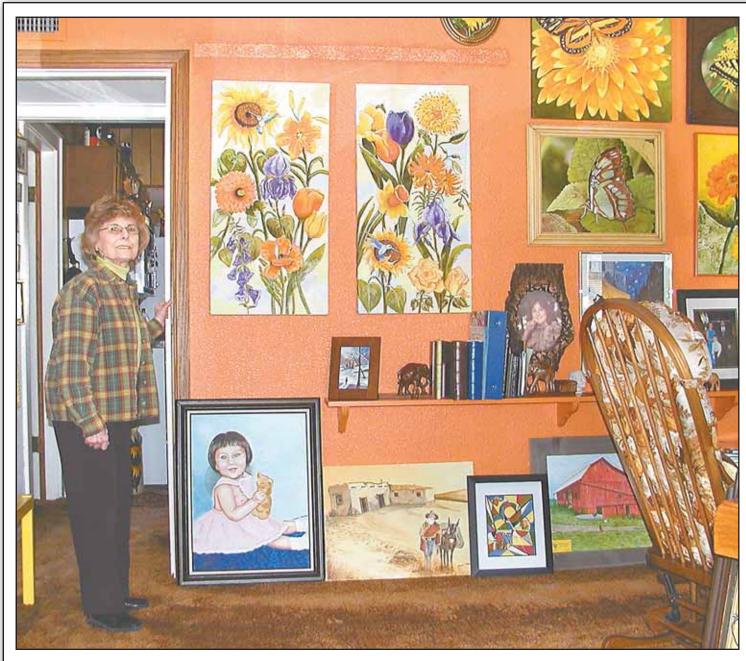


# FREE PRESS

#### Thursday

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## Artist fills home with paintings

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press sdieter@nwkansas.com

The first thing you notice about Marlene rado and Nebraska. Carpenter's house, aside from it being filled

with paintings, is that she likes sunflowers. Pictures of sunflowers make up a good known as the sunflower lady." portion of the oil paintings covering her walls. But she also has sunflowers painted on the walls themselves, sunflowers painted sunflowers stitched onto furniture and artificial potted flowers.

A freelance artist, Carpenter is good both her work to area kids. at coming up with new material and expanding on a theme.

She says her first sunflower picture was inspired by a field of them near her house cently auctioned off for the "Art Friendsy

Local artist Marlene Car-

penter (above) posed with

a collection of paintings on

the wall of her home. They

include imaginary drawings

and some of her kids, such

as a portrait of her son,

Justin Herbel, which she

did based on a photograph of him working on furniture

at the Hays courthouse

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

(right).

near Brewster, shortly before she moved Pioneer Memorial Library. Bidding with her back to Colby in 1982. It won first place at brother's number, she outbid a woman at the a competition of artists from Kansas, Colo-"I won Best of Show at a three-state art

Carpenter said she will never part with formal training." that painting, but she sells lots of other artwork. The picture hanging over the fireplace when she grew up here, she took a number on furniture and old-fashioned cream cans, at the Farmers and Merchants Bank is hers. of classes at Colby Community College, She sold it to the bank on Jan. 29, Kansas often studying under a former art instructor Day, when she was at the bank showing off there, Ken Mitchell. She took classes in sev-

"We made some nice bucks on that one," she said.

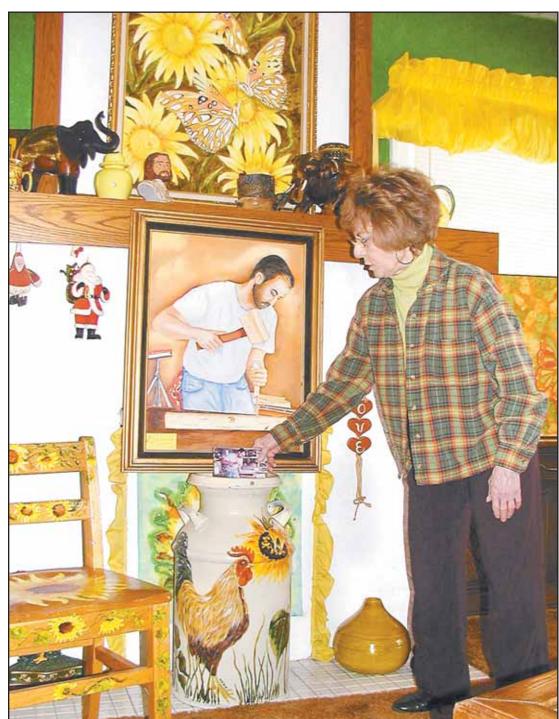
She also painted one of the chairs re-

when she and an ex-husband were farmers - Chair-ish Your Library" fund raiser at the auction to buy her own chair, but offered to paint the woman another one.

"As a kid I would draw a lot, and maybe show for that," she said. "So then I became paint with whatever I had," she said. "I've always liked to do art, but never had any

> With no art classes at the high school eral types of painting and is currently teaching herself pastel painting. She will also paint on just about any surface.

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Road work starts on K-25 today

A trip between Logan County manager for the department. and Colby will be getting slower today because of road work.

The Kansas Department of Transportation is starting an overlay today along 17 miles of K-25, from the junction of U.S. 40 to right away or perhaps in several Colby. Flaggers and a pilot car days. will follow the workers, reducing traffic on the road to one lane during working hours, and causing a done with the project by the end delay of up to 15 minutes for passing motorists.

'In this case, they'll probably start on the southern portion," said Kristen Brands, public affairs Bend.

The department will start the project by milling off a "test strip" along the road, Brands said. The main project, a mill and overlay of three inches of asphalt, could start

If the weather is good, Brands said, the department could be of April.

The \$3 million contract for the project went to Venture Corporation, a company based in Great

## St. Patrick's event planned for Saturday

St. Patrick's Day may fall on Sunday this year, but the big celebration in Colby will come on Saturday night, when the Mama's will provide entertainment during Boys put on a show to benefit the the social hour. Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival.

Dusty Road Productions plans a St. Patrick's Day Pub Party Saturday at City Limits Convention Center in Colby. There will be a at City Limits or the Colby/Thomsocial hour from 7 to 8 p.m. with as County Chamber of Commerce. a dance and concert to follow at

All proceeds from the event will 7643. go to Pickin' on the Plains.

The Mama's Boys, an 80s, 90s, country and rock band, will perform and disc jockey Justin Meitl

Free snacks will be provided and door prizes will be given away every half hour.

Tickets are \$20 and will be available at the door or in advance

For information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 460-

## Poker tournament to benefit local man

planned Sunday in Selden to ben- ment, half of which will go to the efit a local man injured in Decem-

Klint "Tuffy" Wessel, 23, has been in a Denver hospital since a meal of smoked brisket and being hit by a drunk driver Dec. 15 at Fourth and Franklin in Col-

Tom Bruggeman, a family friend who helped organize the tournament, said it will help pay hospital, travel and hotel bills for Wessel's family.

p.m. at Southwinds Steakhouse while Klint's mother Lori Wessel and Saloon in Selden. A \$50 dona- stays there.

A poker tournament has been tion is asked to enter the tourna-Wessel family, and half of which will be paid back in prizes. Colby resident Jerry Pitner will prepare scalloped potatoes, which will be

> served starting at noon. Wessel's father Karl Wessel said before an earlier benefit that Klint has been at Colorado Acute Long Term in Denver after the truck he was driving was struck in the side.

Karl has been driving back and The tournament will start 1:30 forth between here and Denver

### Pope Francis' humility: stops by hotel to pay bill

By Nicole Winfield

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis put his humility on display during his first day as pontiff today, stopping by his hotel to pick up his luggage and pay the bill himself in a decidedly different style of papacy than his tradition- a "profound evaluation" of Franminded predecessor, who tended cis' priorities, urging instead reto stay ensconced in the frescoed halls of the Vatican.

The break from Benedict XVI's pontificate was evident even in Francis' wardrobe choices: He kept the simple pectoral cross of his days as bishop and eschewed the red cape that Benedict wore when he was presented to the world for the first time in 2005 -

choosing instead the simple white cassock of the papacy.

The Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi acknowledged the difference in style, attributing it to Francis' life work as the pastor of Buenos Aires whereas Benedict was long an academic.

He said it was too early to make flection on his first few homilies particularly at his installation Mass on Tuesday.

The former Cardinal Jorge Ber-

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