

Colby native plans to make portraits

By Sam Dieter
Colby Free Press
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Although the ribbon cutting was to be today, Keesa Wright has been taking pictures for about 10 months now and planning her career for even longer.

"I did yearbook in high school, and that's where I fell in love with photography," Wright said.

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce planned to mark the opening of her business, called Keesa Photography, at 10 a.m. this morning.

Wright says she takes family-oriented portraits for newborns, newlyweds, high school seniors, families and others.

A Colby native, Keesa is the daughter of Ed and Cathi Wright. She graduated in 2010 from Colby High School.

She said she wanted to attend the Art Institute of Colorado in Denver, but because of finances, she went to Colby Community College for a year, where she took photography and art classes. After that, she enrolled in a career training program at the Rocky Mountain School of Photography in Missoula, Mont.

"It was one of the best experi-

ences of my life," Wright said. "Being outside of home was hard, but it was one of the things I had to do."

She estimates that she spent 12 to 14 hours a day, six days a week, working on the five-month-long program. On the seventh day, she said, she still found time to work between three and six hours.

She finished the course at the end of October and came back home to Colby in the first part of November. She started taking pictures working out of a rented room and then found her studio at 640 North Franklin Avenue in May.

"I didn't want to stay in school forever, especially that far from home," she said, adding that she got the opportunity to run a business in Colby largely by herself.

She's had support, she said, but to a large degree, "it's basically been myself and all my teachers at school."

A favorite part of the work, she said, centers around love among family members.

"I can show something in a moment of time that happened in someone's life," she said. "I just have a really big passion about being able to show somebody an image of their child or their wedding day."



Tim Griffiths and Wes Bencken installed the new sign at the museum on Saturday. The Houston house is to the left. GWEN GRIFFITHS/Colby Free Press

Rexford residents recognized for yards

I hope you had a good Labor Day, whether you spent it laboring or relaxing!

This summer the city of Rexford recognized residents whose yards looked extra special. The city wants to commend the hard work each of these families put into making their yards – and our community – look nice.

There will be one more yard recognized in September; if you have noticed a yard that looks really great, please let Jolene Hansen at the city office know.



Gwen Griffiths

• Rexford Correspondent

Tim Griffiths and Wes Bencken installed a new sign at the museum over the weekend, completing a project that included new paint, some new window sills, and the sign. Drive by and check it out.

The Shepherd's Staff will hold an open house and dedication for

the historic Philip Houston House from 4 to 7 p.m. next Wednesday. Everyone is invited to come enjoy lemonade and old fashioned treats, as well as tours of the historic house and the other Shepherd's Staff facilities. The Thomas County Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon cutting at 4:30. We hope to see you there.

The Moore simulcast will be Saturday, Sept. 15 at Shepherd's Staff. Check in starts at 8 a.m., the simulcast starts at 8:30, with worship by Travis Cottrell and

a full day of speaking by Beth Moore. The cost is \$35 through next Wednesday, then goes to \$50 through the day of the simulcast. Contact Shepherd's Staff, (888) 687-2565, or office@shepherdstaff.org, for information.

That's the news for this week. As always, I love to share your news and special events. Just call 687-2076 or gmail griffithsgang@gmail.com with your information.

Have a great week!

Burial masks escape plan

MUSKEGON, Mich. (AP) – An official says a prisoner in West Michigan placed a makeshift dummy in his bed and buried himself in a prison-yard garden in an attempt to escape.

Tom Tylutki, president of the Michigan Corrections Organization, tells *The Muskegon Chronicle* (bit.ly/MWdloO) the escape attempt happened Sunday night at Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility near Muskegon. Tylutki says officers discovered the prisoner missing after his cellmate

started acting odd.

The cellmate eventually told officers the prisoner was gone. Tylutki says the missing prisoner was found with sheets apparently to be used to scale a fence.

Department of Corrections spokesman Russ Marlan says the prisoner has some "mental health issues." Michigan State Police officials are handling the investigation.

The prisoner's name wasn't immediately released. He could face charges in the escape attempt.

Quilting workshop planned

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum in Logan plans a seven-week quilting workshop with instructor Janie Lowry of Stockton, who is known in the area for her quilting expertise.

Classes will be from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays Oct. 2 to Nov. 13 in the Hansen Plaza Community Room, 110 W. Main. For information or to register, call (785) 689-4846.

Scientists find 'survivor genes' in mites' DNA

An international team of 55 scientists recently found why the two-spotted spider mite is such a survivor. They decoded its genome – its sequence of genes.

The team reported their resulting "gene map" is rather simple for an arthropod (which includes the insects, crustaceans and families of centipedes and spiders). Yet, the genome includes more "detoxification" genes than ever seen before – genes the mite can turn on or off as needed.

"The team chose the two-spotted spider mite because it's a de-

structive, global pest," said Raymond Cloyd, K-State Research and Extension entomologist. "It can fairly easily develop pesticide resistance. Plus, it can feed on an amazing number of host plants – which the team put at more than 1,100 plant species."

The mite prefers hot, dry weather, he added, but it's a persistent pest for houseplants and commercially grown greenhouse plants, as well as for landscapes, vegetable gardens, market farms, orchards and row crops. The mite also thrives on and can spread from a

number of weed species.

Cloyd said the team's kind of research is vital to a world of limited resources and growing populations. It allows scientists to target specific gene segments as they seek ways to limit a pest's damage.

Among this study's findings: The spider mite has 39 protein-encoding genes (some previously unknown) in one "resistance" family. That's many times the nine to 14 "detox" genes currently identified in both insects and vertebrate animals.

"As part of their study, the team switched the mites from one host to another to see what happened," Cloyd said. "They found this mite can activate some of those genes and deactivates others to adjust to a new situation. Undoubtedly, that's also a factor in how the mites can actually adapt to toxic plants, as well as develop resistance to pesticides."

For more about the study, go to www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/11/111123133125.htm.

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