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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Kids from the Colby Middle and Grade School choirs (left) got into the spirit things during the Thomas County Community Band's performance of "Stars and Stripes Forever." Anniversary Committee member Holly Whitaker (above) showed off her period costume as early county resident Anna Colby.

County celebrates 125th birthday

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

One day after turning 125, Thomas County celebrated its anniversary with a morning of music, art and history on Saturday at the Colby Community Building.

The community building was decorated with pencil art from fourth graders at Colby Grade School, the Community Foundation's big community puzzle and photo essay entries submitted by county residents.

The ceremony opened with "Fanfare for the Common Man" by the Thomas County Community Band, followed by a flag ceremony and the National Anthem. The Rev. James Mardock of the Colby United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Mike Baughn, co-chair of the 125th Anniversary Committee, gave opening remarks, saying the county can look forward with realistic optimism.

"We have a rich history in Thomas County," he said, "and all of us share in maintaining that his-

tory for future generations."

Baughn then read a letter from Gov. Mark Parkinson and introduced some of the dignitaries in the audience. Several people joined him on stage to speak, including state Sens. Ralph Ostmeyer and Derek Schmidt, the Republican candidate for attorney general.

Schmidt recalled when his hometown of Independence celebrated its centennial in 1971. As a child, he said, he took part in the festivities and even dressed in a period costume.

"I live in fear that picture will show up sometime," he joked.

Schmidt said he hoped the young people in the audience would remember Thomas County's celebration in the future.

Ostmeyer, who in his youth lived in South Randall Township, said Thomas County has been a leader in many things, especially business, and serves as a hub for northwest Kansas.

"I think in another 125 years, there'll still be a Colby and a Thomas County," he said. "There's a good life out here."



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby Postmaster Kenton Krehbiel (left) presented 125th Anniversary committee co-chairs Mike Baughn and Terri Crampton with a plaque displaying the custom postal cancellations created for the event.

Ostmeyer read a resolution from the state Senate congratulating the county.

Ken Christiansen spoke on behalf of the county commissioners, saying he is proud of the progress

the county has made. Baughn recognized the county officers, mayors, sheriff, postmasters, township

officials and the district judge in the audience.

The remarks were followed by musical performances from the Sacred Heart School choir, the Colby Grade and Middle School choir, the combined Thomas County Middle School Band, Prairie Rose Harmony, the Tumbleweed Chorus, the Thomas County Community Chorus and the community band, whose rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever," got the whole audience clapping along.

Doug Johnson narrated the Thomas County Historical Revue. County residents appeared in period costumes as important people from the county's history. This included Monica Bugbee as opera star Marion Talley, Mark Ostmeyer as airport namesake Joe Shalz, Vernon Roemer as school superintendent R.L. Dennen and Lottie McLemore as homesteader Melissa Alger.

The revue also included veterans Dale Deaver, Mary Smith and Thurman Cox, who got a standing ovation.

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Official rules for Kansas in water dispute

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — A federal arbitrator has ruled in favor of Kansas in disputes with Colorado and Nebraska over the use of water from the Republican River.

Kansas Attorney General Steve Six said Friday two issues were in play regarding a compact that governs use of the water that flows from Colorado, through Kansas to Nebraska and back into northern Kansas.

The arbitrator agreed with Kansas' concerns about Colorado's plans to use a pipeline to put water in the river to comply with the compact. Six's office said the issues were

technical and related to how Colorado would calculate the amount of water flowing across the state line.

Additionally, the arbitrator rejected Nebraska's request for water credits for payments made to Kansas for failing to comply with the compact. Six said the plan to award water credits for paying fines or damages for taking too much water would have encouraged future compact violations and deprived Kansas residents of water.

Six issued a statement, saying the arbitrator's decisions send a message "that Kansas' concerns about their proposals are justified, appropriate and fair."

"Kansasans who rely on Republican River

water for their farms, businesses and communities can rest assured that we will continue to pursue the water they are entitled to under the Republican River Compact and litigation settlement terms," Six said.

Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning said his state would continue to defend its right use the water to which it is entitled. He claims Kansas is trying to recover damages twice — through monetary penalties and water — if Nebraska violates the compact.

"We are pleased the arbitrator recognized the importance of preventing a double recovery by Kansas, but disappointed the proposed

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Iowa group takes aim at Kansas' top prosecutor

TOPEKA (AP) — An Iowa-based organization has been sponsoring television ads critical of Democratic Kansas Attorney General Steve Six as he seeks to stay in office.

The 30-second spots on health reform are backed by American Future Fund, a conservative advocacy organization based in Des Moines.

The *Topeka Capital-Journal* reports that the nonprofit group led by Republicans invested more than \$7 million on behalf of GOP

candidates in this midterm election cycle.

Published reports indicate American Future Fund was formed Aug. 7, 2007, and participated in the 2008 election cycle by investing in congressional races in several states. The president of the organization is Sandy Greiner, a farmer who served 16 years in the Iowa Legislature.

American Future Fund describes itself as a multistate advo-

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Briefly

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

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

Business reception Wednesday

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce's monthly Business After Five will begin at 5 p.m. Wednesday at the Hampton Inn east of Country Club Drive on Willow Street. Members are invited to come for food, fun and networking, and take the opportunity to tour the new hotel. For information, call chamber director Holly Whitaker at 460-3401.

Grass clipping collection to end

The Colby Sanitation Department will stop pick-

ing up grass clippings Friday. Put grass clippings in with your regular trash throughout the winter. The department will notify everyone in the spring when grass needs to be separated from trash. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

Kiwanis to dish out flapjacks

The Colby Kiwanis Club will have an all-you-can-eat pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 220 N. Lake. Proceeds will go for Christmas and youth projects and other community service projects. Tickets, \$4, are available from any Kiwanis member. For information, call Kenton Krehbiel at 462-6553.

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 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.

Screenings offered for kids

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center and Colby School District staff will conduct early childhood screenings for kids 5 and under from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Monday at the Colby United Methodist Church. To make an appointment, call grade school nurse Amy Hutfles at 460-5111.

District Music Concert is Oct. 25

The Colby Schools' District Music Concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25, in the Colby Community Building. This free event, open to the public, will feature musicians from the grade, middle school

and high schools. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

Berean Church to study Esther

The Colby Berean Church will be doing the Beth Moore study "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman" from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sundays starting Oct. 31. Enrollment will end Friday, Oct. 22, so books can be ordered. For questions or to register, call the church office at 460-2763.



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