

Kansas ag is theme for photo contest

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is holding a photo contest through Saturday, June 30. Kansans may submit photographs that display all aspects of Kansas agriculture, from landscapes and livestock to machinery and agriculture facilities.

Not only scenic photos but also pictures of Kansas agriculture at work are sought. Examples include crops, machinery in the field, feed yards, people working livestock, feed mills, processing plants, crop harvesting and other agriculture businesses and activities.

The categories for the competition are youth, adult, professional and department employees. The youth category is open to individuals who were 18 years old or younger on Jan. 1. Individuals 19 and older as of Jan. 1 fill the adult category unless they are a professional photographer, someone who makes a substantial amount of their living taking photographs.

The photographer of the winning photo in each category will receive a \$100 gift card. Runners-up will receive \$50 gift cards. Individuals may submit more than one photo.

Contest entries will be used to give people around the world an

idea of what Kansas agriculture looks like. The photos will also be used on the www.ksda.gov website, in publications, on social media and shared with other Kansas agriculture groups.

Photo entries should be sent in .jpg format to PhotoContest@kda.ks.gov. Entries should include:

- A title and brief description.
- When and where the photo was taken.
- Photographer's full name.
- Photographer category.
- Hometown.
- E-mail address.

Compact discs containing photo files and accompanied by the required information may be sent to Kansas Department of Agriculture, Attn.: Communications, 109 SW Ninth St., Fourth Floor, Topeka, Kan., 66612.

Photos must be submitted no later than midnight on Saturday, June 30. Winners will be announced by Tuesday, July 31.

In submitting photos, the photographer gives the Kansas Department of Agriculture permission to use them in any publications.

For information, contact Communications Director Chelsea Good at chelsea.good@kda.ks.gov or (785) 296-2653.

Workshop to advise on horticulture exhibits

The Thomas County Fair will be here before we know it - Monday, July 30, through Saturday, Aug. 4.

Have you ever wanted to exhibit some vegetables or flowers at the fair but just didn't know what to look for or how to arrange the exhibits? Maybe you have exhibited vegetables or flowers in the past and want to know how to receive a higher ranking.

You need to attend the "Preparing Horticulture Exhibits" workshop.

Thomas County Extension Master Gardeners are having a workshop, "Preparing Horticulture Exhibits for the County Fair," at 7 p.m. Thursday at the

Thomas County Office Complex meeting room to aid exhibitors in successfully exhibiting horticulture at the county fair.

Fair judges and master gardeners will share what they look for in a quality exhibit. Participants will learn how to select and prepare horticulture specimens for exhibition.

There will be information for all skill levels, so all are welcome to learn more about exhibiting horticulture. Refreshments will be provided.

If you have questions call the Extension Office at (785) 460-4582 or e-mail Clint Milliman, Thomas County Extension Agent, at milliman@k-state.edu.

Bead show this week

Anyone interested in jewelry making, crafting, or seeing beautiful beads will enjoy the Bead Show Friday and Saturday at the Colby Community Building.

This event is open to the public and free with beading demonstrations daily. Two thousand pounds of beads will be on display.

See beads from around the

world - Czech glass, Chinese crystal, German vintage beads and buttons, India glass, Japanese seed beads and hundreds of types of semi-precious stones. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 8 to 4 p.m. Saturday.

"We look forward to seeing our friends in Colby and the surrounding area," says Tomas Smith.

Interest strong in reserve program

WASHINGTON - Secretary Tom Vilsack says the U.S. Department of Agriculture will accept 3.9 million acres offered under the 43rd Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up.

During the extended five-week sign-up, the department received nearly 48,000 offers on more than 4.5 million acres, demonstrating the program continuing status as one of the most successful voluntary efforts to conserve land and improve soil, water, air and wildlife habitat. The department has enrolled nearly 12 million acres since 2009, with more than 29.6 million acres now enrolled on more than 736,000 contracts.

"For more than 25 years, lands in CRP have helped to support strong incomes for our farmers and ranchers and produce ... jobs throughout the country related to outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing," the secretary said.

The department is targeting acres through continuous sign-up initiatives - including those announced earlier this year for highly erodible land, as well as grasslands and wetlands. The two continuous sign-ups announced earlier this year will target an additional 1.75 million acres in all.

The department says owners

of land with an Erosion Index of 20 or greater should consider participating in the Highly Erodible Land initiative. Lands eligible for this program are typically the least productive land on the farm, the agency says.

Landowners with sensitive grasslands, wetlands and wildlife habitat are encouraged to participate as well. This initiative increases acres set aside for enrollments that benefit duck nesting habitat, upland birds, wetlands and wildlife.

The program is designed to help farmers, ranchers and other producers protect environmentally sensitive land. They receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving cover on eligible land under 10- or 15-year contracts.

The department selects offers for enrollment based on an Environmental Benefits Index comprising five environmental factors plus cost: wildlife enhancement, water quality, soil erosion, enduring benefits and air quality. The minimal score for this sign-up was 209; the average rental rate was \$51.24 per acre.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

You are hereby advised pursuant to the provisions of KSA 12-17, 117, a public hearing will be held at Colby Community College, 1255 S. Range, Thomas County, Kansas, on the day of June 18, 2012 at 5:30 o'clock p.m. to consider whether Colby Community College, Thomas County, Kansas, should adopt a "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan" for all of the area and territory lying within the corporate limits of such school district in Thomas County, Kansas.

The proposed Revitalization Plan is available for public review and consideration at the office of Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, 350 S. Range, Ste. 12, Colby Kansas during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS
BY: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BY: Kenton Krehbiel, Board Chairman
ATTEST:
Dr. Stephen Vacik, College President

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Monday, June 4, 11, 2012)

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

- Tuesday**
- 1:56 a.m. - Security check at Walmart.
 - 9:06 a.m. - Transported subject from traffic stop for Highway Patrol.
 - 9:54 a.m. - Caller reported being harassed by subject. Spoke to reporting party, no report at this time.
 - 2:49 p.m. - Provided directions from Thomas County Office Complex to driver's examiner's office.
 - 5:20 p.m. - Caller reported criminal damage to vehicle. Damage due to weather, no report.
 - 6:54 p.m. - Caller reported theft of copper. Report filed.
 - 8:29 p.m. - Dog at large in the 500 block of N. Chick turned over to Colby Animal Clinic.
 - 11:43 p.m. - Caller reported a barking dog in the area of Mission and Summit. Unable to locate.

Wednesday

- 9:51 a.m. - Removed tree debris from roadway.
- 4:53 p.m. - Provided motorist assistance on S. Range at I-70.
- 3:20 p.m. - Criminal sodomy report filed.
- 10:48 p.m. - Caller reported threatening text coming from subject. Report filed for phone harassment.
- 11:24 p.m. - Kansas hot file/wanted person report filed.

Thursday

- 1:11 a.m. - Caller reported a badger that was hit on Willow by Walmart.
- 2 a.m. - Security check at Walmart.
- 6:57 a.m. - Caller reported a vehicle broken into. Report filed.
- 2:23 p.m. - Provided traffic control.
- 4:54 p.m. - Two-vehicle collision at Sixth and School.

- 5:29 p.m. - Civil stand-by.
- 6:30 p.m. - Subject came to station about possible criminal activities. Report filed.
- 9:59 p.m. - Caller reported two or three young juveniles sitting on sidewalk near street. All OK, had ride coming.
- 10:07 p.m. - Provided directions to subject at College Drive and Franklin.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

- Tuesday**
- 8:35 a.m. - Released Jason Randall Davis.
 - 12:04 p.m. - Report filed on violation of protection from abuse order.
 - 12:22 p.m. - Subject arrested on warrant by South Hutchinson Police Department.
 - 12:42 p.m. - Provided five vehicle identification number inspections for Tubbs and Sons Ford

- Sales.
 - 5:24 p.m. - Provided vehicle identification number inspection in Gem.
 - 5:28 p.m. - Caller reported tree limbs in the roadway in the 2100 block of U.S. 24.
 - 7:35 p.m. - Served arrest warrant on Ernest Smith.
 - 7:35 p.m. - Served arrest warrant on Juan Pena.
- Wednesday**
- 11:07 a.m. - Brought inmate from Reno County to Thomas County.
 - 1:32 p.m. - Took inmate from Thomas County to Boulder, Colo.
 - 2 p.m. - Released Jeff Benedetti.
 - 7:40 p.m. - Booked Amanda Blevins.
 - 11:20 p.m. - Sheridan County Sheriff's Office called about an injury accident somewhere on U.S. 83 west of U.S. 283. Ambulance

- paged, 24/7 towed vehicle from mile 177.2 on U.S. 83.
 - 11:54 p.m. - Booked Roy C. Williams.
- Thursday**
- 11:17 a.m. - Brought inmate from Sherman County to Thomas County.
 - 2:03 p.m. - Released Ernest Smith.
 - 2:04 p.m. - Released Juan Pena.
 - 3:33 p.m. - Released Amanda Lynette Blevins.
 - 3:45 p.m. - Released Roy Charles Williams.
 - 4:08 p.m. - Caller wanted traffic control to remove stalled FedEx truck at westbound I-70 exit 54. All OK, was actually in front of Pilot at 1100 E. Willow.
 - 11:04 p.m. - Report filed for motor vehicle-deer collision.

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