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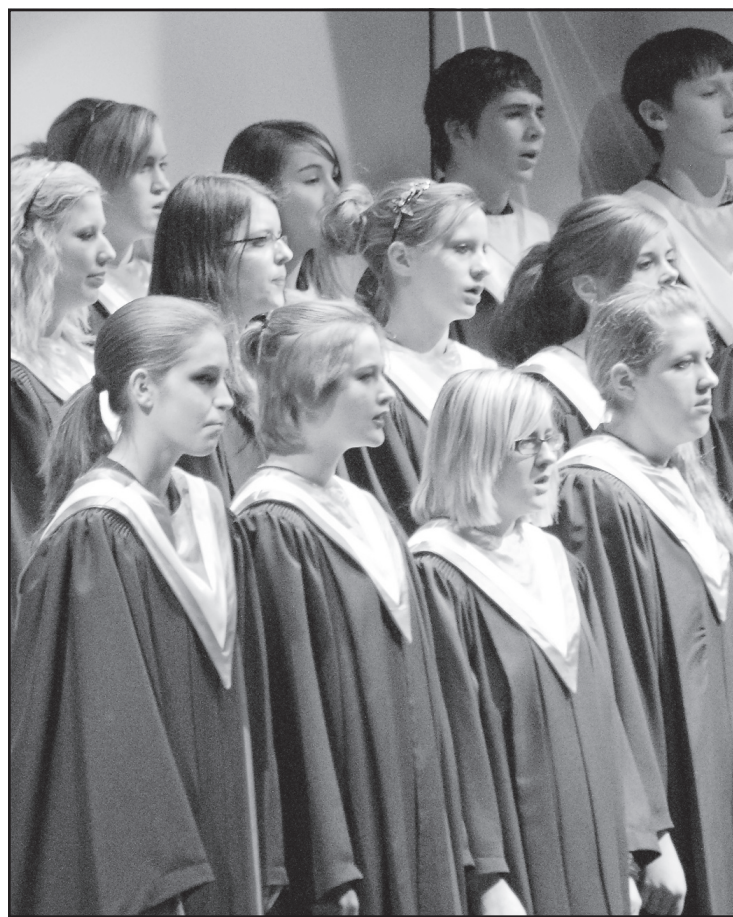
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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Vocal groups sing competition songs at Monday concert

The Colby High School show choir (above) entertained the crowd at Monday's vocal concert with a dance routine to Irving Berlin's "Puttin' on the Ritz." The concert was a chance for groups like the high school (left) and middle school (below) choirs to show off the pieces they've prepared for the state large group music festivals. Choir director Joey Nickols said each group has prepared several songs, and the judges at the music festival choose two.



Commission OKs repeater for city tower

By Vera Sloan
Colby Free Press
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The Thomas County Commissioners were given a choice Monday on where they wanted a new 800 megahertz radio repeater.

Jason Moses, public safety communications coordinator from the Kansas Adjutant General's office and Susan McMahan, Thomas County emergency management director met with commissioners Monday with recommendations.

The commissioners had the choice of a tower located at the law enforcement center at, which would be free; the Viaero tower near the city's water tower for \$200 a month, or the city's tower just west of the Kansas State Research Station on Adams Street on the west side of town with a cost

share of expenses with the city.

Moses and McMahan told county officials the higher the tower, the better the reception, and the tower the city uses on Adams Street would be a logical choice for far-reaching reception and for basement reception. They said the city had spent \$38,000 on the tower over the past nine years, which included a new generator.

The repeater would be a backup if the Edson or Halford towers were down due to a storm or other reasons. The state has a portable tower, but it would take hours for the mobile one to reach Thomas County, and time is precious when there is an emergency.

In a two to one vote, the commissioners approved the Adams Street location.

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Rural expert to speak at college

Dr. Patrick Carr will be the first speaker of the year in the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby Community College. This will be Carr's second appearance in northwest Kansas to speak about the "rural brain drain."

There will be two opportunities to hear Carr on Monday, April 4. He will speak at 11:15 a.m. in room No. 711 located in the Bedker Memorial Complex and at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center located on the southeast corner of campus. Both events are free.

Carr is Associate Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University, and is an Associate Member of the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood. He

earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1998, and his research interests include communities and crime, informal social control, youth violence and transitions to adulthood.

Carr is the co-author of "Hollowing Out the Middle: The Rural Brain Drain and What it Means for America," and author of "Clean Streets: Controlling Crime, Maintaining Order and Building Community Activism." He is co-author of "Coming of Age in America," a book based on a comparative in-depth study of young adults paid for by the Network on Transitions to Adulthood. He lectures internationally



Patrick Carr

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Governor orders streamlining of human resources

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback has issued an executive order that he says will streamline his administration's human resources operations.

The order requires all human resources officers within the executive branch, but outside the state university system, to report directly to the director of personnel services within the Department of Administration.

Brownback says his goal is to

see that human resources policies across state agencies are uniform. He says such uniformity will ensure that state employees are treated fairly and will make state government more efficient.

He says he's directed the Division of Personnel Services within the Department of Administration to draft uniform human resources policies for all executive branch agencies outside the university system.

Briefly

Hospital open house postponed

The Citizens Medical Center open house scheduled for Tuesday has been postponed due to weather. A later date will be announced. For information, call Tama Unger at 460-1214.

Senior potluck rescheduled

The group More Fun Together has postponed their potluck dinner until 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church because of weather. The dinner is for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

Second grade musical delayed

The Colby Grade School second grade musical has

been postponed, due to weather, to Tuesday, March 22. For information, call teacher Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

Museum exhibits rural photos

Roxie Yonkey is exhibiting a selection of her photographs at the Prairie Museum of Art and History from now through April. Yonkey's exhibit touches on both rural and urban themes with subjects like barns, sunflowers and windmills. There will be an informal reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16, where people can meet the artist. For information, call the museum at 460-4590.

Lions to serve ham and beans

The Colby High Plains Lions Club will have a ham and bean feed from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Orscheln's. Donations will be accepted to help

two high school band students attend the State Lions Band Camp and Convention. For information, call Sheryl Brenn at (785) 586-2384 or 443-1066.

Church to serve food at show

Trinity Lutheran Church will have a food booth at the Gun and Pawn Show from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Community Building. The proceeds will go to benefit Andrea Herman, a mission worker in Guinea and the Ama Nyame Memorial Clinic in Ghana where Dr. LaDonna Regier is currently working. For information, call Anita Porter at 460-2000.

Treasurer's office to close

The Thomas County Treasurer's office will close Tuesday so that new computers can be installed. The office will open again Wednesday. For information,

call the office at 460-4520.

Discussion tackles civil war

"Kansas Women in the Civil War," a presentation and discussion by Diane Eickhoff will be the next in the *Food for Thought* series at noon next Thursday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program, which will include a light lunch. For information, call the museum at 460-4590.



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