



Senior Chief Musician Georgina Todd (left in right photo) and Musician 1st Class Susan Kavinski sang the duet "Viens, Mallika and Sous le Dome Epais" from the opera "Lakmé" on Thursday during a Navy Sea Chanters Chorus concert at Colby High School. Musicians (from left, below) Benjamin Bransford, William Edwards, Adam Tyler, Michael Webb and Michael Belinkie performed a song from "Jersey Boys" and Musician 1st Class Adam Whitman (lower right) sang "Circle of Life."

KATHRYN BALLARD  
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## Navy group sings here, heads home

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The Sea Chanters, the official chorus of the U.S. Navy from Washington, gave the last concert of a shortened trip Thursday night in Colby after the government "sequestration," or mandatory budget cuts, sank its tour.

"We are trying to save as much money as we can to make it to the end of the fiscal year," said Adam Graham, a spokesman for the Navy Bands in the capital.

Pat Ziegelmeier, an instructor at Colby Community College and who organized the event for the Western Plains Arts Association, said she received a call from Musician 1st Class Benjamin L. Bransford III, associate musical director and a singer for the Sea Chanters, about the tour being cancelled. He told her that the chorus received word Wednesday that Colby would be its last stop.

"How are we so lucky?" Ziegelmeier said Thursday. "I'm really glad their going to be here."

Graham said the U.S. Department of Defense issued a statement on Tuesday saying that

because of the across-the-board federal budget cuts, the bands couldn't travel outside of their home area, and since the Sea Chanters were on the road, they had to go back to Washington.

The group was told through the normal chain of command, Graham said, and the commanding officer talked to all of the sponsors personally to let them know what was going on.

In Colby, Senior Chief Musician Georgina Todd said the group had done 11 concerts, including Colby, before the tour was cancelled. The Sea Chanters held performances beginning Feb. 24, in California, Arizona and Colorado. The group was supposed to go to Norton tonight and on to Topeka, then the tour would have continued in Missouri and Texas.

Todd said this tour had a "really good flow to it" and the musicians are sorry they can't finish it out.

The group, which had been in Colorado Springs, had been told to get going Thursday. After some discussions, Todd said, the Navy decided it would be cheaper to have the groups go

See "CONCERT," Page 2



## Conservation District having spring tree sale

The Thomas County Conservation District is conducting a spring tree sale through Monday, March 25.

The district sells many types of trees and bushes from Kansas and Nebraska, said Deb Potter. Popular varieties include red cedar, cottonwood, hackberry, bur oak, lilac, sumac and plum. The red cedar trees are hand-dug in Nebraska, and the Kansas Forest Service provides the other trees and bushes with bare roots, the district says. Nursery-grown containerized

trees are also available.

Money from tree sales will be used to promote conservation and educational programs in the county, said Potter.

Orders and payments are due by March 25. Trees will be available for pickup from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 6, at the district's office or for delivery during the week of Monday, April 8. For information, call 462-7482.

## Daylight Saving Time coming

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, so set your clocks forward before you go to bed. It'll be a short night anyway, and you might be late for everything Sunday otherwise.

Since 2007, Daylight Time runs from the second Sunday in March

to the first Sunday in November each year in the areas that recognize it.

Standard time in the United States was established in 1883 by the railroads, but did not become federal law until 1918, during World War I, when the Standard Time Act set both standard time and Daylight Saving Time. Daylight Saving Time was repealed a year later and remained a local matter until World War II.

After the war, states and localities again controlled the use of Daylight Time until the start and end dates were standardized in 1966. The dates varied occasionally as laws changed since then. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 set the current dates for Daylight Time, but federal law continues to allow states and local areas to opt out. Standard time will return at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 3.

## Consulting firm plans irrigation session here

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A consulting firm under a federal contract plans a "listening session" here next week on a plan for federal insurance for crops grown with little irrigation.

"Our job at the session is primarily to listen to the audience," said Randy Landgren, a research analyst with Watts and Associates of Billings, Mont.

The consulting firm is organizing the meeting, which will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Community Building. Farmers, insurance agents and other stakeholders can come to give their opinions, Landgren said. A second meeting will be at held 10 a.m. Thursday in Kearney, Neb.

Landgren said his firm is organizing the sessions under a contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency. The agency wants to study how federal crop insurance would cover corn and soybean farmers using limited irrigation in parts of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado. "The insurance is probably the most compli-

cated insurance policy that anyone's ever seen," Landgren said.

He said he'll start the meeting by letting those who attend introduce themselves and then explain his company's role and what the government wants to know. After that, he said, the floor is open to the attendees.

Although any subject is open on the relationship between limited irrigation and crop insurance, Landgren said the government is particularly interested in looking into another type of insurance.

"The irrigation that is available to them is being reduced," he said, "but the way that complex policy is written, the response the farmer has to be able to maintain their insurance is basically two things."

They can decrease the amount of land they irrigate, he said, or they can use less water. But the second option means that land they put less water on will be treated in the insurance policy as if it is not irrigated at all.

"What we're going to listen about is the possibility that they are offered a third alternative."

See "FIRM," Page 2

