

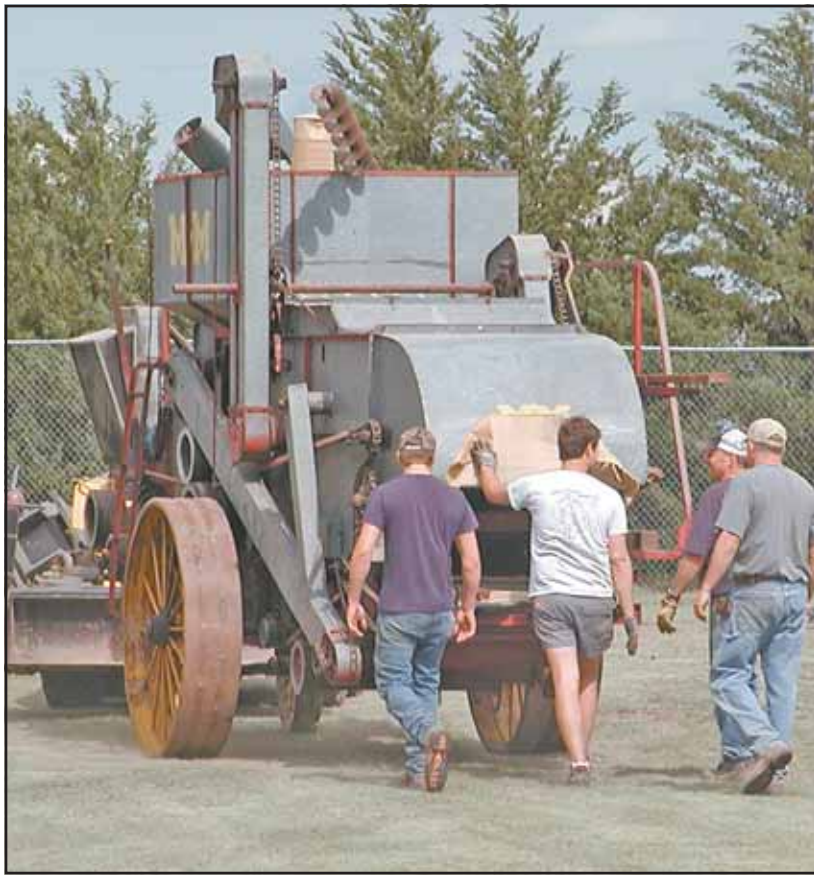


Volunteers moved an antique binder, (above and right) used from about 1915 to 1933, into a storage barn adjacent to the Cooper Barn by the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Old farm machines, including a McCormick-Deering thresher from 1935 (below) were being rearranged as part of a permanent exhibit on what farming used to be like here. It often took a half a dozen men to move each machine into place.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Museum stores equipment



Dozens of pieces of antique machinery were moved around Wednesday behind the Prairie Museum of Art and History, getting ready for a new permanent exhibit of historic farm machinery and tools.

Lon Frahm and his crew of farmhands volunteered their time and modern machines to rearrange the equipment, putting much of it into a storage building, said museum director Sue Taylor. They were helping the museum prepare for an upcoming exhibit, "High and Dry: Agriculture in Western Kansas," which will display machines from the turn of the century to the 1930s and 1940s, some later.

The old items were pulled and pushed into the barn with newer machinery. About half a dozen men at a time moved each machine, walking alongside an old harvesting machine carried by a skid-steer loader and holding onto it. Items that were already inside the building were moved around, Taylor said, but only some old bits of trash were thrown out.

"Eventually, the storage building will be the harvest part of the exhibit," Taylor said.

It will feature old binders, threshers, combines and a horse-pushed header. The Cooper Barn right next to that building will hold older items: a plow, covered wagon, harrows and horse-drawn buggy.

The exhibit is set to open Saturday, Sept. 28, the same day as the "Party of the Potties," a concert and barbecue to help pay for a new kitchen and rest rooms in the barn. As the volunteers moved the machines, workers were in front of the barn working on the rest room project, digging pits to connect them to the city sewer.

Jail needs weighed, tabled again

By Heather Alwin

Colby Free Press
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Proposals for an analysis of the Thomas County jail and courthouse were again tabled Monday while Thomas County commissioners wait on vendor proposals.

A proposal for analysis of the structural condition of the courthouse from Walter P. Moore, an engineering firm specializing in building restoration, was tabled until the next meeting on Monday.

Though the commissioners approved the structural analysis at a previous meeting, County Attorney Kevin Berens had some concerns with some of the language. He sent his notes to the firm's representatives, he said, but they have not yet responded.

The commissioners are also considering an outside analysis of the county's jail needs. Currently, they have received one proposal from Justice Concepts, a consulting firm presented by Glen Strait,

See "JAIL," Page 2

Joplin artist tops showdown

Matt Coleman from Joplin, Mo., was the first artist to perform and the last standing at the Kansas State final of the Texaco Country Showdown on Aug. 8 at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair in Goodland.

The bleachers were filled for the show, with people bringing their own chairs and standing or sitting on the ground. The weather made it a good night to sit and listen to music.

A representative of Rocking M Radio said Goodland was selected to have the state final because of the size of the crowds that attended shows there. The other local sponsor was Bankwest.

Coleman represented radio station KHST-FM in Pittsburg. He will move on to the southwest regional in Raton, N.M., on Oct.

19. There he will compete against winners from North, South and West Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

The regional winner will receive an all expense paid trip to Nashville and compete for the title "Best New Act in Country Music" and \$100,000.

Other competitors were Halle Stephens from Nebraska, who represented KWBG Colby/Goodland; Bryce Gooch and Greg Anderson, KSOK-AM Arkansas City; Bryson Hasty, KSOK-FM Arkansas City; The Tippers, KMXN Lawrence; and Timmy Jonas and the Whiskey Militia, KVWF Wichita.

Jones and Rane, a band from Denver, opened the show and did accompaniment if needed.

Barbershoppers young, excited

By Tim Linn

The Leavenworth Times

LEAVENWORTH (AP) – The four members of the Brovertones sound like old pros when they start talking about the golden age of barbershop harmony.

They express affinity for the Tin Pan Alley school of songwriting, upon which much of the form is based. They know the ins and outs of the history of the Barbershop Harmony Society, how a meeting in the Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City in 1938 ultimately resulted in the formation of the official barbershop organization that is still alive today, and they talk about the finer points of champion quartets from 50 years ago.

But with an average age of about 23, the Brovertones – native Leavenworth County resident David Freeman III, Kyle Batchelder, Andrew Rembecki and Luke Pherigo – represent the future of the art form, not the past. They can sing 90s reggae crossover hits in barbershop style, crowd sourced their name on Facebook and talk about the effect that a barbershop quartet can have on a particular segment of the audience.

"In high school, even if you're not any good, if it's four guys singing, girls just go crazy," Rembecki said.

The Brovertones will perform

as part of the annual concert for Leavenworth's own barbershop chorus, the Cody Choraliers, which is scheduled to feature international champion quartet A Mighty Wind and will begin at 7 p.m. Aug. 17 in the auditorium at Lansing High School, 220 Lion Lane in Lansing.

The Brovertones are fresh from a successful 2013 – in the spring, they won the collegiate championship in the Central States District at the Barbershop Harmony Society's convention this year. That took them to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, for the international BHS collegiate quartet contest this year, an experience that Batchelder said he'll never forget, though nerves have rendered some parts a little fuzzy.

"You get up there and there will be 6,000 or 7,000 people staring you dead in the face," he said. "The only thing I remember is getting on stage and getting off stage."

For Rembecki and Pherigo, interest in barbershop came in school, through teachers or from other groups. Batchelder said he discovered the form in a decidedly millennial fashion – YouTube vid-

See "BARBERSHOP," Page 2

Governors want partnership to protect prairie chickens

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – The governors of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas say public-private partnerships involving landowners and developers are the best way to protect the habitat of the lesser prairie chicken.

The Journal Record in Okla-

homa City reported today (bit.ly/12a4Wr) that the governors this month signed a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asking the agency to not add the bird to the threatened species list. They say that adding the bird could slow development of oil, gas and wind projects in the

Plains.

Wildlife agencies in the five states back in 1996 formed a group to determine a way to conserve the bird's habitat. The federal agency says it received the letter from the governors and is working on a response.



ALAN ECKERT
The lesser prairie chicken.