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Big events Saturday for 125th

By Kevin Bottrell

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Thomas County will celebrate its 125th birthday with a big bash on Saturday at the Community Building.

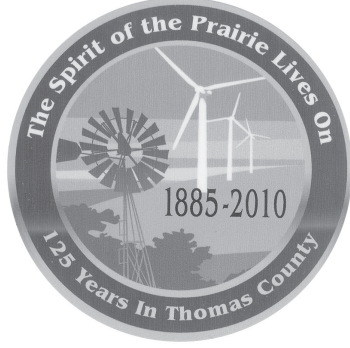
The free party will begin at 9 a.m. with the judging of the "beard and bonnet" contest. The 125th Anniversary Committee has been advertising all year for unique, stylish or crazy beards, mustaches and bonnets. The winners get Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce gift certificates.

The opening ceremonies will be at 10 a.m. with presentation of the colors by area National Guard members and an address by committee chairman Mike Baughn, history buff and former sheriff, followed by musical performances.

The Thomas County Community Band, made up of county residents and the Colby Community College band, directed by Tony Schroer, will perform the "Star Spangled Banner," "Fanfare for the Common Man" by Aaron Copeland, and "Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Philip Sousa.

The 125th Anniversary Choir will perform a selection of Kansas songs including "Kansas Boys," "I Live in Kansas" and "My State, My Kansas, My Home." Jan Wolf, one of the choir's organizers, said they chose fairly simple music since the choir includes everyone from kids to seniors.

Schroer said the band, choir and hopefully the audience will join



together at the end of the program for the state song, "Home on the Range."

The Thomas County Middle School Band, conducted by Colby Middle School band director Stacy Williams, will perform the "Bunker Hill Overture" by James Swearingen.

Other performances will include the Sacred Heart School choir, the college band and brass ensemble, Prairie Rose Harmony, the Tumbleweed Chorus and the Colby Grade and Middle School choirs.

Following the music will be the Thomas County Historical Revue, Past and Present. Twenty-six performers will portray important figures in the county, living and dead. Leilani Thomas of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau said each performer will come on stage dressed in period clothing and tell a short story about their character.

The revue will include Cal Mahin as county namesake Gen. George Thomas, Postmaster Kenton Krehbiel as town founder J.R.

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Let me pet her. Let me pet her!



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Kelly Marker, an aunt of one of the students, held her cat, Sara, during the Blessing of the Pets for the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, traditional patron of animals, on Monday at

Sacred Heart Catholic School. Petting (from left) were Maryanne Hartwell, Morgan Bryant, Cindy Chavez, Kourtney Finley, Jersey Carney, Brysen Barton and Bryce Fortin.

Put cans out Sunday for drive

By Kevin Bottrell

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Make sure to have a few cans of food ready by the door from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. When the bell rings, it might be a Girl Scout, youth-group member or college student on the Scouts' "Trick or Treat so Others Can Eat" food drive.

Leader Debbie Zerr said all the Girl Scouts in Colby, from kindergartners to high schoolers, will

be going door to door collecting nonperishable food for the Genesis-Thomas County food bank. Joining them will be members of youth groups from the Methodist, Berean and Catholic churches, as well as several Colby Community College student organizations. The students will try to get to every house in Colby, she said.

Zerr said the Scouts will work in pairs while parents and leaders park nearby, ready to transport the food. If the weather is rainy or

cold, she said, they will postpone the drive until Sunday, Oct. 24.

All the food will go to the Genesis - Thomas County food bank. Wynn Duffey said Genesis board members and other volunteers will sort and store the food that day at the group's office. This drive and the annual letter carriers' food drive are the two biggest each year, she said.

"There's always a need," she added.

Duffey said anyone who's

missed should drop off their food at the bank in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave., from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

Penny Cline, administrative assistant at the college, said the food drive has been done this way for 15 years or more. She said the kids are always able to fill up the main and secondary pantries at Genesis.

"The community really, really steps up," she said.

Station ready to raise cash

The Tri-State Praise Radio KGCR will hold its 23rd annual Sharathon from Wednesday to Friday next week to raise money to run the station for the upcoming year.

"As in past years," said Station Manager James Claassen, "we've set aside 3 1/2 days to ask our listeners to share with us in providing music and programs focused on glorifying God and turning hearts toward Christ."

The Sharathon enables the station to emphasize ministry the rest of the year without having to focus on money, he said.

The event also gives listeners a chance to tell their personal stories, he noted. In the four weeks leading up to the Sharathon, the station has been giving CDs to listeners twice a day. Each winner is

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

The Monsanto Foundation selected Kathleen Tubbs of Colby as the winner of \$2,500 dollars in a pilot program to highlight the contributions farmers make to the growth of rural towns.

Foundation gets a gift, welcomes board members

By Vera Sloan

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The Thomas County Community Foundation said farewell to board members Bill Dowell, Lyman Gotsch and Sherri Wiedeman at its annual meeting Monday night and welcomed new members Marla Crumrine, Todd Stramel and Ranell Lunsway.

Before the meeting, the organization accepted a \$2,500 check from Kathleen Tubbs, who had been selected by the Monsanto Fund, an offshoot of the agricultural products company, as a winner in the America's Farmers Grow Communities program to give to a favorite nonprofit group.

The winner gets to present the award to a nonprofit group of his or her choice. Tubbs chose the Thomas County Community Foundation in honor of her parents, Leland and Celeste McClain, long-time farmers here. The farm is now operated by her brother, Joe McClain.

Foundation Director Melinda Olson announced that completion of the "piece of the puzzle" project has been extended to the end of the year to give families, groups and businesses more time.

She praised individuals and businesses throughout the county for their gifts to the foundation, which she

said help pay for community betterment projects that otherwise could not have happened. The Brewster, Golden Plains and Colby schools all received help from the foundation.

She announced that Jaylea Black and Adam Weber, Colby High School seniors, had been named winners of the Chuck Dempewolf Scholarship, sponsored by Kansas Quick Lube, and the Terry Strutt Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Darwin Strutt family.

Olson said the foundation had been the missing piece of the puzzle for Food for Kids program, as it was able to help pay for the summer food program for needy children in the county. Food that didn't need preparation was put together in kits so kids could do everything themselves. She thanked Genesis-Thomas County food bank for its help with the project.

Michelle Cummings, creator and owner of Training Wheels, a national company based in Denver that facilitates programs for team building, led an exercise about how to learn and grow as an organization and as a community.

The foundation encourages people to make an appointment and see for themselves what the agency is all about, Olson said, and how it helps to plan and carry out projects that make a difference in the county's future. The office is at 350 S. Range, Suite 8, in the county office complex. The phone is 460-9152.

Briefly

School office to close Friday

The Colby School District administration office will be closed Friday for building maintenance and reopen Monday. For information, call Janel Andrews at 460-5000.

Organizations to join Saturday

The Colby and Atwood chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star will consolidate at a combined meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Atwood Masonic Temple. The meeting had been scheduled for Sunday. For information, call Joyce Gatlin 460-3656.

Have a student wash your pet

Colby Community College veterinary technology students will have a pet wash from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Stanley Carr Agricultural Center on campus. Cost for dogs will be \$8 to \$14, depending

on weight. Cost for cats will be \$5 for a brush and \$10 for a bath. For information, call Colleen Maison at 460-5462 or Jennifer Martin at 460-5466.

Baptists to mark third year

The Colby Independent Baptist Church will celebrate its third anniversary with a service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Sunday school will start at 9:30 a.m. and a pot luck lunch will follow worship. For information, call 460-0313.

Sign up for food delivery now

Prairie Land Food signup is open until Monday at State Farm Insurance, 905 E. Fourth. Delivery will be Saturday, Oct. 23, at Sacred Heart School. For information, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

Students plan massage clinics

Students from the Physical Therapy Assistant pro-

gram at Colby Community College will hold a massage clinic from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday in room 804 of the Health Science Building. Cost is \$12 for half an hour - \$10 with college ID - or \$22 for a full hour. For information or to make an appointment, call Trudy Wildeman at 460-4797.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 and older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have a partner in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage provided. For information, call 462-6342.

Grass clipping collection to end

The Colby Sanitation Department will stop picking up grass clippings next Friday. You may put grass clippings in with your regular trash throughout the

winter. The department will notify everyone when grass needs to be separated from trash. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Wine, cheese to benefit cancer

The Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope will hold a come-and-go wine tasting benefit from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17, at City Limits Bar and Grill. Tickets are available at Colby Dodge, Donelan Jewelry, Homeland Realty, People's State Bank and S&T Communications. All proceeds go to helping area cancer patients with expenses. For information, call Pat Sloan at 443-3261.

