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Chautauqua set to begin on Tuesday

The Great Deparession will return to Colby on Tuesday, but only for a week.

The Kansas-Nebraska Chautauqua will open its tent flaps to the public Tuesday. This year's theme is "Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the '30s." Events, workshops and performances are planned throughout the week.

Under the main tent in the evening, set up out back at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, there will be musical performers and actors portraying such historical figures as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Will Rogers.

The Youth Chautauqua Day Camp will take place all week. The youth will learn about historical figures from Thomas County and develop a performance based on these figures.

Children can also participate in the various historical workshops at Pioneer Memorial Library, such as "Dear Eleanor, Dear Michelle," where children will learn about letters written to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in the 1930s and write their own letters to current First Lady Michelle Obama. Adult workshops include "What Do Historians Say," which will analyze Roosevelt's New Deal, and "Radio in the '30s," which will discuss radio's impact.

The Kansas Humanities Council puts on the Chautauqua, which is held at different locations in Kansas and Nebraska each year.

Chautauqua schedule:

Tuesday

Youth Chautauqua Day Camp, 1 to 5 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday

Wednesday

Media Night, 6 p.m., Chautauqua tent

Thursday

"The Dust Bowl" and "Iconic Images of Then and Now" exhibits open, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., museum

"Making Murals with Folktales" youth workshop, 10:30 a.m., museum

"Will Rogers: Film and American Society" adult workshop, 1 p.m., library

"Radio in the Thirties" adult workshop, 3 p.m., library

Doug Watson as Will Rogers, 7 p.m., Chautauqua tent

An Evening with Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 7:30 p.m., Chautauqua tent

Friday

"Dear Eleanor, Dear Michelle" youth workshop, 10 to 11:30 a.m., library

"Crisis and the Role of the Demagogue" adult workshop, 10:30 a.m., library

"What do Historians Say," adult workshop, 1 p.m., library

"Huey Long and State Innovation" adult workshop, 3 p.m., library

Tumbleweed Chorus, 7 p.m., Chautauqua tent

An evening with Aimee Semple McPherson, 7:30 p.m., Chautauqua tent

Saturday

"Go Gator and Muddy the Water" adult workshop, 10:30 a.m., library

"Agriculture Then and Now" adult workshop, 1 p.m., library

Youth Chautauqua performance, 6 p.m., Chautauqua tent

An Evening with Zora Neale Hurston, 7:30 p.m., Chautauqua tent

Sunday

"The Role of Political Satire and Commentary" adult workshop, 1 p.m., library

"Floods, FEMA, and the Faithful" adult workshop, 3 p.m., library

Doug Watson as Will Rogers, 7 p.m., Chautauqua tent

An Evening with Huey Long, 7:30 p.m., Chautauqua tent



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby Girl Scouts Lexy Kraft (left) and Karissa Singer helped water tomato plants at the community garden Thursday. The

Scouts are helping out with the garden to earn an award and plan to continue helping this summer.

Community garden growing strong

By Kevin Bottrell

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It won't be long before the community garden is ready for harvesting.

At a work day Thursday evening, a group of Girl Scouts and Scout leaders from Troop 10147 helped spread mulch over the rows of plants, water and plant more seeds. The Scouts helped to plant more Swiss chard, lettuce, onions and leeks. They were performing community service for one of their awards and plan to continue helping at the garden through the summer.

Orvella Romine, one of the garden's organizers, said the Girl Scouts are just one of the organizations that are helping out with the garden. Many individuals are also volunteering their time.

Romine said the garden is sponsored by the Thomas County Coalition. They got permission from the K-State Research and Extension Center to use a small plot of land on the east side of the Experiment Station. Duane and Jo Cheney, owners of Sharing the Bounty, helped plan the garden and also donated money for supplies.

The Extension Center is also helping the gardeners, providing drop hoses for watering and grass clippings for mulch. Romine said Clint Milliman from the extension station and the Master Gardeners will be giving gardening classes throughout the season.

They are growing herbs, potatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe, peppers and many other vegetables and even some marigolds. The gardeners have tried to plot out what was planted in each section, but since there are different workers gardening each work day,

there are a few mystery plants coming up.

The gardeners have planted both seeds and transplants provided by the Colby FFA club, who grew them in a greenhouse at the school's ag shop. A lot of the seeds, such as corn and Swiss chard, are already coming up. They used tin cans to protect some of the plants from wind and frost.

Romine said the gardeners have received a few donations from Colby businesses such as Midwest Energy, Walmart, Colby Lumber and Rasure Lumber.

The garden's organizers plan to donate a quarter of the food produced to the Genesis Thomas County food bank. The extension office will provide cooking classes for kids using the food. The rest will go to people who put their time and effort into gardening.

For information or to volunteer, call Romine at 460-8177 or Milliman at 460-4582.

Seven retire from school district

By Vera Sloan

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Eight employees including teachers, a principal and a bus driver, are retiring from the Colby School District this year. Five of the employees plan to stay retired. Tonjau Brown, food service, and Linda Haas, teacher, are taking new positions elsewhere.

Don Krebs, principal at Colby High School for the past nearly two years, is retiring - again.

Larry Gable, activities director, and Terrell Harrison, superintendent of Colby schools, said they may have enticed Krebs back to Colby with a steak dinner when they found themselves without a principle mid-term in 2008.

Krebs, a native of Scott City, served as Colby High principal from 1995 to 1999, and 2008 to

2010. He served as vice president, and as dean of community services at Colby Community College from 1971 to 1975.

Harrison, in a retirement farewell for teachers on Tuesday, said it is his way with students and coworkers that makes him such a popular administrator.

"I firmly believe if you respect students, they will in turn respect you," Krebs said. "They are capable of so many things, and we sort of reward them for taking responsibility, and the biggest percentage of the time, they catch on," he added.

Krebs said he began his career with students as a teacher in 1964, and says he wants to continue substituting and interacting with young people.

He said his roots are in the Scott City area, where his mother still lives, and where they still have a

family farm. He added that he and his wife Jeanie will be moving to the Hutchinson-Hesston area this summer to be near their kids and grandkids who live around Wichita.

"I'm glad this community takes so much pride in their school," Krebs said, "and if any school is going to exist out here, it will be Colby. They have such support from the parents, businesses, the chamber, a great school board who is very pro education, and they all work together well."

He said rural communities just seem to fare better and gave an example of coaches and principal who were in town for the Orange and Black tournament. He said they asked the Colby Schools policies, and compared them to their large schools who must have

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Retiring Principal Don Krebs still had a lot of end-of-year work to do at Colby High School. He and seven other retirees were honored at a reception Tuesday.

Briefly

Basketball camps start Tuesday

The "Be Your Best Basketball Camps," will hold two camps in Colby and Rexford in early June. The Colby camp will be from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for first through fourth graders and 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for fifth through eighth graders from Tuesday to Friday, June 4, at the community building. The Rexford camp will be from 2 to 4 p.m. for fourth through eighth graders from Monday, June 14, to Thursday, June 17. To enroll call Shelly Hoyt at (785) 675-1938 or e-mail to shoyt33@hotmail.com.

Church camp will be Tuesdays

Colby Wesleyan Church plans a free summer day camp for kids 4 to 12 called "Tuesdays @ 10." From 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday from next week to July 2, children are invited to share in fun, games, crafts, projects and God's love at the church, 320 W. Pine. Lunch will be served. Call the church office at 462-8391 for information or to register.

Firemen plan to test hydrants

The Colby Fire Department will start testing fire hydrants Tuesday, beginning with Hill Street. Assistant Fire Chief Sean Hankin said the testing will take about a month. The work may temporarily disrupt some water lines near the hydrants. For information, call Hankin at the Colby Fire Department, 460-4454.

Vacation Bible School next week

Trinity Lutheran Church's Vacation Bible School will be from 9:15 a.m. to noon Tuesday to next Friday at the church. The school is open to kids age 3 (potty trained) through fifth grade. Parents can register now or at the church the first day of the classes. For information, call Trinity Lutheran at 462-3497.

Brewster alumni gather Saturday

The Brewster Alumni Reunion will open Saturday with a parade at 10 a.m. downtown, followed by an

alumni assembly at 11 a.m. and lunch at 12:30 p.m. put on by the Brewster Lions Club. For information, call Lonnie Selby at (785) 694-8009.

Park picnics start next week

Colby's Picnic in the Park lunch-and-concert series resumes at noon next Wednesday at Fike Park with entertainment by Larry Booth. For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

Mingo church plans concert

Evidence 2010, a vocal ensemble from the Calvary Bible College in Kansas City, Mo., will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Mingo Bible Church. Pastor Tom Peyton said there will be fun activities for high school and college students, allowing them meet the ensemble. Donations will be accepted. For information, call Peyton at 462-2930.

Class will prepare for college

To prepare for the upcoming Colby High School Reunion assembly, the Eagle Feathers Chorus will hold practices at 7:30 p.m. next Friday, Wednesday, June 9, Wednesday, June 16, and Thursday, June 17, at the Colby United Methodist Church. There will also be additional practices at 5 p.m. Friday, June 18, at the high school and 9 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at the Colby Community Building. For information, call Jan Wolf at 460-3535.



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