

# Welcome Colby Alumni

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### Band brings Caribbean sound to library



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Brad Shores (left) and his son Colin of the steel drum band Tropical Shores played for a crowd of families Thursday night at Pioneer Memorial Library. The library brought in the family band from Haven as part of its summer reading program.

## Area to get harvest office once again

By Vera Sloan

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After a four-year absence, the Thomas County area will once again have a harvest labor office, thanks to Kirk and Holly Young, owners of Truck Town, who are providing office space so they can serve area farmers and combine crews.

The Kansas Department of Commerce had run a harvest labor office until 2006, but closed it because of state budget cuts. Roger Hale, who ran the office in Colby for 37 years, will again be manning the Colby office, but the Youngs will be picking up the bill instead of the state.

The office will be at Truck Town at 105 West Horton Ave., just east

of the Comfort Inn in Colby.

The Youngs said they began planning for the return of the service several months ago. They said they will be providing an office for the Oberlin area as well.

Deb Lohofener will run the Oberlin office, Hale said.

The Oberlin office will be doing business out of Truck Town at 503 E. Frontier Parkway.

The service is free to farmers and harvest crews. If farmers have wheat to be cut or if a harvester needs acreage to cut, they are encouraged to call Hale at (785) 460-8785 in the Colby area, or Lohofener at (785) 475-7200 in the Oberlin area.

The offices will be open a few days before harvest and remain open until the harvest here is complete.

## City may tighten rules on junk cars

By Andy Heintz

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A lot at the west end of Zelfer Avenue where a Colby man stores and sells old cars got the City Council talking about the Colby Planning and Buildings Commission's decision to revise the zoning regulations for the light industrial district Tuesday.

The commission decided the lot met the current regulations.

The planning group decided

some revisions were needed at their meeting last Thursday, June 10. The members agreed that Peter Stephens could keep and sell collectible automobiles on his lot on the west end of Zelfer. The council had asked the commission to take a look at Stephens' lot to make sure it met industrial zoning rules at a meeting on May 18.

"One person's junk is another man's treasure," commission member Paul Bailey said later.

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## Experiment plot tour highlights wheat disease

By Vera Sloan

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The annual wheat plot tour on Tuesday gave 35 area farmers a chance to look at three wheat diseases, spotted leaf blotch, leaf rust and striped rust.

"There's about a three-week period of control time," said Brian Olson, an area Extension agronomist for Kansas State University. "The only fungus to carry over to the next crop year is the speckled leaf blotch, but the other two are brought up with the winds from the south. Yield potential goes down if measures to control the fungus aren't taken."

As far as yield goes, Olson said, the plot that hadn't been sprayed doesn't have much potential, but

where the fungus was controlled, the crop looked like it could make 60 to 70 bushels to the acre, and that was on dry land.

"For those who got their seed in the ground at a good time in the fall," he said, "and barring any 'white combines' (hail), we could see yields come close to the 100-bushel mark."

Olson added that with 10 good days of heat, he thinks combines could be rolling by July 4.

He said that with all the rain so far, the fall crops here look "like we're sitting in Western Iowa."

Fall crops take a lot of water, and according to the Agriculture Statistics Service Report put out by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 91 percent of northwest Kansas has adequate subsoil moisture and 9 percent has a surplus.

## Commissioners hear prairie dog problem

By Vera Sloan

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Kevin Wark, who farms in the Rexford area, came to the Thomas County commissioners Monday to voice his displeasure over uncontrolled prairie dogs and musk thistle on a neighbor's land.

He said he has pushed to get the neighboring land cleaned up. It was futile to fight it, he said, when the neighbor did nothing. He said the big problem now is that the thistle is in the bloom stage and is reseeding itself.

"I don't think they have treated a prairie dog in 30 years, and the pastures are full of prairie dogs and musk thistle, too," he said.

Darrell Wark, father of Kevin Wark told the commissioners he wouldn't spend "another dime" to fight the prairie dogs and musk thistle until something is done about the neighbor's problem.

The commissioners got Road and Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock on the speaker phone to see what he knew about the problem.

"We'll send him another letter," Schrock said, "and if he doesn't do anything, we'll hire it sprayed and add it to his tax bill."

Musk thistle is a noxious weed, and state law requires landowners and counties to control it. The commissioners and the county weed supervisor purchase or provide chemicals to control noxious

weeds, provide them to farmers and establish cost-share prices to help make control affordable.

The weed-control director must document the amount of land infested with noxious weeds, notify landowners of infestations and advise them on the most practical and effective methods of weed control.

Prairie dogs destroy the landscape by tunneling under it. They breed quickly, leading to overpopulation problems in many plains states. While prairie dogs are considered endangered in some areas of the country, nothing could be further from the truth in Kansas.

Kansas statute 80-1201 explains the rights and responsibilities of townships regarding the elimination of prairie dogs, moles and gophers. These animals are considered pests. State law gives Kansas townships the freedom to set aside a certain amount of treasury money to eradicate these pests. The statute specifically states that this money must be used to "purchase material and to employ one or more suitable persons to destroy prairie dogs, moles and gophers within the limits of such township."

The same Kansas statute outlines the rights of the local prairie dog eliminator when intruding onto someone's property for the sake of managing the prairie dog

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### New trees thriving



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

From the appearance of the 85 trees planted early this spring on both sides of Range Avenue from Interstate 70 to College Drive, there's not an unhealthy one in the bunch. With a little help from Mother Nature — and a drip irrigation system — the trees have had plenty of moisture to bring out the leaves and give them a head start as the town's sentinels, welcoming visitors to Colby.

## Briefly

### Alumni Chorus begins practice

Out-of-town Colby High grads are invited to join the CHS Alumni Chorus, which will rehearse at 5 p.m. today and 9 a.m. Saturday to be ready for a performance at the assembly later that morning. For information, call director Jan Wolf at (785) 460-3535.

### Dancers to wash cars Saturday

The Colby High Dance Team will hold a car wash from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Dillon's parking lot. Donations will be accepted to help with team expenses. For information, call coach Denita Rodgers at 460-1325.

### Church plans Bible School

The Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a "Sonquest Rainforest" vacation Bible school from 9 to 11:30

a.m. Monday through next Friday at the church, 320 W. Pine St. The school is open to kids in preschool through fifth grade. No registration is required. For information, call Kylee Philipp at 460-8215.

### Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a female mix-breed dog available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

### Picnic, music Wednesday

Colby's Picnic in the Park lunch-and-concert series continues at noon Wednesday at Fike Park with entertainment by Scott Cameron. For information, call

the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

### Crews fogging for mosquitoes

Colby city crews are fogging for mosquitoes, south of Webster on Mondays or Tuesdays and north of Webster on Thursdays. You can help, officials say: check your yard and empty anything holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools or tires. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

### Foundation has money to give

The Thomas County Community Foundation is accepting applications for its second quarter cycle. Nonprofit, government or school agencies in Thom-

as County are eligible for small grants of about \$500. Applications are due by Wednesday, June 30. For information, call 460-9152.

### Eagles' book a bargain right now

The price of "Flight of the Eagles," a book by Gary Adrian about the history of Colby High sports, will increase from \$25 to \$30 on Wednesday to cover printing costs. Books can be ordered at the old price at www.colbyeagles.org or send a check to the Colby Booster Club at Box 136, Colby, Kan., 67701. Books will also be available at the All School Reunion this week. For information, call Adrian at 460-2931.

