

May a month for celebrations Robots take first

Celebrate is our theme for May, an important month for the tourism industry.

National Travel and Tourism Week will be next week, May 10 to 17. Kansas is using the theme "Travel Matters," and we can share a few Kansas tourism facts to prove the point.

In 2006, the total impact of travel and tourism (direct and indirect) in the state was \$5.46 billion. 128,328 jobs (direct and indirect), or 9.5 percent of total employment in the state, were created by tourism activity, making tourism the third-largest private sector employer in the state.

In our region, northwest Kansas raked in a total of \$411.1 million in tourism spending, with the bulk of those dollars being spent in Hays, Colby and Goodland, in that order, on accommodations, food and shopping.

We will be holding a luncheon for our volunteers from the Colby Visitor Center, who spend many hours welcoming people to Colby. We celebrate these volunteers, who are under the leadership of staff manager Ralph Fischer. Community leaders will help the Convention and Visitor Bureau board honor our volunteers at the May 13 event.

Everyone is invited to a Chamber Coffee Hour at the Visitor Center at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 15. If you have never been to the center, we encourage you to stop by, or even if you have.

We were attending the Sampler Festival in Concordia over the weekend. Over 200 Kansas exhibitors highlighted attractions, products, historic performers, musicians, dancers and food vendors. Thousands of potential visitors attend this festival to learn more about their state and to plan trips.



Leilani Thomas

• On the Road Again!

Leadership Thomas County encourages all of you to attend Business After Five on Thursday, May 14, at HomeLand Real Estate and Auction. This is not only an opportunity for food and fellowship, but an opportunity to learn more about the leadership program.

We hope to field a class of adults this fall and information will be available. This will also be an opportunity to visit with those who have been through the program. If you are unable to attend and would like information, please feel free to call us at the Chamber or visitors bureau office.

Cindy Black and I are taking some additional training from the Kansas Leadership Center. We had the chance in October to network with a variety of professionals from throughout Kansas to receive training in contexts and competencies. This involves civic leadership and engaging others.

They are returning to Wichita for a facilitator workshop this week. We hope to share what we learn in future classes with alumni.

May is definitely a month of celebration. In addition to Tourism Week, we celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, Memorial Day on May 25 and graduation.

Colby High School Baccalaureate will be at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, with Commencement following at 3 p.m. Colby Community College will hold its graduation at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 16. All ceremonies will be at the

Community Building. The college also plans an honorary degree reception for Dr. Floyd and Mary Smith at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union.

May is also a month of music. School concerts include the Middle School Vocal concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 11 in the Grade School Auditorium, High School Vocal Pops Concert at 7:30 Tuesday, May 12, at the school, Middle School band concert at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 18, and High School Spring Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19. The college will hold its Vocal Music Concert at the Cultural Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, and a band concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, at the Cultural Arts Center.

Other special concerts include Gaither Homecoming artist Larry Ford and comedian Aaron Wilburn at 6 p.m. Saturday at Colby High School. The Colby Area Barbershoppers plan concerts at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Cultural Arts Center. The featured quartet Realtime will be joining them on stage. Thursday, May 21, brings Joseph Hall, an Elvis tribute singer who has performed on America's Got Talent, to Colby at 7 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center.

Sports and recreation are also a part of the May celebration. Stock car races will be held Sundays starting this week, and May 17 and 24, at 7 p.m. at the Thomas County Speedway. The Colby municipal pool is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend. The Colby Track invitational will begin at 3 p.m. next Friday at Dennen Field.

Let's all celebrate! It's May.



VERA SLOAN / Colby Free Press
"The brain has got to be here somewhere," is probably what Alyssa Goodheart, 14, was thinking while she assembled her robot project in the Thomas County Academy classroom. Goodheart's team programming the robot's brain to perform assigned tasks helped bring home second-place honors for the Academy.

the competition and placed second overall. This was the first year for the school to participate, Morgan said.

Senior Center

At 11 a.m. Friday May 8 we will celebrate and have a tribute to mothers at the Senior Progress Center. Come early and help celebrate. Other activities: **Monday:** donate flowers for outside containers. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; board meeting following lunch. **Wednesday:** 10:30 a.m. dart game. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 domino game. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. tribute to mothers.

Menus for the coming week: **Monday:** salmon patty or loaf, green bean casserole, mandarin oranges, cook's choice complement. **Tuesday:** Swiss steak with tomatoes, peas, rice pilaf, plums. **Wednesday:** Polish sausage with kraut, mashed potatoes, broccoli, applesauce gelatin. **Thursday:** sloppy joes, au gratin potatoes, spinach salad, pears. **Friday:** Swedish meat balls, Italian blend vegetables, citrus slices, noodles, cookie.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service. A contribution of \$2.75 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$5 for others.

Gold Star Winners!

VISION SOURCE HONORS THE WINNERS OF THE VISION AWARENESS COLORING CONTEST.




Special Thanks to Modern Woodman's Shawn Carney and State Farm Insurance's Jane Johnson, McDonalds, and Baskin Robins for donation of prizes for the Coloring Contest winners.

Vision Source! www.eyeclinic.com

1005 S. Range, Ste. 100, Colby
785-462-8231

New Spring Designs!

For Mother's Day on May 10th and Graduation!

Just in time for Mother's Day, Colby artist/illustrator Lori Wicks is Now Doing Portraits STARTING AT ONLY \$49.95!

ALL NEW **Double M Designs** JEWELRY BY MARY MAXWELL.

Artwork, Quilts, Model Semis and Tractors, Jewelry, Candles, Soaps, Flowers, Glassware, Pottery, Aprons, Baby Items, Signs and Much, Much More!

Creations Gallery

Thurs. 9-8 - Wed., Fri. & Sat. 9-5 - Sun. 1-5
478 N Franklin • Colby, KS 67701


All local artists. All handmade. Unique gifts at affordable prices!

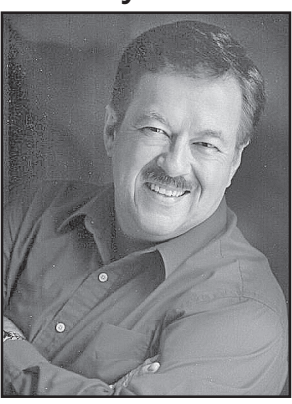
J&R Marketing Presents

Saturday, May 2, 2009

A night of music and laughter with "Gaither Homecoming Artist" **Larry Ford**

and Comedian **Aaron Wilburn**





High School Auditorium in Colby, KS 6:00 p.m. CDT

Tickets will be \$12 Advance or \$15 at the door. Group rate will be 20 tickets \$10 each. Call 785-443-1994 for more info. Call us for details!!

The **Colby Area Barbershoppers** will present *Back to the Roots of Barbershop* on **Saturday, May 2nd, 2009** at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center.



The Featured Quartet is the 2005 International Champions, **REALTIME**. There will be 2 shows: 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS IN ADVANCE: \$10.00

TICKETS AT THE DOOR \$12.00

Tickets can be purchased from any chorus member or by calling 800-269-7059 or 785-462-2474. Tickets may be held for you at the window.

Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent with TFI Family Services, Inc.



Every day, there are children in need of care. They need a place to feel safe. A home where their most basic needs will be met. A family to show them love.

Imagine if every child had a family of their own and imagine what it would feel like knowing that you were a part of that.

Beginning July 1, 2009, TFI Family Services will be providing services to approximately 2000 children that are currently placed out of home. Foster and adoptive homes will be needed!

To learn how to become a foster care and/or an adoptive family, please call 800.279.9914 or visit our web site at www.the-farm.org



APPRECIATION DRAWING TO BE HELD
September 10, 2009

Any family that is currently licensed and sponsored by TFI, is in good standing and active, and has had a placement between January 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009 will be eligible for the Appreciation Drawing on September 10, 2009. All eligible foster families will be placed in the random drawing.

New Families Need Recruited!

For those who are already a TFI Foster Family, you can earn a Recruitment Bonus of \$300 for each family you refer that become licensed and sponsored by TFI.

Reimbursement rates from \$18 to \$80 per day, depending on the needs of the youth.

Grand Prize Drawing
Four day/Three night stay at Disney World plus \$1,000 Spending Money
This includes airfare from KCI or Wichita Airport.

Second Drawing
Three day/Two night stay at Branson, Missouri plus \$500 Spending Money

Third Drawing
One night stay at Great Wolf Lodge, plus \$250 Spending Money

Building Brighter Tomorrows for Families and Children
Child Placement Agency License No. 766-009