

## A good day for some sunshine in the park



Andy Heintz/Colby Free Press

Youngsters in the Kids Port child care program, a part of Smart Start of Northwest Kansas headed for Fike Park Thursday morning to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. Pictured are (from left) Weston Singer, Olivia Williams, Gracie Pfeifer (in wagon),

Braxton Harrison, Lear Eicher, Weldon Turner (almost hidden), Jessica Platt, Paula Sothman, Jacob Olson, Jackson Pfeifer and Austin Miller (walking).

## Nominations sought for best Kansas cuisine

The Kansas Sampler Foundation says that nominations are being accepted through March 31 for the 8 Wonders of Kansas Cuisine.

The restaurant must be 10 years or older with intent to stay open for many years. Only nonfranchise restaurants that are open regularly are eligible. Food items produced in Kansas and available to the public may also be nominated. Restaurants or food items must be iconic, legendary or have some unique claim to fame.

All nominations will be listed on the website but those that include background, history, and details will receive the greatest

consideration to be selected as one of the 24 finalists.

Director Marci Penner said, "There are so many excellent restaurants in this state. It is very important that as much information as possible be included in the nominations, including address, phone number, and web site but especially history."

Cuisine nominations may be submitted at [www.8wonders.org](http://www.8wonders.org) or may be sent to Kansas Sampler Foundation, 978 Arapaho Road, Inman, Kan., 67546 or [marci@kansassampler.org](mailto:marci@kansassampler.org).

The 24 finalists will be announced April 23, when voting will begin.

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## Area 'Wonder' misses spot on state list

A Selden business didn't make the list of the top 8 Wonders of Kansas Commerce, as determined by public vote and announced last week by the Kansas Sampler Foundation.

In alphabetical order, the top eight are Big Brutus, West Mineral; Brant's Meat Market, Lucas; the Frontenac Bakery; Hemslojd Inc., Lindsborg; MarCon Pies, Washington; Moon Marble Co., Bonner Springs; Stafford County Flour Mills, Hudson; and the Vonada Stone Company, Sylvan Grove.

Koerperich Bookbinders of Selden was among the other 16 finalists.

More than 9,800 people casting votes represented every state in the union and many foreign countries, the foundation said. Votes came

from schools, nursing homes and worldwide customers. The total of 9,805 was an increase from the previous contests for architecture (8,036) and art (9,149).

One e-mail address could only be used three times to vote, and each person was allowed one paper ballot vote. Of the 9,805 total votes, 1,395 were by paper ballot.

The 8 Wonders of Kansas contests are a project of the foundation, designed to help educate the world about Kansas and encourage travel. The contest mission was not to find the most lucrative businesses in the state but to showcase Kansas-owned business that set the "gold standard" in their field.

The 24 finalists ranged from manufacturers with a world-wide customer base to small retail stores. One finalist, the power

shovel Big Brutus, represented historical commerce.

"What can we learn from the outcome?" asked foundation director Marci Penner. "Maybe that locally-owned shops have quite a loyal following. It had to be difficult to choose between large manufacturers and small niche shops, but in the end, the public

showed great affection for small retail shops."

The next contest will showcase Kansas Cuisine, she said. Public nominations will be accepted this month. See criteria at the website [www.8wonders.org](http://www.8wonders.org).

Information about all finalists can also be seen at the site.

## Diplomats plan luncheon

The Colby Diplomats are making plans for their annual spring luncheon from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, at the Colby United Methodist Church.

This year's program will be patterned after the game show, "The Weakest Link," with audience participation.

Seating is limited to 100, and

businesses who treat their female employees to this annual event are encouraged to get their reservations in early. The luncheon is open to all women. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, April 15.

For ticket information, call the Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401.

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The first 5 people that come into the Colby Free Press office at 155 W. 5th Street with the correct answer to the question below will win 2 free tickets to the show!

**Question:**  
What year was the Barbershop Harmony Society founded?