



Students picked to sing in Wichita

Grade school choir to sing for music teachers

By Vera Sloan
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Colby Grade School's Soaring Singers have been invited to perform at the Kansas Music Educators Association workshop on Friday, Feb. 26, in Wichita, a first for the school.

Although the association usually chooses two or three elementary choirs from across the state to perform each year, said teacher Jennifer Koel, this year it invited only one – the Colby honor choir directed by Koel and Jill Nickols.

"This is huge," said Koel. "There will be 500 elementary music teachers there, besides middle and high school teachers. In the past, individuals from the Colby Schools have been invited to perform, but this is the first for a group to get picked."

The Soaring Singers have 48 members from second through fifth grade, chosen by the directors during auditions each year. The auditions are held over the summer and 12 students are selected from each of the four grades, Koel said.

The singers were picked for the

Wichita event from a recording of a live concert they performed last year.

Koel said this is a fantastic opportunity and a great honor for the district and the entire community. It's something that few students in northwest Kansas ever get to experience, she said.

"Because it would take so many vehicles to take 48 students and sponsors to Wichita, the college is letting us use their bus for \$10 a head," she said. "We also received help with the trip from the Thomas County Community Foundation and the Music Boosters gave us T-shirts. And all the help is really appreciated."

The Kansas Music Educators says it is committed to the concept that the study of music is a positive influence in the lives of individual students and society as a whole.

Following the performance in Wichita, two of the singers, Abbie Kummer and Hannah Johnston, will board a plane to fly to Denver to join Ashley Guy's Precision Dance Team to represent Colby at the New York City Dance Academy competition that weekend.



Director Jennifer Koel coaxed the state-bound Soaring Singers to let her hear the "ng" of ding as they sang the "Bell Song" on Wednesday. The select group of 48 second through fifth graders was practicing for the Kansas Music Educators Association

workshop in Wichita later this month. Having a group chosen to perform at the state meeting is a first for Colby Schools, Koel said.

VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Rosanne Dougherty (middle) and Ray Imhof showed the new Thomas County Activity Book to some of the quilters who meet every Wednesday at the museum, (from left) Margaret Deneler, Janet Pinkelman, Mary Weed, Theresa Aschenbrenner and Margot Trowbridge.

Volunteers create activity book

By Kevin Bottrell

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Thomas County's 125th birthday celebration won't just be about turning out for events, organizers say. There will be some things you can take home, too.

One of those is a Thomas County Activity Book, geared toward elementary and middle-school kids, put together by a volunteer committee at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

Director Sue Taylor said the book covers the county's history, people and communities and includes activities such as fill-in-the-blank quizzes and cut-out crafts.

Taylor said the museum wanted to do something that would tell the story of Thomas County to a new generation. The book, she said, would be good for families new to the county, or teachers can use the book in their classrooms.

Taylor said she, Carol Thiel, Sally Toth, Ann Miner, Rosanne Dougherty and Ray Imhof all contributed to the book. Dougherty said each member of the group is well-versed in county history. They each took different sections, researched them and came up with both a narrative and fun activities for kids to do. They used many old photos the museum has in its computers.

Dougherty said one of her sections was "Bet-

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EVELYN MARTIN/Colby High School

The Colby High scholars' bowl team is going to state competition Saturday in Topeka: (from left) Jake Rose, coach Christy Garretson, Sara Martin, Gunner and Madison Gawith and Gray Henry.

Colby High scholars head to state contest

By Donna Henry

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People tend to think of scholars as serious, somber, even stoic, individuals who don't show much emotion, but that's not the case with the Colby High School scholars' bowl team.

The members ran into the hall jumping up and down, high-fiving, group hugging and trying,

unsuccessfully, to squelch shouts of excitement on Friday, Feb. 5. They had just captured the regional championship in style by finishing the 12-round tournament undefeated.

"Everybody was ecstatic," said junior Sara Martin. "Madi (sophomore Madison Gawith) and I were jumping everywhere; Ms. G. (coach Christy Garretson) cried."

The regional competition at Kingman High School had been

postponed twice due to snow. It included six western Kansas schools as well as nine from the Wichita area. The Colby team finished the eight-team pool play with six easy wins and one close victory, by 10 points over Wellington. As the day progressed, so did the stress level for Coach Garretson.

"We were getting pretty excited," she said. "It became very

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County open, city closed for holiday

County offices, including the health department and landfill, will be closed Monday for Presidents Day. Colby city offices will be open as usual and the sanitation department will have its regular schedule.

Colby Schools will have classes, while Colby Community College will be off.

Banks and federal offices, however, will be closed

for the day. The Dillon's location of Farmers and Merchants Bank will be open.

The post office will be closed and there will be no mail delivery. State offices, such as Social and Rehabilitative Services and the Colby Workforce Center, also will be open.

Briefly

Lube up to help cancer victims

The Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope will partner with Kansas Quick Lube for a "lubeathon" from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For every vehicle serviced Saturday, Quick Lube will donate \$10 to the foundation, which helps cancer victims and their families with expenses. For information, call Carrie Bartlett or Sarah Laubscher at 462-2224.

Foundation has grants for kids

The Thomas County Community Foundation is accepting applications until March 1 for the first quarter cycle for Kids Can Do! grants. Teachers, principals and club sponsors are encouraged to apply for the \$200 grants for student-run projects. For information, go to www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com or call Executive Director Melinda Olson at 460-9152.

Low-income tax help at library

The American Association of Retired Persons will

offer a tax help seminar from 1:30 to 4 p.m. every Thursday until April 15 at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The seminar is designed for low- and middle-income people with special emphasis on those 60 or older. For information, call Alvin Volk at (785) 460-2645.

Youth group plans dinner

The Colby United Methodist youth fellowship group will hold a pasta dinner and "slave" auction from noon to 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the church's fellowship hall. Proceeds will go to the church's missions and ministries and to the Helping Hands community fund. For information, call Doug Finley at 462-3308.

Church offers family seminar

Colby Independent Baptist Church will hold "Family Focus" seminars at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday at the church, 730 E. Second St. Evangelist Bob Bliss from Pueblo, Colo., is the fea-

tured preacher. Call the church office at 460-0313.

Sacred Heart to display relics

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will sponsor a relic display from 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday and 8:30 and 10 a.m. Monday. Dale Anderson from Manhattan will show relics going back to the time of Jesus and give a 45-minute talk, followed by time for questions and viewing. For information, call Laura Krejci at 462-9724 or the church at 62-2179.

Food bank sets Monday meeting

The annual meeting of Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank will be at 7 p.m. Monday in the meeting room of the Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. Fourth St. The public is invited. For information, call Wynn Duffey at the First Presbyterian Church, (785) 462-6342.

Rotary to serve soup Tuesday

The Colby Rotary Club will hold its annual soup

supper from 5 to 7:30 Tuesday at the Community Building during basketball games with Goodland. The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. For information, call Sara Bryan at (308) 530-8363.

Water district sets annual meeting

The 35th annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Hoxie Elks Lodge, said Wayne Bossert, district manager. For information, stop by the office at 1175 S. Range, Colby, call (785) 462-3915 or e-mail wab@gmd4.org.

