

# Spring activities ramping up in Colby

March is upon us, which means spring soon will be here. That brings outdoor activities, including softball, baseball, track, golf and tennis.

It also brings spring break, daffodils and crocuses.

Before we get into all of the spring activities, we just finished our 2010 Activity Report for the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Let me share just a few highlights:

We staffed and maintained the Colby Visitor Center, which had 13,660 registered visitors. We traveled 10,638 miles attending meetings, educational sessions and travel shows, including Omaha, Denver, Wichita, the Kansas Sampler Festival and the Motor Coach Showcase in Omaha.

We packed 1,131 welcome packets for conference attendees, printed monthly and quarterly calendars and facilitated many events. We were pleased to bring Chautauqua to Colby for its final appear-



**Leilani Thomas**

## • On the Road Again!

ance. Two new hotels were built, adding about another 130 rooms. All in all, it was a very good year.

This past couple of months has also been good for Leadership Thomas County. The 2011 Youth Program is over. Nineteen high school sophomores completed four sessions of learning, including a teach back/facilitation exercise with Colby Community College criminal justice students. As program directors, Cindy Black and I are always amazed and proud of these young people during the final session.

They still have their class project to

complete, including painting the bleachers in Rexford and playground equipment in Colby, and buying books for Brewster. They also plan to prepare a program about Leadership Thomas County to share with their fellow students.

What's coming up in March? The annual Gun, Coin and Collectible show is back at the Community Building on Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13. This show has a long history in Colby.

The Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass committee is holding a concert/dance from 7-11 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at the City Limits Convention Center. Marshal Allen Bailey and the Silver Bullets (Blake and Brandon McLemore) will be playing. This is a fund raiser for this year's festival. Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the Chamber office or at the door.

The Home and Better Living Show returns to the Community Building. Friday

through Sunday, March 25-27, with the show open from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday night, 10 to 6 Saturday and 11 to 3 Sunday. The Colby Take Charge Challenge team will be there. Be sure to stop by their booth, put together with help from Midwest Energy and Kansas Energy.

Smaller events – but still important – include the Thomas County Historical Society Food for Thought, at noon Thursday, March 17, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Diane Eikchoff will discuss "Kansas Women in the Civil War."

The U.S. Army Field Band will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 14, at Colby High School.

Pioneer Memorial Library plans its Murder Mystery Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the library. The story this year concerns the "Murder of a Great Chef."

The Colby Middle School and High School spring vocal concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 7, at the high school.

Finally there is a storm spotter and safety class at 6:30 p.m. Monday<math>\lt;\/math> at the Community Building, open to everyone.

Oh, yes, Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 13.

I will be attending a retreat of Northwest Kansas Travel Council members at the Shepherd's Staff Conference Center in Rexford on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 15 and 16, as well as the We Kan conference in Salina the next week. This conference is sponsored by the Sampler Foundation for rural Kansas communities.

It is a busy month. We hope that you will take advantage of the programs and activities available for you to sample.

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

## Shift your focus from work

### Aries (March 21 – April 20)

The week begins with focus on your profession. This eases back, letting energy levels and motivation plummet. It's time to pull back, recharge your batteries and catch your breath.

**Taurus (April 21 – May 21)** Some fast and furious weeks on the professional front have eased back as the focus shifts to networking. Yet this has done nothing to slow down your professional momentum. The financial winds change in your favor.

**Gemini (May 22 – June 21)** Powerful forces on the financial and professional fronts include a sense of wanderlust. Your competitive drives are moving into overdrive. Wanderlust is bringing some of your wildest dreams back into contention.

**Cancer (June 22 – July 22)** Move into your week without preconceived perceptions. Focus on your relationships and your financial situation, but also embrace freedom, taking the time to go off script and answer the call of the wild or the spirit of adventure.

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** Your financial and work situation fight for your attention. Define your desires, objectives and the path things will take. Financial matters



**Shannon O'Brien**

### • Weekly Horoscope

won't take a backseat for long, with a breakthrough possible.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 23)** An important week on the personal front should see your work life suffer or come off second best, but the opposite is likely to be true. A new relationship chapter holds a chance to put the past behind you and move on.

**Libra (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23)** Finding that right balance is a lot easier than it has been. A new sense of confidence and momentum is falling into play on the job front. Your romantic and creative sector has old dreams and fantasies resurfacing.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22)** With things about to take off on the work front, the key this week is balance. Enjoy this last week before life gets too busy. Work to establish a sustainable work/life balance and some clear boundaries. Learn from what did and didn't work in the past.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21)** With things about to take off on

the romantic, creative and personal fronts and life becoming more work focused later in April, make sure the home fires are burning. A nose for money will help you to define your expectations.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20)** You're still not ready to make a firm commitment to the future. Communication is key this week.

**Aquarius (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19)** In a week where there are a lot of shifts it's important to listen to your imagination and to let your wildest dreams run wild. This is an important week for income and work, but you also need to be a dreamer. Reality is no longer getting in the way of your imagination.

**Pisces (Feb. 20 – March 20)** Take on the world, with your energy, drives and enthusiasm back. You've got that spring in your step and you're looking ahead, feeling confident and optimistic. Opportunities are kicking in just when you're ready to seize them.

*For entertainment purposes only.*

## 'Music Man' to be on Oakley stage

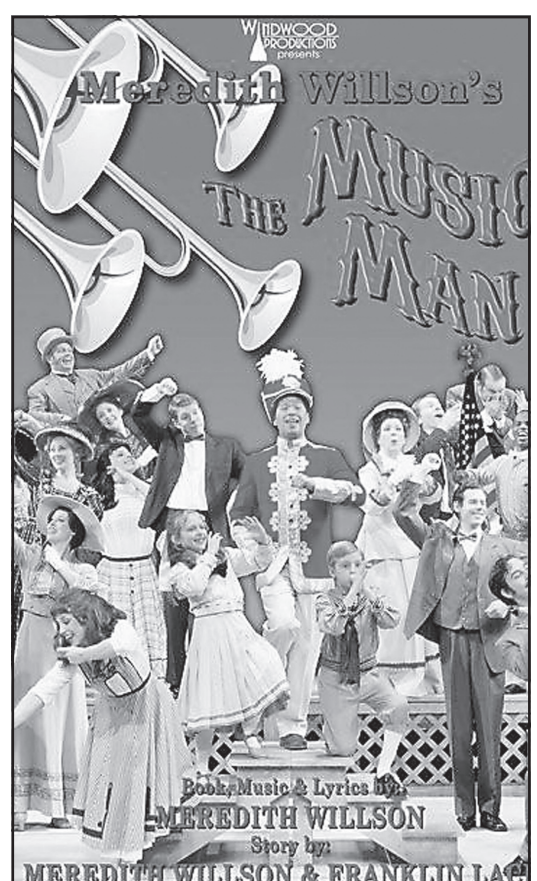
"The Music Man," winner of six Tony awards including Best Musical, will bring its small-town charm and famous songs to Oakley High School at 7:30 p.m. next Monday.

An affectionate paean to the Smalltown USA of a bygone era, the musical follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying musical instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize – despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the town librarian, but chaos ensues as the townsfolk get wind of his scheme.

Filled with classical musical fun, tender romance and favorites, including "Ya Got Trouble," "Seventy-six Trombones," "Goodnight, My Someone," "Gary, Indiana," and "Til There Was You," The Music Man is an All-American musical.

The show is produced by Windwood Productions, which has done national tours of "Cabaret," "Bye, Bye Birdie," "Altar Boyz," "Little Women," "Urban Cowboy, the Musical," "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," "Barry Manilow's Copacabana," "Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)."

Admission to is by Western Plains season ticket, or at the door, adults, \$15, and students \$5.



## Doctors will talk about veins

Venous insufficiency is the topic for this week's *Doctors on Call* on Smoky Hills Public Television.

Dr. David Hendrick and registered nurse Shawna Moresco, both from the Vein Clinic at Salina

Surgical Arts Center, will answer questions in this live viewer call-in program at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

For information, visit [www.smokyhillstv.org](http://www.smokyhillstv.org).

## Wetlands center to offer free turkey-hunting seminar Sunday

Turkey hunting enthusiasts of all ages can learn more about the sport in a free seminar from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Fort Hays State University's Kansas Wetlands Education Center, 10 miles northeast of Great Bend.

Hunters at all-levels of experience are welcome to come learn more about wild turkeys, what it takes to get started and tips about turkey hunting and calling.

The day's activities, featuring Rod Pettit, an elite hunting team pro staffer for Knight and

Hale Game Calls, will include mouth calling for adults and children, shotgun trap shooting, a laser game, and the seminar, "Hunter vs. 6 Tons." That will cover hunting scenarios and techniques, decoy use, equipment and gear.

Pettit's credentials is the current Kansas state turkey calling champion.

Firearms and ammunition will be provided free of charge. Participants who bring a non-perishable food item will receive a free turkey call. Donations will be made to the food bank,

and door prizes donated by local businesses will be given away throughout the event.

The seminar is sponsored by the Great Bend Recreation Commission, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Knight and Hale, the wetlands center and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

For information, call the center at (877) 243-9268 or e-mail Eric Giesing, at [ergiesing@fhssu.edu](mailto:ergiesing@fhssu.edu).

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