



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

College bands get into the holiday spirit

Colby Community College band director Tony Schroer (above) directed his concert band in a performance of "Kentucky 1800" by Clare Grundman at the college's "Sounds of Christmas concert Thursday. Trumpet player Jenny Dickman (right) had a solo in the piece. Pictured with her are fellow trumpet players Lynnsey Heimer and Helena Harmison and baritone sax player Sarah Marcuson. The concert band played several Christmas favorites including "Sleighride" by Leroy Anderson. After a brief intermission, the Trojan Jazz Band took the stage with songs such as "Take Five," by Dave Brubeck and Paul Desmond and "Jump, Jive An' Wail" by Louis Prima. The college choral department's Christmas concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Cultural Arts Center on campus.



Area bluegrass band puts out new album

By Kevin Bottrell

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Few area music groups are as well known and popular as the McLemores, who's bluegrass riffs are heard at festivals, picnics and open houses around town.

Bob, also Colby's fire chief, plays guitar; Susan, an occupational therapist and Colby School Board member plays Banjo; Blake plays Bass; and Brandon plays mandolin and guitar. All four sing, often taking turns for the lead part.

Now the McLemores have a new album celebrating a coming together of a musical family that has until recently been scattered around the country.

Brandon said the band brought a variety of musical influences to the table for the album.

There are several songs by noted bluegrass musician Earl Scruggs, folk rock legend John Denver and even punk rock band Blink 182, all redone for the McLemores bluegrass-quartet style.

Brandon said he thought the Blink 182 song, "Every Time I Look for You," turned out the best of all the recordings.

There is also an original piece, "Woke up in Love," that Brandon co-wrote with Blake — a first for the brothers — and Mark Johnson.

Brandon said he felt the band's performance had improved a lot since 2001, and that they had a better-sounding recording this time around.

"Dad's solos have really stepped up from where he used to be," he said.

Brandon attended the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences in Tempe, Ariz., to learn how to record music. He studied audio theory, engineering and recording technology,

all of which he put to use on the album, recording all of it himself.

The McLemores recorded the album at their home in Colby. Brandon said he and Blake recorded their parts together and he later added in his parents' parts, which he recorded separately. Brandon said he learned the technique on an internship in Nashville, Tenn.

"Studio musicians might have the demo done before the vocalist even gets there," he said.

Brandon said one technique he learned in school that he put to good use was audio level compression, a process that limits the volume of one sound so that another becomes more prominent. Brandon also did the sound mixing himself, putting all the various parts together into the final songs.

The album was finished at the end of July

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City boosts sewer budget for plant costs

By Andy Heintz

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After holding a public hearing Tuesday, the Colby City Council voted to increase the sewer fund to more than \$2 million.

The council changed the sewer fund budget from \$1,305,338 to \$2,038,593 to cover the final construction costs, additional utilities, operating supplies, hiring a third employee and insurance on the Wastewater Treatment Plant located east of town near Wagoner and Sons.

In other business, the council:

- Paid Oppenheimer & Company \$7,000 for acting as financial advisor and taking bids from banks to see which one would hold \$1,000,000 in temporary notes for the new pool project. Farmers & Merchants Bank was hired by the city after they offered the smallest charge for their services. The company was willing to hold the notes for a 1.35 percent interest rate. City manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city got four bids that ranged from 1.35 interest 1.58 interest. The other banks who offered bids were UMB Bank and Country Club Bank, both based in Kansas City, Mo., and Commerce Bank, based in Kansas City, Mo. and St. Louis. Farmers and Mer-

chants Bank will be holding the notes for a year.

The company will also take bids from banks on bonds for the pool project. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the bonds will require them to pay back \$5,000,000 over a ten-year period. She said the money would go towards paying for the special selections where the public voted for a three-fourths sales tax increase on Nov. 3 that would be used to pay off the new fire department and purchase a new pool, and land acquisition and engineering costs for the pool. Kevin McElyea, engineer for Aquatic Design Consultants, is evaluating different locations where a pool could possibly be constructed.

- Decided to approve a certificate of standard completion on the new water standpipe located at 800 East Willow Avenue. This means the city approved the Minnesota-based company contractor company Engineering America, the business that is constructing the standpipe, completing a list of items written up by Brian Spano and Mark Peterson of Wilson & Company, the engineering firm based in Salina that designed the standpipe. Mayor Ken Bieber said the list includes anything that

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KU head coach resigns position amid abuse probe

LAWRENCE (AP) — As the Kansas football players came pouring out the door, many were smiling, a few were frowning and some were laughing out loud at the reporters shivering in the cold night air waiting for them.

Just like Kansas fans, the players know Mark Mangino made huge improvements in the Jayhawks program in his eight years on the job. Their feelings were mixed at the news they'd just been given, that their 53-year-old coach was out on Thursday.

"Some players will be happy to see him go and others will be sad to see him go," defensive back Justin Thornton said. "He did a lot of good for a lot of people here."

Athletic director Lew Perkins, who accepted Mangino's resignation after ordering an internal review of allegations of mental and emotional abuse of players, declined to say what money settlement was reached. If fired without cause, he would have been due \$6.6 million.

Perkins also declined to say if Mangino had the option of stay-

ing, something the coach had insisted all along he intended to do.

"It's been tough on a lot of people, but probably the most important thing is the kids," Perkins said. "It's been pretty tough on them. The kids are the ones I'm concerned about."

Perkins said assistants David Beaty, Clint Bowen and Bill Miller would share interim coaching duties until a replacement is found.

After Mangino went 12-1 and won the Orange Bowl in 2007, he was given a big raise and contract extension through 2012 and honored as national coach of the year.

Perkins is confident he'll find a qualified successor.

"I think it's a great job. I think we have some of the finest facilities in the country," he said. "Now my job is to go find a coach."

Perkins said he had not talked with anyone about the job. Possible candidates who have been mentioned include Houston coach Kevin Sumlin, Stanford's Jim Harbaugh and Larry Fedora of

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Briefly

Food sign up open

Prairie Land Food sign up is open until Monday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call Gene Griffon at 460-3579.

Santa's workshop Saturday

The Thomas County Community Foundation Santa's Workshop will be 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. Elves will be on hand to help kids preschool to fourth grade shop for gifts for their parents. Gifts will cost up to \$4. For information, call Melinda Olson at 460-9152.

Pancake breakfast Saturday

The High Plains Lions Club will hold its annual Pancake Feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the

Colby Community Building. Proceeds will go to the club's community improvement program. Bring your old eyeglasses and hearing aids so they can be recycled, said club president Roger Hale. For information, call Hale at 462-1172.

Church offers nativity display

The Colby Presbyterian Church will hold its annual Nativ-Tea from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 515 W. Fourth St. On display will be hundreds of nativity scenes from around the world that church and community members have, including those of Joan Todd of Rexford. There is no charge; light refreshments will be served. For information, call the church office at 462-6342.

Sorority plans cookie, candy sale

Kappa Upsilon, a community service sorority, will hold a Christmas cookie and candy sale from 11 a.m.

to 2 p.m. Saturday at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. All proceeds will be donated in town. For information, call Linda Van Horn at 460-2284.

Legion seeks care package items

The Colby American Legion Auxiliary is accepting donations for care packages to deployed soldiers until Sunday, when the packages will be put together. For information, or to donate, call Megan Quenzer at 443-3611 or Abby Barnett at 694-1626.

Riders to play Santa in parade

The American Legion Riders will be in the Colby Light Parade at 5:45 p.m. Sunday with gifts for the children listen on the Christmas trees at Dollar General. The gifts will be delivered to the Colby Kiwanis Club after the parade. Children from Thomas County can still be added to the tree before Saturday. For

information, call C.W. Hamilton at 460-3049.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. The building has an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

