



Remodel: a long ways to go

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press Mayor Gary Adrian (center, above) went down a gutted hallway Thursday in the basement of the former St. Thomas Hospital. With him were Christy Rocca, director of the Colby-Thomas County Economic Development alliance (at left) and Amanda McGreer, wife of City Manager Tyson McGreer. Amanda McGreer paused in what used to be a doorway knocked through the wall while with the group that toured the hospital after a ground-breaking ceremony that morning. Rick Dickman (left, at right), Colby's building inspector, looked over the present state of the chapel of the former hospital with Tim Quigley, a development partner for real estate company Cohen Esery, which plans to turn the building into affordable housing apartments.



College plans busy week

Homecoming to honor alumni

Colby Community College while have fall Homecoming 2013 activities from Monday to Saturday, Nov. 4 to 9, with the slogan "Forward to 50" for the year.

The public is invited to attend and participate in all events.

The women's basketball team will begin the week's activities with a game against the Tabor College junior varsity at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, at the Community Building.

Everyone is invited to attend the Community Talent Show at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. Prizes will be awarded to the top performers. Admittance is free.

At 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, the college will hold a pep rally in the campus gymnasium, followed by a bonfire east of the residence halls. T-shirts and other items will be given away; the pep band, cheerleaders and coaches will be featured. Inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame and Sports Hall of Fame will be recognized.

The annual Ambassador Classic Basketball Tournament will

be Thursday to Saturday, Nov. 7 to 9. Games will be played in the Community Building beginning at 2 p.m. each day. The Colby Lady Trojans will play each night at 6 p.m., followed by the men at about 8 p.m.

Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized at half time of the women's game on Saturday. Homecoming royalty will be announced at half time of the men's game.

Homecoming T-shirts and other items will be given away during the games.

Hall of Fame Luncheon

Saturday activities start at 11:30 a.m. in the Student Union with a luncheon to honor Alumni Hall of Fame inductees Darvin Strutt and Dr. Larry and Joyce Washburn, and Sports Hall of Fame inductees Bruce Siemsen and Joyce Hansen.

Chef Brian Stohs will prepare a special meal for the event. Cost is \$10. Those who plan to attend should call Kathy Britton at 460-5550 or Penny Cline at 460-5404 by Friday, Nov. 1.

Orchestra welcomes all

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will continue more than 30 years of music with its 2013-14 season.

On Sunday, Dec. 15, the orchestra's "Many Merry Melodies" concert will open the season. Andrew Salvador will conduct the performance, which will feature a Christmas singalong and gift drawings.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, Bev Rucker will conduct "Dial 'M' for Music," featuring Ed Rucker as French horn soloist.

On Sunday, May 4, Salvador will conduct "Movies, Mystery and Magic," featuring magician

Josiah Akers.

The orchestra welcomes new musicians, with rehearsals on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby Community College band room.

All performances are at 3:30 p.m. at the college's Frahm Theater.

Admission is by season ticket or at the door, \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students. Sponsorships that include patron tickets are available at levels ranging from \$15 to \$550, the orchestra says.

More information is available at www.prairieorchestra.com.

School board gives assignments

By Sam Dieter

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The Colby School Board made new appointments to its committees at its meeting Monday night.

The board also voted to send its president, Janice Frahm, to the annual Kansas Association of School Boards convention from Friday to Sunday, Dec. 6 to 8, in Wichita. Board members Angie Gaede and Kristina Lemman will serve as alternate representatives. All three voiced an interest in attending the convention, along with board Vice President Tracy Rodgers.

The board heard reports from district administrators:

• Grade School Principal Lance Krannawitter said 96 percent of the parents came to parent-teacher conferences. Krannawitter thanked the Parent-Teacher Organization for recent fund-raising efforts, and the Western Kansas Arts Association for putting on the play

"Goldilocks and the Three Bears" for the grade school.

• Middle School Principal Robb Ross was not at the meeting.

• High School Principal Jeff Wallingford said lots of students were involved in homecoming week in September. About half the high school students' parents went to parent-teacher conferences, he said, and he attended a co-teaching conference on Oct. 15, where paraprofessionals and special education or at-risk teachers learned teaching techniques and how to instruct a class with two teachers at once.

• Athletic Director Larry Gabel said that no one on the girls' golf team placed at the state meet in Pittsburg, but Colby's Miranda Kern took first at the regional

Hall of Fame to induct alumni

Colby Community College Alumni Hall of Fame inductees will be honored a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, in the Student Union and at other events during homecoming activities that week.

The nominees are insurance agent Darvin Strutt and Dr. Larry and Joyce Washburn.

Darvin Strutt

Darvin Strutt is a graduate and long-time supporter of the college. He graduated from Oakley High School in 1975 and was recruited to wrestle for the Trojans by first-year Head Wrestling Coach Steve Lampe. After graduating in 1977 with an associate degree in accounting, he transferred to Fort Hays State University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1979.



Darvin Strutt

Darvin returned to Colby after college and accepted a job as an accountant working for Paul Steele. He later was a cost accountant for Western Services Pipeline Co. in Oakley.

He began his career in insurance in 1983 when he started working for Bill Hopper at the

Farm Bureau office in Colby. About that time, he met his wife Tammi, and they were married in July 1985.

In May 1986, Darvin went to work for Trauer Insurance Agency in Hays. They returned to Colby a few months later when he was recruited by Farmers and Merchants Bank of Colby to manage their insurance agency — a position he held until June 1992.

At that time, Darvin made an offer to buy the agency from the new owners of the bank. They accepted and he continued to work at the same location until September 1992, when he moved his agency to 990 S. Range Ave. In January of this year, the agency moved to its current location at 1675 W. Fourth St.

Beginning with one agency and

three employees in Colby, he acquired Trauer in Hays in January 2000. In January 2007, he purchased the Peoples State Agency of McDonald and his work force grew to eight employees. In 2009, he expanded by purchasing the Prairie Land Insurance Agency in Brewster, and the number of employees increased to 10. Most recently, he purchased the Cersovsky Insurance Agency in Colby and added two people.

His wife Tammi is vice president of operations for Peoples State Bank. He and Tammi have two children. Kirstie owns Essential Bliss Day Spa in Colby; Trevor is a student at Kansas State University in Salina, studying aviation.

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