



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Shake, rattle and rock



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
The Soaring Singers of Colby Grade School held their final concerts of the year on Tuesday and Wednesday. The performances included a medley of 1950s music, folks songs and spiritual music.

Commission wants input on area courts

Members of the Blue Ribbon Commission evaluating Kansas courts will be in town Tuesday to get ideas from the public on how to make courts more efficient. Three members of the 25-person commission will be at Frahm Theater at Colby Community college at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Cal Williams, a Colby lawyer, John Wheeler, a Garden City lawyer, and Pat McNaney, an appeals court judge and commission chair, will meet with community leaders earlier in the day and the public in the evening. The commission was set up earlier this year to look for ways to make the court system more effective. It is looking at technology, employee hours, court consolidation and court services. The state has been looking at ways to lower cost in the region, suggesting that with less population, northwest Kansas can get by with regional courts rather than county courts. The commission's public meeting in Norton on Monday elicited some negative comments. A county landfill supervisor suggested that consolidating county courts would infringe on the right to a speedy and fair trial, since one judge would have trouble seeing

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City, county plan cleanup day

Colby and the Thomas County have teamed up again this year to sponsor a countywide Cleanup Week from Monday to Friday, May 2 to 6. Citizens have until that Friday to arrange a special pickup of large objects. Service clubs and church groups are asked to turn out and help clean up public areas of the city, said city Public Works Director Chris Bieker. He said everyone is being encouraged to make an extra effort during the week to spruce up their yards and share in the pride of having a clean city. Among the areas that need special attention are parks, he said, ballfields and all roadsides and entrances to Colby. Anyone willing to volunteer to help the elderly and infirm should call Public Works secretary Anita Powell at 460-4420 and leave

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Irrigated farmland sells for record price

By Kevin Bottrell

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A chunk of prime farmland in eastern Thomas County sold for a record price in March. Rock Bedore, associate broker with Homeland Realty and Auction, said 160 acres – a quarter section – was sold by private treaty sale for \$4,800 an acre, or \$768,000. "Farmland values across many parts of the country are seeing all-time highs and this

property is no exception," he said. Bedore said it was the highest price he'd seen in 28 years in real estate, and that it was likely a record in all of northwest Kansas as well as Thomas County. Bedore said the contract was written and accepted with 48 hours of listing the property, which is about a mile south of Gem, or about seven miles east of Colby. The land is well-irrigated, he said, and has a high-volume well, making it good for irrigated corn, soybeans or wheat.

"It's a good piece of land," he said. "There's not a lot for sale in that area, and there's a lot of demand for this quality, so when one comes up it doesn't take long." Bedore said the land had been owned by a non-resident family for generations. The new owners closed on March 4. Homeland recently affiliated with United Country Real Estate, a nation-wide network of real estate professionals that specializes in rural areas.

Students take in \$2,260 from bull sale

Beef production director Dr. Marcy Ward gave a brief overview of the program to members of the Colby Community College Board of Trustees at their regular meeting on April 18. Dr. Ward told members that she currently has 22 farm and ranch students with seven students in the feedlot certificate program. The students fed the bulls, did testing and grooming prior to the sale. Ward reported that the bull sale April 6 was attended by about 100 people. Forty-four bulls were sold with an average price of \$2,260. Gross proceeds from the sale were approximately \$85,000. After paying all expenses including advertising, the college netted about \$2,000.

Expressing his faith



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
Drivers and pedestrians have likely seen Scott Crawford, owner of the Country Club Inn, around town this week, bearing a cross in celebration of Easter. Crawford said he takes the cross all over the country, most recently to New Orleans for Mardi Gras.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Free Press
Colby Community College Board member Bill Shields (from left), President Dr. Steve Vacik, board chair Cindy Black and board member Kenton Krehbiel examined a report on the beef program's bull sale.

Briefly

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 1-year-old black and tan female chihuahua mix 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.

Start separating clippings, trash

The City of Colby will start picking up grass separate from household trash on Monday. City officials ask that everyone leave grass clippings unbagged in a tipper can marked "Grass." Have tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. on trash day. For information, call the Public Works office at (785) 460-4420.

Church plans egg hunt Saturday

The College Drive Assembly of God church will

have its sixth annual Easter Egg Hunt for children up to age 10 from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Saturday on the church grounds at 245 W. College Drive. Kids under 5 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Prizes in a coloring contest will include a bike for each age group. For information, call organizer Michelle Hillery at (785) 846-7688.

Legion to serve breakfast

The Colby American Legion Post will serve biscuits, gravy, hash browns and scrambled eggs from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the post hall, 1850 W. Fourth St. Donations will be accepted. For information, call 462-3809.

Landfill to close on Sunday

The Thomas County Landfill close Sunday so that the employees can celebrate Easter. For information, call the landfill at 462-8139.

Church offers breakfast Sunday

The Colby First Baptist Church will hold an Easter breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Sunday at the church, Webster Street and Grant Avenue. Everyone is welcome. For information, call the church at 462-2867.

Orchestra reschedules concert

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra has rescheduled its spring concert, cancelled last week because of weather, to 7 p.m. Thursday at Colby Community College's Frahm Theater. Proceeds will go to the Vernon Akers family to help with expenses for Josiah Akers, a violinist, who had emergency surgery. For information, call Carol Ann McGuire at (785) 672-2380.

Congressman to hold meeting

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp will be here for a town

hall meeting from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce office, 350 S. Range Ave. For information, call Huelskamp's office at (202) 225-2715.

Buy old stuff to help students

A multi-family garage sale will help raise money for the Colby High School forensics team from 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at 405 N. Franklin Ave. The proceeds will help the National Forensics qualifiers, parents and friends who will be traveling to Washington D.C. in May to compete. For more information, call Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmyer at 443-2479.

