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SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

About 20 local performers took the stage for a gospel show to watch the show, which was originally organized to raise money for the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival.

Gospel concert honors veterans

By Sam Dieter

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Since Veterans Day fell on Sunday this year, Colby residents got the chance to hear a mixture of patriotic and gospel music at a fund-raising concert for the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival.

About 250 people showed up for the tribute to veterans Sunday afternoon at the Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College.

Susan McLemore, a performer and volunteer for the festival, said fall shows are often put on as fund raisers for the event.

"We were needing to do the fund raiser and initially thought of a gospel concert," McLemore said, "and then we were looking at dates and the it sort of fit in with Veterans Day, and it became a show honoring the vets."

Flags for the five branches of the armed forces were borrowed from the Colby American Legion, which also provided an honor guard for the U.S. flag.

Legion member Jim Vap made stands for the flags to be displayed onstage.

Performers included some familiar to the festival, as well as some who perform mainly in church.

"What's great about doing stuff like this is all our entertainment is local," Susan's husband, Bob McLemore, said while onstage.

Appearing in the show were the McLemores, Leon Woof-er, Pat Ziegelmeier, Perry and Terry Baird, Lisa Schroeder and family, the Bugbee sisters, Larry Booth, Jay Stewart and the Carbon Copies, Tom Harrison and Jeff Wagoner.

The event was emceed by Sacha Sanguinetti, general manager of KXXX Radio. Each act played about three songs, mostly gospel and other traditional tunes, but some pop songs as well. The entire group played together onstage at the end of the show.

"I don't go to a lot of shows, but because it was Veteran's Day, and honoring the veterans, I wanted to be here," said Fran Smith, whose husband had been in the Army.

The focus was on honoring veterans throughout the show. Woof-er opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, then sang "The



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The Veterans Day parade went along Franklin Avenue Monday afternoon, led by two veterans (below) carrying the U.S. and Kansas flags. The parade ended with a ceremony at the courthouse, where American Legion member Jim Vap (above left) listened as Army veteran David Becker spoke about his experiences in Afghanistan. Becker, 24, Colby, was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star while serving a tour in Afghanistan in 2009.

Battle Hymn of the Republic" while Pat Ziegelmeier accompanied on the piano.

At the end of the show, the two performed an "Armed Forces Medley," and veterans were invited to stand when the hymn of their branch was played. In all, about 30 veterans in the audience stood up, including Booth, who said he served in the Marines in the Korean War.

Most audience members had friends in the armed forces, and at least one wore his uniform when watching the show. The performers knew veterans as well.

Susan McLemore said that her father and father-in-law both served, along with both of her daughter-in-law's grandfathers.

"They made such a big contribution to our country," she said, "and they don't always get the consideration they need."



Red Cross needs help with supply

The American Red Cross is asking for support as it struggles to maintain a supply of blood in the face of shortages and blood drives canceled because of Superstorm Sandy's devastation of the East Coast and the Caribbean.

A blood drive scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, in the student union at Colby Community College is open to the public, said Catherine Younger of Central Plains Region Blood Services in Hays.

Everyone eligible to donate is encouraged to schedule an appointment by calling (800) RED-CROSS or by going online to www.redcrossblood.org.

"Our friends and family affected by Sandy can't give blood right now," Younger said, "but donors in unaffected areas can."

"To date, nearly 365 blood drives have been canceled, resulting in more than 12,200 uncollected donations. And yet, the need for blood remains the same even

in times of disaster. Approximately every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood."

To give blood, you must be at least 17, meet weight and height requirements and be in general good health. Donors should bring their Red Cross blood donor card or other form of identification with them.

The organization's public affairs desk announced Nov. 4 that the entire Red Cross fleet of 320 response vehicles has been activated to distribute hot meals, water and relief support to people affected by the storm.

More than 5,000 Red Cross workers from across the nation have been deployed to help and 60 trailers of personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, rakes, shovels, tarps, dust masks and work gloves are arriving in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

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New filmmakers inspired by letters

By Kayla Cornett

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Despite a family connection for filmmaker Jay Kriss, it was a cache of letters between his grandfather and Ray Garvey, co-owners of G-K Farms in the mid-1900s, that inspired him and partner Sydney Duvall to create their first movie, the documentary "Harvesting on the High Plains."

"The story is an amazing story, there's no doubt about it," Jay Kriss said, "but just because you have an amazing story doesn't mean you have an amazing film. And there's so many pieces that have to be put together in that process...."

"I think really what opened it up and gave us the opportunity to take a look at making a film was Garvey's archives, because Garvey's archives were so incred-

ibly kept well."

Jay Kriss said he and Duvall came across thousands of letters in those archives, which were opened up to them by Craig Miner, the author of "Harvesting the High Plains: John Kriss and the Business of Wheat Farming, 1920-1950," and a professor at Wichita State University.

The letters the filmmakers used were correspondence between Garvey and John Kriss, Jay's grandfather, between January 1933 and the fall of 1947, with a brief hiatus in the early 1940s.

"What we had in front of us wasn't just a letter here, a letter there," Jay Kriss said. "We had a conversation, so it was almost as if we could sit down with Ray Garvey, with John Kriss ... and let them tell us their story."

"And so when we actually had

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Minivan crashes, sends two to hospital

A crash early Monday morning involving a minivan carrying four women sent two of them to the hospital.

A report from Kansas Highway Patrol — which responded to the accident — said the 2002 Chrysler minivan went into the east ditch of County Road 37 about five miles north of Rexford at about 12:50 a.m. Monday.

The van rolled once and came to rest on all four tires facing southeast. The driver, Tyleen Jensen, of Stratton, Colo. and passenger Kelly Basnett, Colby, were taken to Citizens Medical Center, where they were treated and released. The other two passengers, Courtney Hemminson, Levant, and Ruby Noel, Gove, were uninjured. All four were wearing seat belts.

Oil company to settle

By Michael Kunzelman

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — BP said today that it will pay \$4.5 billion in a settlement with the U.S. government over the massive 2010 oil spill and will plead guilty to felony counts related to the deaths of 11 workers and lying to Congress.

The figure includes nearly \$1.3 billion in criminal fines — the largest such penalty ever — along with payments to several government entities.

A person familiar with the settlement said two BP employees will also face manslaughter charg-

es over the deaths of 11 people in the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig that triggered the massive spill. The person was not authorized to discuss the matter on the record and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We believe this resolution is in the best interest of BP and its shareholders," said Carl-Henric Svanberg, BP's Chairman. "It removes two significant legal risks and allows us to vigorously de-

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