

# Opera bass to sing on Sunday

World renowned opera singer and native of Colby, Sam Ramey, will present a vocal concert at 2 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Sunday at the Colby Community Building.

As a native of Colby, Ramey was active in music throughout high school and college. In 1995 he was named "Kansan of the Year," and in 1998 the French Ministry of Culture awarded him the rank of Commander in the Order of Arts and Letters. He now makes his home in Chicago and through appearances in venues worldwide, he maintains a non-stop schedule of more than seventy performances each season.

For over three decades, Ramey has reigned as one of the music world's foremost interpreters of bass and bass-baritone operatic and concert repertoire. With astounding versatility he commands an impressive breadth of repertoire encompassing virtually every musical style from the fioratura of Argente in Handel's Rinaldo, which was the vehicle of his acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut in 1984, to the dramatic proclamations of the title role in Bartok's Bluebeard's

Castle, which he sang in a new production at the Metropolitan Opera televised by Public Broadcasting System. Ramey's interpretations embrace the bel canto of Bellini, Rossini, and Donizetti; the lyric and dramatic roles of Mozart and Verdi; and the heroic roles of the Russian and French repertoire.

Ramey has appeared on the stages of the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Vienna Staatsoper, Opéra de Paris, Arena di Verona, Deutsche Oper Berlin, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, the operas of Munich, Hamburg, Geneva, Florence, Zürich and Amsterdam, among others. In concert, he has performed with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, La Scala Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, and the symphonies of Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and San Francisco.

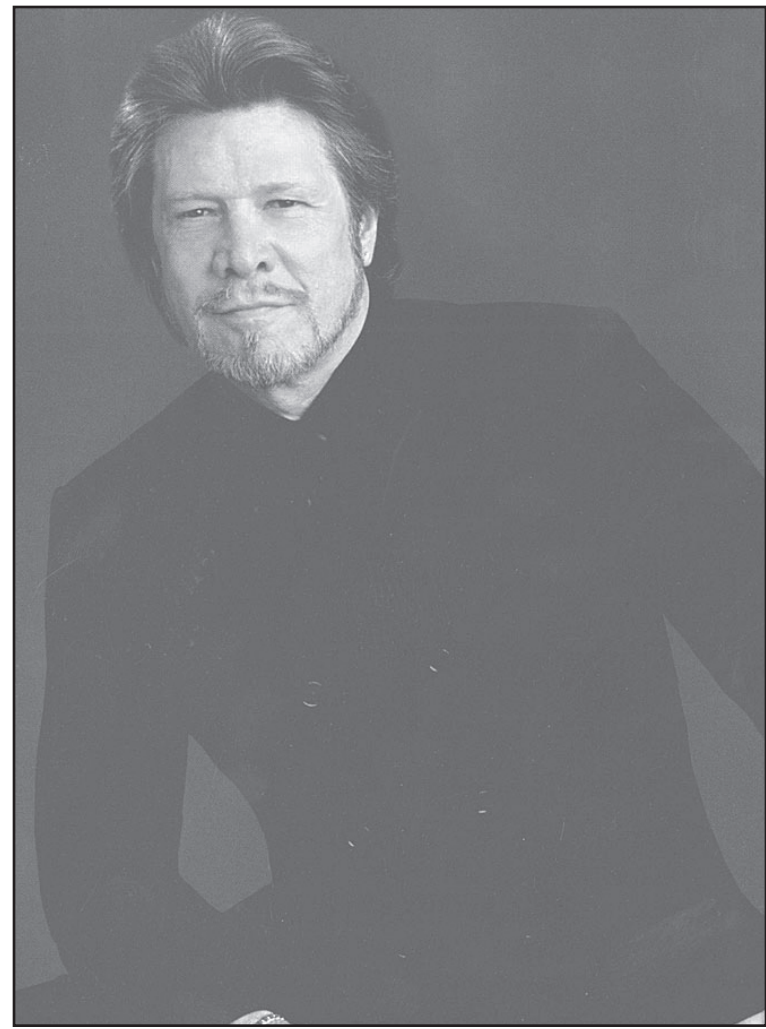
Mr. Ramey will be accompanied by Warren Jones. Jones has often been a guest artist at Carnegie Hall

and in Lincoln Center's "Great Performers Series," as well as the festivals of Tanglewood, Ravinia, and Caramoor. His international travels have taken him to recitals at the Salzburg Festival, Milan's Teatro alla Scala, the Maggio Musicale Festival in Florence, the Teatro Fenice in Venice, Paris' Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Opéra Bastille, Wigmore Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Cultural Centre in Hong Kong and theaters throughout Scandinavia and Korea. Jones has been invited three times to the White House by American presidents to perform at concerts honoring the President of Russia, and Prime Ministers of Italy and Canada — and three times he has appeared at the U.S. Supreme Court as a specially invited performer for the Justices and their guests. As a guest at the Library of Congress, Jones has appeared with the Juilliard Quartet in performances of the Schumann Piano Quintet. He has more than 25 recordings: the latest is a compilation of new songs by

the American composer Lori Laitman on the Albany label. He can be heard on every major record label, in diverse repertory from Schubert and Brahms to more esoteric compositions of Gretchaninoff, Clarke, and Smit, as well as contemporary works by Harbison and others.

Jones is a member of the faculty at the Manhattan School of Music at New York City, where highly gifted young artists work with him in a unique graduate degree program in collaborative piano. Each summer he teaches and performs at the Music Academy of the West at Santa Barbara, Calif.. For ten years he was assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera and for three seasons served in the same capacity at San Francisco Opera.

Western Plains Arts Association will host a public reception immediately following the performance enjoy refreshments, and help us celebrate our 40th Anniversary. Admission for the concert is season ticket, and, if room for general admission, adults, \$25, students kindergarten through 12, \$15.



Sam Ramey

## Commissioners review repair needs for building

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners will start their meeting on Monday by touring the telephone building to look at the building and the repairs needed on the brick mortar on the backside.

William McKnight, grounds supervisor, told the commissioners Wednesday the backside of the telephone building has some serious brick mortar problems. He said a drain was plugged up and when he took it out to get it unplugged the brick mortar was real bad behind it. He said it needs to be fixed, and said there are other spots around the building that need the mortar replaced.

He said Joe Ginn had given him a bid to do the backside, and was willing to do more work on the other walls.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said since Commissioner Max Linin and Commissioner Cynthia Strnad had not toured the building he thought it would be good for them to start the meeting on Monday by meeting at the telephone building at 10th and Main.

The commissioners will meet at the building at 7:30 a.m. to tour the building and then make a decision on the brick mortar repair.

Thomas asked McKnight to get a bid from Ginn for the whole building.

A question was asked about

similar repairs made to the county courthouse and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she thought it was about \$40,000 and that was done by a company out of Fort Scott.

McKnight reported the roof over the garage on the county's building at 17th and Broadway Ave. had been fixed and the air conditioner has been fixed.

In other business:

- Crissy Conger, dispatch and emergency management assistant director, reported to the commissioners that Sherman County has received a grant for \$206,000 to upgrade the 911 emergency system, and received about 60 percent of the \$13,000 cost to time synch the system.

She said \$185,000 will replace the old phone system and mapping system.

She said the county match on the time synch will be \$4,700 and the main project was funded at 100 percent.

Conger asked for permission to replace the dispatcher work stations and rearrange the work space. She said the present system is uncomfortable for working, and would look into better seating and desks for dispatchers.

She said that cost would probably have to be paid out of the 911 budget.

Thomas asked if there was money in the budget to cover this and Conger said she had \$2,000 in the budget

plus \$1,000 in miscellaneous and should be enough money.

She said she was not sure how long it will take to do the installation, but wanted to let the commissioners know and get their approval for the work stations and chairs.

Conger said it will take several days to do this work, and while that is happening the dispatch will have backup with the sheriff's department.

She said she wants to turn the system around so the dispatchers face the door and the screens are more hidden than at present. She said she will have to talk to the city about making the changes, but wanted the commissioners to know what was coming.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby asked if the county was committed to the city location.

"You can put us anywhere," Conger said, "as long as it is in a basement."

She said the remodeling has to be done this year.

Thomas said to get started on the whole project and get some numbers together.

- Commissioners did a survey of county employees about having time off for Christmas or giving a Christmas bonus of \$100. The Christmas bonus was the landslide winner with 37 voting for the bonus and 3 voting for extra time off.

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**DOWNHERE**  
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Tri-State Praise KGCR | PO Box 9 | Brewster, KS 67732 | 785 694 2877 | kgcr@kgcr.org

## Gospel groups to sing at Colby

Contemporary Gospel Music recording artists Aaron Shust and Downhere are coming to northwest Kansas this month.

The groups are in the midst of a nation wide, multi-city tour that already includes several sold out concerts.

They'll be in concert at the Colby Community Building at 5 p.m. Mountain Time with doors opening at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 24.

The concert is hosted by Tri-State Praise KGCR, a Christian station headquartered just outside of Brewster.

"We are extremely excited to be able to bring a tour of this caliber to the area" says Station Manager James Claassen. "We hope as many area residents as possible will take advantage of the opportunity be-

cause we have no idea how soon another comparable concert will be available.

"The groups were wanting one more weekend of concerts at the end of their tour so they actually contacted us, something that rarely happens in a rural area like northwest Kansas."

Aaron Shust was named the songwriter of the year and new artist of the year at the Gospel Music Association Dove Awards in 2007, and his song "My Savior My God" received the Song of the Year award. That same song was named the number two song of the decade by Billboard Magazine earlier this year.

Downhere is a Juno, Dove and Covenant Award winning Christian band from Canada. They have won more than 20 Canadian Christian

music awards, including Artist of the Year by the Gospel Music Association Canada Covenant Awards in 2009 and multiple song of the year awards.

"We've tried to set the ticket prices as low as possible so that price isn't the deciding factor when deciding whether or not to attend," Classen said.

Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$10 for groups of 20 or more. Tickets are available at outlets in Goodland and Colby and can be purchased on-line.

All the information about the Aaron Shust/Downhere concert is available at www.kgcr.org or by calling the station at (888) 882-5427 (KGCR).

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**Orphan Trains in Kansas**  
A presentation and discussion by Marilyn J. Holt

Hosted by: The High Plains Museum and Sherman County Historical Society

**Saturday, April 24 at 1:30 p.m.**  
Wheat Ridge Acres,  
707 Wheat Ridge Circle,  
Goodland, KS

**KANSAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

## Talent show Saturday night

Contestants are polishing their acts for the third annual Goodland's Got Talent talent show and art contest. The event will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the Goodland High School Auditorium.

The audience determines the winners. The doors will open at 5 p.m. for the voting on the art. Categories for the talent show are tiny (third grade and under), junior (fourth through sixth grade), teen (junior high and high school) and adult.

### corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors.

Entries are due by today. Any type of talent is welcome but the event is a family event. There is a \$25 entry fee per act. The best of show will get \$100 and first place in each age group will get \$50.

A live/silent auction of art will take place after the talent show.

Auction items will include a framed photograph and other water color prints. Elwyn Vatcher will paint a water color live during the show which will be auctioned. Clayton Hoss made a metal art butterfly that will be part of the auction.

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