



COLBY FREE PRESS

Financial woes cause shelving of stock show

By Shalee Roundtree
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The Thomas County Spring Livestock Show has been called off this year because of the economy and financial problems.

The show has been tradition in Thomas County for around a decade, said Clint Milliman, Thomas County extension agent, drawing people from many surrounding counties to participate. However, this year lack of sponsorship and interest has taken its toll on the show.

"We just cannot financially support the show this year because many investors lost interest," Milliman said. "It cost about \$2,000 between judges, prize money and advertising. This year we just don't have that kind of money."

He also mentioned that partici-

pation in recent years has dropped and that has had a big affect on the show.

"We used to have lots of kids from Thomas County and the surrounding area that would register each year," he said, "and that number has declined quite a bit in the last couple of years. It's hard to support a show when people start losing interest."

Though the show won't take place this year, the organizers do have hope for future shows.

"It is unfortunate that we were unable to have it this year, but we are looking forward to putting it on in the years to come." Milliman said. "There has been a few years in the past that we haven't been able to have it either. Sometimes things like that happen, but we just have to keep hoping for the best."

Indian actors to attend Oscars

MUMBAI, India (AP) — The child actors from "Slumdog Millionaire" will attend the Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, Fox Pictures executives said Friday.

The rags-to-riches story set in the slums of Mumbai has been nominated for 10 Oscar awards, including best picture and best director.

James Finn of Fox Searchlight Pictures said Friday that the actors will be flown to Los Angeles and put up in a five-star hotel for two days.

All nine actors who play the three main characters in three stages of their lives will attend the Oscars, said Finn. They include Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, 10, who director Danny Boyle and his team plucked from the slums,

and the glamorous Freida Pinto, who has been praised in the pages of Vogue as a new style icon.

Azharuddin will travel with his mother while 9-year-old Rubina Ali, who also lives in a teeming Mumbai slum, will be traveling with her uncle, Finn said.

Finn said Fox Searchlight had been making visa and travel arrangements for the children and their relatives until the last minute. Securing visas and passports in India can be a torturous process, especially for impoverished Indians who often don't have the necessary identification forms and documents.

"Everybody is really excited about it," Finn said. "It's nice the whole gang will be together."

School budget must wait on legislature

By Andy Heintz
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Superintendent Terrell Harrison said the Colby Public School District is waiting on the Kansas legislature to decide how much money will be cut from school budgets this year.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius recently vetoed a house and senate approved plan that included a cut of \$66 base student aid per pupil, said Harrison. The state government is trying to come up with a new plan that all sides can agree upon. Sebelius said she wants this year's budgets cuts to be \$33 base student aid per pupil.

"The school district is making cuts across the board to prepare for this year's budget cuts," Harrison said.

Harrison said legislators are dis-

cussing a cut of 10 to 18 percent in next year's school budget. She said cuts that size would be devastating for schools, and will hurt students.

A 10 percent cut would mean an estimated \$976,260 less for the Colby district and an 18 percent cut would mean \$1,604,962 less for Colby schools, said Harrison.

Harrison said she hopes people will call their legislators. She recommended the board begin the first stage of budget discussions for next year after Gov. Kathleen Sebelius reveals her budget plan for 2009-2010.

"The community needs more information about what's happening at the state level," Harrison added.

She said she has been reluctant to talk about budget cuts because the school district will not be able to devise a strategy until the state legislature decides how much



Studying on his bed, Corbin Sherlock (above) of St. Francis College dorm. Later he assisted Tammie Bolio (below) of Benkelman, Neb., to check the Internet in her room at the dorm.

Shalee Roundtree/Colby Free Press



New dorm nice, needs tweaking

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Colby Community College students like their new dorm but think it could use a few improvements.

Most students say they enjoy the new dormitory and everything they have to offer, but there are a few complaints. If you don't get to the showers in time, they say, the hot water may be gone. Some complain about locks on shared bathrooms, which make them say make security difficult.

"I like living in the new dorm because I have my own room and can personalize it," said student Corbin Sherlock, a freshman

from St. Francis. "These rooms are bigger than the older ones, and where I live in here by myself, I have been able to decorate it to my liking."

Other students seem to share the same views.

"I was very excited to move into a brand new facility when I started school here," said Heather Hempler, a freshman from Hays. "After living here awhile, though, it became very clear that some improvements needed to be made."

"If you're going to take a shower, it better be quick, because hot water doesn't last long. I think they are going to try and

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Briefly

Relay plans poker fund raiser

Thomas County Relay for Life will hold its third annual poker tournament at 2 p.m. Saturday to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The suggested donation is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Players may register at Dillons until Friday. For information, call Karla Sharp, 460-4881.

Orchestra to play in Oberlin

Western Plains Arts Association is sponsoring "Celebrate the Love of Sound," a winter concert by Pride of the Prairie Orchestra, at 3 p.m. Sunday at The Gateway civic center in Oberlin. Admission is by season ticket, Friends of the Orchestra membership or at the door. The concert, conducted by Burlington High School Band Director Andrew Salvador, will feature pianist Sharon Kriss of Colby performing Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A minor." For information, call Pat Ziegelmeier at (785) 462-7808 or 460-5518.

Annual Spelling Bee next week

Colby fourth and fifth graders will have their annual Spelling Bee at 1:15 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the grade-school auditorium. Seven contestants have been chosen from each classroom, with one alternate. Medals will be given to the top three spellers in each grade. The public is invited to come watch the fun.

'Pickin' bands return March 6

The bluegrass bands that headlined the Pickin' on the Plains Festival last year will be back in Colby on Friday, March 6, at the Frahm Theater at Colby Community College. Marshall Allen Bailey and the Silver Bullets will perform at 7 p.m. and Gold Wing Express at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Plum Creek

band to compete in the 2010 Independence Parade in Washington. He said the trip may depend on the budget for next year.

• Four students have qualified for state piano competition, 11 students qualified for state forensics and two performed in the state choir, said Krebs.

• Middle school Principal Rob Ross said his students performed well at the Northwest Kansas League Music Festival on Feb. 11.

• Grade school Principal Lance Krannawitter said the first graders had done the music program "Bugz." He said the program was worthy of an Oscar.

• The board approved the resignations of Nancy Baker, Title I math teacher; Sue Nielsen, gifted instructor; Amber Fairbrother, high school English teacher; and Robert Brown, maintenance technician.

His performance was followed by a persuasive argument by forensics student Kayla Sloan about the danger of wearing flip flops instead of shoes.

• High school Principal Don Krebs told the board Sen. Pat Roberts has invited the high marching

downtown, Farmers and Merchants Bank at Dillons and the Colby Convention and Visitor's Bureau at \$15 for adults and \$10 for youths. For information, call (800) 611-8835 or 460-7643.

Rotary to sell soup at game

The Colby Rotary Club will have a soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday during the Colby High-Norton Blue Jays basketball games at the Community Building. Club members for be serving chili and potato soup. Tickets are available from any Rotarian for \$4 for adults and \$2 for kids. For information, call Relda Galli at 460-2000 or e-mail galli@fnb.com.

FFA selling pancakes Thursday

You're invited to eat free at the Colby High FFA Appreciation Breakfast from 6:30 to 8 a.m. next Thursday at the Ag Shop, 240 N. Copeland. Pan-

Area churches offer Lent services, ashes

In remembrance of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, Christians will observe a time of prayer, fasting, and contemplation beginning with Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent.

Several Colby churches will mark the occasion with special services.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will have imposition of ashes during Mass at 8:15 a.m., 12:05 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Colby United Methodist Church will be giving out ashes at 7 p.m. Lenten lunches will begin on March 4 at noon to 1 p.m., and the adult Lenten study "The Last Week" will be

Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings. Call the church office at 460-2761 for details.

The Trinity Lutheran Church Ash Wednesday observance will be at 7 p.m., with special worship services each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. through Lent.

The First Presbyterian Church will observe the day with a service at 7 p.m.

Ascension on The Plains Episcopal Church will have a Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes service at 5:30 p.m.

For information on churches not listed, call your church office.

cakes, bacon or sausage, drinks and door prizes will be offered to mark National FFA Week. For questions, contact Shawna Howell-Hoffman at (785) 460-5320 or showell@colbyeagles.org.

Benefit will help girl's family

Friends and family plan a benefit soup supper for Trinity Pfeifer, a second grader at Colby Grade School, who needs hip surgery. She is the daughter of Jason and Angie Stegeman. Come in for broccoli-cheese or chicken-noodle soup, chili and drinks from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Community Building basement. For information, call (785) 460-0227.

