursday and Friday and reopen for regular hours Saturday and Sunday.

The city crew will not pick up trash either Thursday or Friday. However, they will pick up the Thursday and Friday trash on Saturday, Nov. 29.

Reporters split society duties at the Colby Free Press

The Colby Free Press went looking for a society editor last month and wound up with two.

Marj Brown and Vera Sloan, veterans of the old *Prairie Drummer* newspaper, both had applied for the job. Both were a little reluctant to take on 24 to 30 hours a week, said Publisher Steve Haynes. Both offered to split the job with someone else.

And so it came to pass that instead of a society editor, the paper hired two. They share a desk, with Brown working Monday and Wednesday and Sloan on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Readers can reach them at 462-3963 or by e-mail at colby.society@nwkansas.com.

The new editors bring different perspectives to the job.

Brown became an intensive-care nurse and supervisor after her days as a paper. She loves art and writing.

Sloan, a former farm wife, became a

county commissioner.

Brown is a 1953 graduate from Colby High School and the wife of Jim Brown of Colby. They have three married children, Duane Brown of Colby, Allen Brown of Olathe and Linda Pitner of Colby.

She began her writing career, she said, working for Bill James at Prairie Printers of Colby when her boys were in school and Linda was in pre-school. She started by doing paste-up and artwork, and later was a feature reporter.

During her years at the paper, she continued to take English, art and photojournalism courses at Colby Community College. She studied with artists Cal Mahin, Tom Currey and Kenneth Mitchell, and studied photojournalism under James. She also continued to participate in area art workshops.

After James and his wife sold the paper and moved to Arkansas, Brown donated her time for a couple of years teaching "psychiatric remotivation" at the former



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Marj Brown (left) and Vera Sloan share a desk and computer as society editors for the Colby Free Press. They started earlier this month.

Good Samaritan Nursing Home. Later, she became a licensed practical nurse, an emergency medical technician and then a registered nurse. After she re-

ceived her registered nurse license, she returned to Colby and worked at the new Citizen's Medical Center as head nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. During her time at the hospital, she was editor of the hospital's newsletter, *The Health Harvester*.

She retired after working at the hospital for 20 years and started taking more courses in English and computers. To keep her hand in doing the things she loved, she said, she organized the Colby Writers Group and the High Plains Art Club in Colby.

Sloan was born and raised on a farm in eastern Thomas County and has called the county home all her life except for seven years spent in the Fort Worth area.

The wife of Maurice Sloan, she is mother of four, grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of five.

See "SOCIETY," Page 3

Briefly

Women's League offers brunch

The Colby Women's League will hold its annual holiday brunch from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Donations will go to support the Thomas County Historical Society and museum. For information or questions, call Sandy Harper, 462-3759, or any of the league members: Pat Criss, Jo Booth, Anita Hills, Sandy Kriss, Melany Shalz, Sidney Strait, Carol Jo Sweat, Becky White or Esther Woofter.

Ladies Association to meet

The Meadow Lake Ladies Association will meet at the Meadow Lake Golf Club for refreshments at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, followed by a meeting at 7 p.m.

Craft fair Dec. 6 at vets' hall

The second annual Holiday Craft and Gift fair will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec 6, at the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 220 Lake Street, said Patty Drake of Nanna's Comfort Foods, the fair's sponsoring agent. She expects more than 20 tables of gifts and holiday ideas. A concession stand will be available all day, serving breakfast burritos, cinnamon rolls and sandwiches. For information, call Drake at 460-3054.

Clinic has lab, lots of kittens

Colby Animal Clinic has kitten ready for adoption. They also have a stray adult male black lab that needs a home. For questions, call 460-8621.

City crew trimming trees

The Colby city crew is trimming trees over streets and sidewalks as the weather allows. Trees will be trimmed to 13 feet, 6 inches above streets and trimmed to 8 feet above sidewalks, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. For questions, call the city office at 460-4410.

Genesis needs food, money

Genesis-Thomas County is looking for nonperishable food and money to buy items to put in Christmas baskets, which will be distributed to those in need of help during the holidays. Donations can be left at Genesis from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays or at LeRoy's Printing, or Sacred Heart Catholic, First Presbyterian, Colby United Methodist or Trinity Lutheran churches. Send checks to Genesis-Thomas County at Box 214, Colby, Kan. 67701.

For information, call (785) 460-7930.

Emergency med class planned

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will be offering an emergency medical technician B class starting in January. Classes will run for five to six months. For information, call training coordinator Dawnelle Umberger at (785) 460-4585.

Center offers lunch for seniors

The Thomas County Nutrition Center is open to those 60 and older and their guests to have lunch at noon Monday through Friday at the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park. The cost is \$2.75 for those 60 or older and \$4.75 for others. Meals can be delivered. Reservations should be made by noon the day before by calling 460-2901.

