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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press



Renowned country artist to sing in Colby

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She's performed for presidents, famous talk-show hosts and crowds of thousands, and Saturday night country music star Suzy Bogguss will be at Colby Community College for a Western Plains Arts Association Concert.

Bogguss has been recording since 1989, and in that time has earned a Grammy award as well as many country music awards. She has recorded 11 albums, of which one has gone platinum and three have gone gold.

In an interview Friday, Bogguss said that, while this will be her first time in Colby, she has performed in Kansas before.

"I'm from a town of 3,000, so it's pretty easy to relate," she said.

Bogguss is from Aledo, Ill., close to Moline. She said she has been on tour for most of the summer with radio personality Garrison Keillor.

At the concert here, Bogguss will follow guitarist Jim Salestrom. Salestrom, musical director at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, has performed with artists such as John Denver, Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton. Bogguss said she and Salestrom have done many Christmas shows together at the Broadmoor, a swank resort at the foot of Pike's Peak.

The concert will be at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center. It is jointly sponsored by Western Plains and the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission. Salestrom will perform first, and after his set, Bogguss will do a solo guitar performance before bringing the other musicians back out for a combined set of her swing, folk and country songs. Bogguss said she likes an energetic concert, and she's hoping to see some characters in the audience on Saturday.

Although known for her country music, Bogguss has recently done an album of swing music and an album of acoustic jazz, some of which she plans to do at the concert.

"It was a pretty major evolution for me," she said. "I got to sing stuff I never knew I could."

Bogguss said collaborating on the two albums with friend Jason Miles helped her be comfortable with the change in style.

"It's different when it's with a friend," she said. "It feels safer."

Bogguss said she has gotten a great response to the albums. The different styles appealed to her, she said because, much like in country music, they allowed her to tell a story.

"Lyrically, I have to have a story to tell," she added.

Bogguss will perform with Salestrom in Kearney, Neb., on Thursday and after Colby will head to Denver for a concert on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Recovery event draws hundreds

More than 200 people attended the all-day National Recovery Month event Saturday, beginning with a parade through downtown. Many Colby children marched in the parade, including (above photo, from left) Jacob Kuhlman, Autumn Korthanke, Ricky Nelson and Kalea Robert, along with (left photo, from left) Madisyn Lemman, Katlyn Korthanke and Carson McLaughlin. Other parade entries included the Colby High School marching band (below), the Tumbleweed Tumblers and the 2009 Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess. A barbecue was held in Fike Park after the parade, with games, music and food for everyone. The event was put on by the Central Kansas Foundation and the Regional Prevention Center to celebrate Recovery Month, which highlights substance abuse treatment efforts every fall.

Budget woes likely to outlast recession

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Budget problems are likely to linger for state government well after Kansas' economy starts to recover.

Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson and the Republican-controlled Legislature are waiting to see whether revenues are strong enough in the next few months to avoid additional cuts later this year and next. But they also must consider how the state will cope if federal stimulus dollars disappear, as expected, after 2011.

Even when healthy revenue growth returns, the state will face vexing budget issues. They include a pension system for teachers and government workers with a serious long-term funding gap and a potential lawsuit over education money.

The sense of scarcity — and the tough choices going with it — probably will remain into the next governor's term, with Parkinson planning to step aside in January 2011.

"I think for at least the next three to four years, we are going to find ourselves under a lot of pressure," said Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jay

Emler, a Lindsborg Republican. "It will last for multiple years."

Recently, state officials have focused on month-to-month revenue figures for signs the economy will stabilize. Parkinson has hopes revenues will be close enough to projections to prevent more cuts in the current budget.

The state has seen four rounds of cuts this year to keep the budget balanced, the last in July.

Many Republicans are skeptical the current budget will remain balanced. Leaders also believe the state could face \$500 million or more worth of adjustments to prevent a deficit in fiscal 2011, which begins July 1.

If they're wrong and Parkinson's optimism is vindicated, the state still faces replacing stimulus dollars in fiscal 2012. This federal windfall covered almost \$400 million worth of spending in the current budget.

And, even if the stimulus weren't an issue, pressure on the state's finances would build anyway, as events last week showed.

One source is the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System. At the end of last year, the gap between projected income and

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Briefly

City offers softball clinics

The Colby Recreation Department plans "Fundamentals of Softball" clinics on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11, and Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Colby Community College baseball fields. Hitting, fielding and base-running will be covered from 12:30 to 2 p.m. for ages 8-15 and from 3:30 to 5 p.m. for those 16 and over. Pitching and catching will be from 2-3 p.m. for all ages. Each clinic is \$35. Sign up at the recreation office in the Community Building by Wednesday, Oct. 7. For information, call Recreation Director Stacy Lee at 460-4440.

County van off on Tuesday

The Thomas County Transportation Van will not be running on Tuesday. It will run from only from 12:30 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 9. For information, call County Clerk Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

Hospital to break ground

Citizens Medical Center will hold a ground-breaking ceremony for Phase 1 of the expansion to the main hospital building at 10 a.m. Friday. The expansion, on the northwest side, will include a new heating and air conditioning system and an enlarged physical therapy area. For information, call Tama Unger at 460-1214.

Preschool screening next week

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center and the Colby School District will be holding an early childhood screening from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the Colby United Methodist Church. The screening will measure how well a child talks, feels, learns, gets along with others, and how well they can do things independently. For information, or to make an appointment, call Amy

Hutfler at 460-5111.

Food offered at senior center

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodity distribution will be from 1 to 2 p.m. next Monday at the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park. Any eligible person can get these commodities, which will include peanut butter, vegetable soup, canned chicken, juice, mixed fruit, egg mix and peanuts. They will be distributed according to income guidelines on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are asked to bring a sack or box. For information, call Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office at 462-6744.

Foundation to meet next week

The Thomas County Community Foundation will hold its annual meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. next Monday at the City Limits Convention Center. The

speaker will be Michelle Cummings, founder of the Colorado-based Training Wheels, an organization that puts on community development talks and workshops. For information, call Executive Director Melinda Olson at 460-9152.

Medical class to form Oct. 7

An information meeting for Emergency Medical Technician B classes will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the Thomas County Ambulance Building. Classes begin Tuesday, Oct. 13. For information or to sign up, call Dawnelle Umberger at 460-4585 or 443-0176.

