

# New signs spring up around Colby for April

We hope you have noticed new signs up in Colby. There's a new sign at the Colby Visitor Center with a color coded map showing motel locations as well as addresses and telephone numbers for travelers convenience. We are happy to include our two newest motel's locations along with our current motel partners.



**Leilani Thomas**

• On the Road Again!

There are also directional signs for the city ballfields and golf course. These were overlooked locations when our former sign program was completed.

If you have not been to the ball fields lately, you need to take a look. There's new lighting, trees and an updated press box. They look great!

Congratulations to the Colby Tree Board. The trees along Range are going to be a great addition to our community and certainly leave a positive impression with visitors as well as our own citizens.

We are working very diligently on Chautauqua. We hope you have marked your calendars for Wednesday through Sunday, June 2-6. We are looking forward to hearing the scholars talk about the '30s, when times were very hard but most were very optimistic about the future. Another significant date to have on your calendar is Saturday, Oct. 9. That will be the date of the grand celebration bringing the 125th Birthday year to a close.

Spring is officially here and we have many activities to enjoy this month. Of course, the primary event for April is Easter. Please enjoy this special day with your family and friends.

The Colby Chamber is once again holding Mini-March Madness Friday, April 9, for Thomas County students in grades two through five. Skill building is at 4:30 p.m. and games begin at 6 p.m.

The Colby Community College Endowment Foundation dinner and auction will begin at 4:45 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, at the City Limits Convention

Center. It is always a fun time for a worthy cause.

Western Plains Arts Association is bringing Sam Ramey to the Colby Community Building Sunday, April 11, for a concert. As most of you know Sam is a world renowned opera singer and is a hometown boy from Colby. This will be a very special and eventful weekend.

Saturday, April 17, brings us the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce banquet and annual meeting. This will also be held at the City Limits. The social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Awards and entertainment will follow the dinner.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program will hold their awards banquet and dance at City Limits on Wednesday, April 21. The Andy Anderson band will be playing.

National Library Week is celebrated in April. Pioneer Memorial Library will be holding *Booked for Lunch* book reviews at noon from Monday, April 12, through Friday, April 16. There will also be a Chautauqua discussion of the film "Stories from the Dust Bowl" at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 22, at the library. The discussion will be led by scholar Phillip Thomas.

There are several school concerts. The kindergarten music program will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 8, in the grade school auditorium. The Soaring Singers will present their program at 7 p.m. Thursday,

April 22, at the grade school auditorium.

The Sacred Heart preschool, kindergarten and first grade music program will be held at the school at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 27. The college's vocal music concert will be held at the Cultural Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 29. The Colby Dance Team recital will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, April 23, at Colby High School.

The college is holding a non-traditional occupations career fair from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17, at the Cultural Arts Center.

"Full Circle ... an Aging Expo" will be Friday, April 23, at Colby United Methodist Church. Dr. Tana Goering, a KSN television personality will be the keynote speaker. This program is sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, who ask that you register by Thursday, April 15.

A water conservation seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, at the community building.

There are a couple of special sporting events scheduled for April. Baseball, softball, golf, track and tennis are in full swing. The college's Allen Wolf softball tournament is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18. Games will be played at both college and city fields. The Northwest Kansas All-Star Basketball games will be played at 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 18, at the community building.

The quarterly calendar of events for April, May and June is hot off the press. Copies are available at the chamber office, most banks, the library, the city office, the courthouse, *Colby Free Press* and all hotels.

Enjoy April with Easter, the showers and flowers and many events being offered for your pleasure. Happy Easter.

*Leilani Thomas is director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, a long-time civic volunteer and a passionate observer of the tourism industry.*

## Longer days mean stronger storms

There is an old folk saying that goes "As the days grow longer, the storms grow stronger."

"It's not surprising that there is a physical connection to the old saying," said State Climatologist, Mary Knapp. "Longer days mean more hours of sunshine. This in turn, provides more energy to the atmosphere which would fuel the strong storms. Couple that increased energy with a strong contrast in air masses and you have all the typical components for a severe weather outbreak."

It is not surprising then, said Knapp, who directs the Kansas Weather Data Library, based in K-State Research and Extension, to find that the long-term average has the peak tornado month as May.

"But Kansans should remember, severe weather can occur any time," Knapp said. "Last year,

March 7 marked the first severe weather outbreak, with overnight hail storms and early morning tornadoes."

Information about emergency preparedness and disaster recovery in Kansas is available on the Web site: [www.kseden.ksu.edu](http://www.kseden.ksu.edu). Information about Kansas weather is available on the Weather Data Library Web site: [www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/).

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