



Schools to share painting with public

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press
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The Colby High School Class of 1946 donated an oil landscape by famed Kansas artist Birger Sandzen to the Colby Public School District. The work is now valued at more than \$60,000.

Since then, the not-so-well-known painting has been on display in a place with not so many onlookers.

"Now, the Board of Education would like to share the Sandzen painting with the people in the community, and that's why we want to display the painting at the museum," said Superintendent Terrel Harrison.

Harrison said the painting had been hanging in an office at the administration building and she felt many more people would be able to see it at the museum, while only a few were able to see it at the office building.

Now, with the district facing a tight budget and uncertainty about the future, people in town hope to raise money and support for school arts program as well as sharing Birger Sandzen's painting with the whole town.

The Prairie Museum of Art and History, Colby Public Schools and the Thomas County Community Foundation are calling on the whole community to help save the arts as they unveil the oil masterpiece at a "Young at Art" showing at 5 p.m.

Thursday at the museum.

The event will begin with a casual reception; hors d'oeuvres and spirits will be served.

At 6 p.m., the Sandzen will be unveiled and Harrison will talk about how the district got it.

Museum director Sue Taylor will tell about Sandzen and art instructor Trish Starbuck will speak on the importance of art in the schools, said foundation Executive Director Melinda Olson.

Finishing up the presentation, Olson will explain a fund that has been set up at the foundation to support the district's art program.

The groups are asking people to make a donation to the fund, setting a goal to raise at least \$60,000 to "replace" what the district would have received if the board had chose to sell the painting, Olson said.

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County votes to ban burning during dry spell

By Christina Beringer

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With pastures and fields baked by the sun and swept by hot winds — and no rain in sight — Thomas County commissioners voted Monday to ban open-flame burning outdoors until at least Friday, June 29.

Because of the dry conditions throughout the county, Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan asked for the ban, which took effect immediately and may be extended unless it rains. Commissioners will review the ban each week.

The ban covers all outdoor burning of any kind, including fireworks and burning trash, McMahan said. It does not affect landfill operations or agricultural burning,

she said, but it does cover barbecue grills with a live flame.

"Since it has been so dry, we just can't take any chances," McMahan said.

Precautionary measures are taking effect in neighboring counties, too, McMahan added, with several other counties also announcing bans, including all of northwest Kansas except Wallace County.

After the meeting, Fire Chief Bob McLemore said that although it has been dry, none of the fires they have tackled this month was directly due to open fires such as those being banned by the resolution, at least within the last two weeks.

He and McMahan both said that the majority of fires are caused by farm equipment malfunctioning,

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Radio operators to show off gear at annual field day

Colby "hams" will join with thousands of other amateur radio operators to demonstrate their emergency capabilities this weekend during the annual field day which caps Amateur Radio Week.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing communications during emergencies in towns across America, including California wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events. Saturday and Sunday, people will get a chance to meet and talk with Colby's ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is all about.

The week is sponsored by the Amateur Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur operators. Using only emergency power supplies, operators will install emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back

yards. Their slogan is "When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works," and they will show they can send messages without the use of the phone system, Internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

Mike Albers of Colby, who used the call sign K0FJ, said high-tech messaging is part of the drill.

"We use Winlink 2000, which interfaces via radio with the Internet," he said. "If the Internet is down for some reason in an area, we can get e-mails into or out of that region with our equipment."

Jeff Morrison, K0FW, said he likes to use Morse Code.

"The modern means of communicating are great," he said, "but

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State will take down any campaign signs

TOPEKA (AP) — The Kansas Department of Transportation is warning candidates and their supporters that the state doesn't allow political signs to be posted along highways.

The agency says the rule applies not only to Kansas routes and U.S. highways but to Interstate routes in the state's 9,500-mile system.

The agency said that if its crews find political signs in the right of way, they'll confiscate them immediately and without notice. Crews will then take the signs to the nearest regional office and keep them until they are claimed.

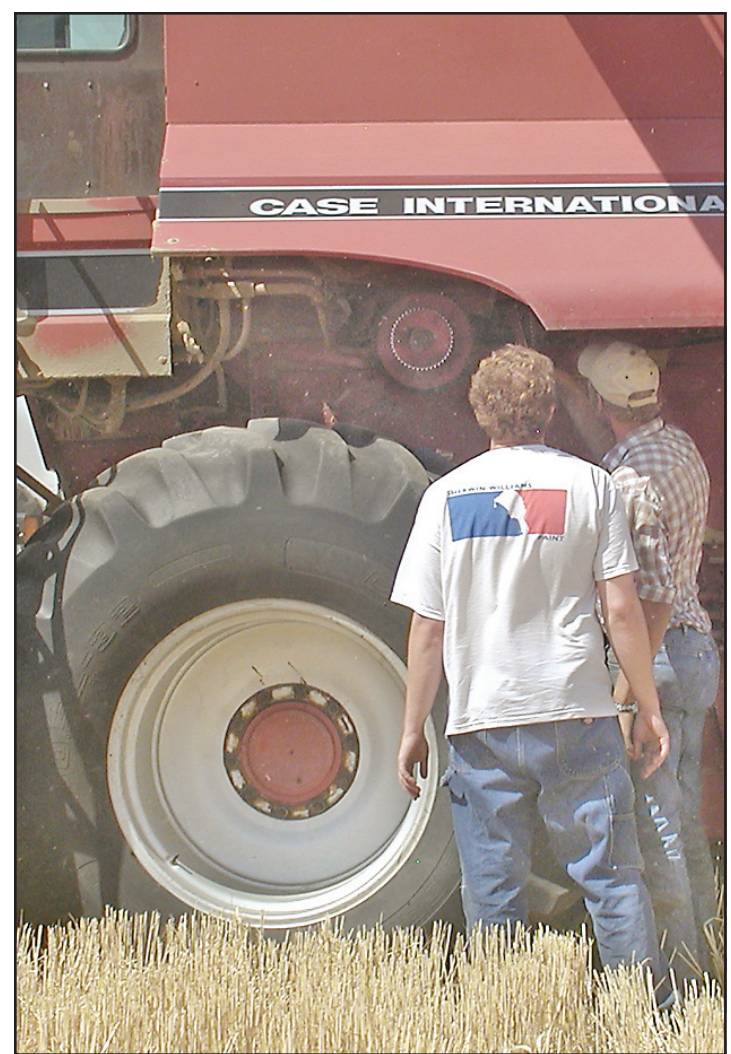
If signs are claimed, the owner will have to agree not to post them alongside highways again. The department says it will dispose of signs that aren't claimed after the November elections.



Harvest in full swing in Thomas County

A crew member from Golden Circle Farms, owned by Vinny and Tenley Glad, dumped grain into a semi-trailer (above) on Fred Juenemann's wheat field Tuesday about 15 miles northwest of Brewster. The man had just finished cutting a row (below), and while he was dumping the grain, Carson Bertrand and Tanner Glad (right) put an auger chain back on its sprocket on another combine. Wheat harvest this year started earlier than ever, according to those with years of experience, with the first test cutting in Thomas County on June 7.

KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press



Developing countries come to the rescue at G-20 summit

By Jack Chang

The Associated Press

LOS CABOS, Mexico (AP) — The scene at the just-concluded Group of 20 summit held in this seaside resort would have been unthinkable a decade ago:

Hundreds of dignitaries gathered in opulent Mexican hotels and convention halls to hammer out an economic bailout for Europe. Meanwhile, the leaders of Brazil and China kicked in tens of billions of dollars to the International Monetary Fund to rescue downtrodden Spain and Greece. Although the gathering didn't

produce a solution for the ailing Euro zone, it did outline the globe's new balance of power. Developing countries projected optimism and wealth over the summit's two days, while European and U.S. leaders struggled just to stay solvent.

A lot has clearly changed since the 1990s, when Asian and Latin American economies were slogging through recessions while Washington-based power brokers ordered up the very kind of austerity-minded prescriptions now sparking street protests in Europe. Even during recent economic crises in the U.S. and Europe, Chi-

na has been posting annual growth rates topping 8 percent. Countries with booming Chinese trade, such as Argentina and Ethiopia, have similarly seen their economies thrive. China's economy surpassed Japan's over the past year to become the world's second biggest; Brazil's overtook the U.K.'s to take sixth place.

"It is a different picture and reflects the fact that (developing) economies are not only the largest and fastest growing economies but are among the biggest economies in the world," said Uri

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Officials find 31 dead cats

WICHITA (AP) — Wichita housing officials say they never received any complaints about a house where 31 cats were found dead.

The owner said the woman renting the home always found an excuse not to let him into the house but there were no obvious signs of trouble.

Police found the cats and two flea-infested dogs Saturday after being asked to check on the tenant, who hadn't been seen for more than a month.

The city has not determined whether any charges will be filed.