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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

## Music festival delights with old-time tunes

The Martins performed Saturday afternoon at the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Band members are (from left) Larita Martin on dobro, Janice Martin on banjo, Jeana Martin-Farris on fiddle and Dale Martin on guitar. In the back is Elvin Martin on the bass. Marshall Allen Bailey and the Silver Bullets – Blake (right) and Brandon McLemore – jammed on Saturday. Others who performed at the festival included Sons and Brothers, the Ozark Alliance, the Sappa Strings, Driven, the New-Old Timers and the Kenny and Amanda Smith Band. The bands played under the dome, a canopy that provides shade for performers and audience alike. There was also an indoor location in case the weather turned bad, but the mostly sunny weekend cooperated. Colby has held the festival every year since 1995.



## Food bank collects 134 items at festival

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby Bluegrass Festival Committee collected 134 food

items and raised \$34 for Genesis Food Bank at the Pickin' on the Plains festival this weekend.

"Every little bit helps," said committee member Bev Biel.

This was the second year the

committee has collected food at the festival and the first they have accepted cash. Biel said they received more food items than they did last year.

She said committee member Pat

Wolf first came up with the idea of collecting food at the event for Genesis.

"It was just another way to help the community," said Biel.

## Senate candidates compete for conservative vote

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Rep. Jerry Moran's more than 2-to-1 lead in campaign cash gives him a big advantage over Rep. Todd Tiahrt in their Republican primary race for the Senate.

But Tiahrt has stronger bonds

with the social conservatives who are likely to have significant influence in the August 2010 election, giving him an important asset in a campaign that naturally will tilt to the right.

Democrats have no declared candidate and don't seem likely for now to find one who'll offer a real threat to the GOP nominee,

whether it's Moran or Tiahrt. That means Republicans won't have to worry as much about alienating too many of their party's moderates.

"Republicans are looking to vote for the Republicans' Republican. A lot of that comes down to trust," said Christian Morgan, a Lawrence activist and former

Kansas GOP executive director. "You can't underestimate the fact that you're replacing Sam Brownback, who's become one of the more consistent conservative voices in Congress."

Brownback's seat will be open because the conservative senator

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## Hail storm pelts fields east of Colby

By Kevin Bottrell

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A fast-moving hail storm cut a swath down the middle of Thomas County about 3 p.m. Friday, damaging crops from south of Atwood to east of Oakley.

Thomas County Extension Agent Clint Milliman said he did not have any cost estimates yet, but said that the storm produced a lot of damage to corn fields in a path from north to south across

the county.

"I was driving through Oakley, and I saw corn with no leaves on it," Milliman said.

Corn along K-25 north of town looked ragged and beat up, as did fields east of town along U.S. 24. The swath was four to five miles wide. At Halford, on U.S. 83 east of Colby, workers reported so much hail on the ground that "it looked like it has snowed."

Farmers said some of the worst

See "DAMAGE," Page 3

## Fair events start with 4-H fashion

Fair season has begun in Thomas County, and while the Free Fair itself does not kick off until this weekend, there will be plenty of fair-related events happening around town in the days to come.

The rodeo queen and princess competition was Saturday, July 11. There were three contestants for queen, four for princess and four for junior princess. This year's royalty will be crowned at the rodeo next Monday.

Several 4-H events are scheduled throughout the week. On Tuesday will be the buymanship fashion judging — where 4-H youths model fashion ensembles they have purchased and are judged on quality, value for the price and appropriateness — at 8

a.m. at the Colby United Methodist Church. Judging for 4-H life skills competition will be from 9 to 11 a.m. and a public fashion revue will at 7:30 p.m., also at the Methodist Church.

On Thursday will be arts and crafts judging at 8 a.m. and 4-H life skills judging of demonstrations and project talks at 1 p.m., both at the 4-H building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

This weekend will see the Open Class Horse Show in the small arena at the fairgrounds beginning at 9:30 on Saturday, and the Oak Ridge Boys concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday, at the main arena.

The rodeo will be next Monday

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### Getting some pointers



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby Trap Club member Dan Zerr helped a man with his shooting technique Sunday afternoon during a free shoot being sponsored by the club's Hunting Heritage Group and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Members showed newcomers the fundamentals of shooting at the camp.

## Briefly

### Step right up; help needed

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and the Thomas County Amusement Association need about 60 volunteers to man game booths at the carnival next week. Shifts will be from 6:45 to 9 p.m. and 9 to 11 p.m. Volunteers will be taking tickets and running the games. For information or to sign on, call Holly Stephens at 460-3401.

### Picnic in the Park Wednesday

This week's entertainment at Picnic in the Park will be Dan Keller. The series continues at noon this Wednesday and next in Fike Park. For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

### College bus will haul vets

Colby Community College is making its bus

available to veterans who're not able to walk in the Fair Parade next week. The bus will leave from the American Legion Hall at 1850 W. Fourth St. at 5 p.m. next Tuesday, July 28, and return to the Legion when the parade is over. For information, call the college information office at 460-7836.

### Salvation Army has fans

The Thomas County Salvation Army representative has box fans available for anyone who needs them. Call Sue at 460-4842 if you need a fan.

### County bus off Thursday

The Thomas County transportation van will not run Thursday because the driver will be attending meetings. For questions, call the Thomas County clerk's office at 460-4500.

### Camp set for Tuesdays

The Colby Wesleyan Church will hold its last two

"Tuesdays @ 10," a free summer day camp for children 4 to 12, this week and next. Kids are invited to participate in the food, fun, games and God's love from 10 a.m. to noon. The "Son Rock Camp" will include nature hikes and outdoor activities with lunch. To register or for questions, call the church office at 462-8391.

### Church holding Bible study

The Colby Wesleyan Church is offering a Beth Moore Bible study, "Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy," from at 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Aug. 19 at the Pioneer Memorial Library community room. No homework is required; discussion will focus around the videos. For information, call the church at 462-8391.

### Coach offers tennis camp

The Colby Eagle Net Slammers Tennis Camp will

be from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday to Wednesday, Aug. 3-5, at Fike Park. Children 6 to 12 can sign up no later than Monday, July 27. The cost will be \$25, which includes a T-shirt. No late registrations. For information, call tennis coach Jennifer Rall at 462-0320.

### Sheriff can check vehicles

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office is now checking vehicle identification numbers for cars, light trucks and motorcycles. The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Sheriff Rod Taylor for information or to set up an appointment at 460-4570. The fee is \$10.



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