



12 pages

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## Jerichon returns to Oakley in May

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Fans of the former prime time television show Jericho will get to meet principal parties of the show at Jerichon 2008 in Oakley over Memorial Day Weekend. Marilyn Morey, chairman of the Guardians of Jericho, on Wednesday said confirmed guests of the event include on-set dresser, Mike Loomer, and series writer, Matt Federman. "2008 will celebrate the crew who worked so hard to bring us this quality drama," Morey said. "Our guests will host panels, sign autographs and answer questions from those who attend Jerichon." Morey said others planning to attend will be Blog Talk Radio's Shaun Daily, who will broadcast live from Jerichon, and fan artist

Jason "Rubberpoultry" Moore, who will present a workshop on how to create computer graphics and videos. Despite the prime time television show Jericho being cancelled by CBS, residents of Oakley for the second time to turn their town into a replica of the make believe community. "I think it benefits the town," Mayor Frank Munk said. "Last year we had a lot of out of town people here and I think they enjoyed themselves. I think it could grow into something. Just like anything, it can start small and grow." Logan County Development Director Dan Hartman said his predecessor, Jamie Bell, conceived the idea for a convention so fans of the CBS prime time drama could share ideas about the show. Based on a fictitious city replicat-

ing Oakley, the show depicts residents' activities of the northwest Kansas following a nuclear blast. While laid out differently than Oakley, Jericho is where Interstate 70, US Highway 83 and US Highway 40 intersect. During Jerichon 2008, experts in the field of nuclear energy will address scientific and social issues raised in the show. Issues such as how to prepare a community to live without outside input from state or federal government. On the job since Jan. 21, Hartman said while Jerichon 2007 was spearheaded by residents throughout the community, this year's event is being directed by CBS corporate officials. Corporate office were not available for comment. Scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, activities Jerichon 2008 will run from May 23 through

May 26, according to the Jerichon 2008 web site of www.guardiansofjericho.com. Jerichon will take place in the 4-H building, 217 Kaler Ave. If registered before May 15, admission will be \$20 for one day; \$30 for two days; \$60 for the full convention; and \$70 at the door. Children 5 and under are free and the price for students 5 to 15 will be \$20. Prices include a complimentary Guardians of Jericho membership. Anyone wishing to opt out of the membership forfeits the right to attend the annual meeting, which will be held at the Jerichon, or vote on any issues including the election of new board members. Should an attendee "opt out" or resign and later wish to join the Guardians of Jericho, the normal membership fee of \$25.00 will apply. No food, beverages or vendor prices are included in these costs.

### Jerichon 2008 activities

- Discussions with on-set dresser Mike Loomer and series writer Matt Federman.
- Topics from season one and two of Jericho
- Discussions on various relationships between Jericho characters.
- Being prepared for natural or man-made disasters.
- On display, actual costumes and props from the show
- Coloring contest, and fun games.
- Oakley VFW will hold a flag retirement ceremony and provide an honor guard when Jericho Rangers place a wreath at Oakley's Memorial Garden on Monday.
- The Second Annual "Last Ordinary Day BBQ" will take place Saturday night in the barn at High Plains RV Park.
- After the BBQ, doors will be thrown open for a dance open to the public.
- Sunday morning breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. hosted by the Oakley VFW.
- Tickets for both these special meals are sold separately from the Jerichon admission price and can be purchased on the Guardians of Jericho website.

## The doctors are in New health care facility open

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A project that was six years in the making became a reality when Vision Source of Colby opened its doors Feb. 11 at 1005 S. Range Ave., Suite 100. Optometrists Dr. Jeff Morrison and Dr. Mark Wahlmeier wanted to expand patient services and they realized their clinic at 180 W. 6th Street would not allow them that opportunity. Morrison, son of optometrist Dr. Jim Morrison, joined his father's medical practice in 1993. In 1998, Dr. Jim Morrison retired so he could focus on public service as state representative for the 121st District. In 2000, Wahlmeier joined the practice. "We began planning to build a new office to reflect our vision for the future," Jeff Morrison said. "We spent six years in the design and planning stage and in 2006, Doctor Gary Slavens and Physician Assistant Andy Rose approached us about purchasing part of the land as they were looking to build a new medical office." In October 2007, Morrison and Wahlmeier, along with Slavens and Rose, broke ground for their new building. "We are excited to offer both expanded medical eye care and optical retail products for Colby and surrounding communities,"

Morrison said. "Our patients have already commented on how convenient and much more comfortable the new facility is." Morrison said patients new to the Colby area comment about the advanced technology at Vision Source. "Our goal, of course, is to continue to provide the best eye care possible in both a professional and friendly manner," Morrison said. "We will also continue to offer affordable quality products that one might expect to find in a more metropolitan area." "We're proud to be part of the Colby medical and retail community and glad to be able to provide new and expanded services now and into the future." Vision Source offers patients a comfortable reception area, as well as a large optical boutique and expanded eye glass frame product line, including designer frames and a variety of price ranges. "We are also home to the largest selection of ophthalmic quality sunglasses in northwest Kansas," Morrison said. "We still offer same day service on most single vision prescriptions and are exploring the possibilities for other expanded optical services." A paperless medical record system, along with computerized, state of the art technology in the six new exam lanes, leaves plenty of room for growth. Morrison

said the potential for additional optometrists and visiting specialists is on the threshold of the new clinic. "We have a special testing room with state of the art equipment that aids in the detection and tracking of retinal disease and other eye disorders and diseases," he said. "In addition, we now have room for expanded children's services and low vision services as well." Morrison graduated at the top of his class at the University of Missouri, School of Optometry in 1993. He specializes in hard to fit contact lens patients, refractive surgery and diseases of the eye. He is involved with research on contact lenses and prides himself on being "cutting-edge." Morrison is active in his church and community, including Kiwanis and Chamber of Commerce. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Rachelle and their sons, Jaden, Carter, and Darius, and the twin daughters, Kennedy and Campbell. The Morrison family enjoys cycling, swimming, golf, camping. Wahlmeier, a native of Norton, graduated from Fort Hays State University and the University of Missouri, School of Optometry where he excelled to the top of his class receiving numerous awards and honors. Wahlmeier practices all facets of pediatric and adult eye care. He is also available for



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Dr. Jeff Morrison performed an eye exam on Linda Goossen of Mingo. Morrison and his partner, Dr. Mark Wahlmeier, moved in to their new clinic, Vision Source of Colby Feb. 11.

sport's vision consultation, helping maximize the sport enthusiasts vision and ability. Wahlmeier and his wife, Amanda, along with sons, Jordan and Peyton, and daughters, Kellyn and Breckyn, enjoy church and community activities, as well as outdoor activities which include camping.

Vision Source of Colby is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Morrison is the primary optometrist for the Colby clinic and Wahlmeier is primary optometrist for a second clinic, Vision Source of Goodland, located at 1002

Broadway in Goodland. Hours for the Goodland clinic are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday Mountain Time, with the doctor seeing patients 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mountain Time each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Phone numbers for the clinics are (785) 462-8231 in Colby and 899-3654 in Goodland.

## Christian musician putting his career into words

By John Van Nostrand  
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Scott Krippayne still gets a kick out of making a crowd dance and have some fun during his concerts. But he does not seem to want to get away from what makes the crowd tick. "My focus has shifted a little bit," he said from his Seattle, Wash., home. "I still love concerts and sharing, but more of my time has been with songwriting." Krippayne plays 6:30 p.m. Monday at Colby High School as part of KGCR Radio's 20th anniversary. Part of his motivation to be a better songwriter is to make his genre of music stand out. He has

been recording since 1995. He has seven records plus a Christmas record. "I don't know what Christian music is anymore," he said. "It's hard to put a label on it." Christian stations, like KGCR in Brewster, play Christian-based bands, but Krippayne said several bands are having success outside of Christian stations and into secular stations. "There are so many bands, like Switchfoot," he said. "Somebody from a different page of faith, or



Krippayne

not even a believer, can get something out of it. It doesn't have to say Jesus in it." Christian music has also reached into other styles of music, from bluegrass to heavy metal, making it available to more people. "Even within Christian, whatever the taste is, you will like something you will find," he said. Krippayne, 37, has surrounded himself in music, at least at where he has lived. Seattle established itself in the late 1980s and early 1990s with the secular, grunge sound. He was also growing up with older siblings who had an interest in music. "I watched him," he said. "I wanted to do what my older brother does." Hearing his brother play Beatles vinyl 45s helped too. "Music is one of those things,

It's hard to plan. I knew I had a love for music by high school. Whether that works out or not, you never know," he said. Krippayne learned piano, which he said is not very popular with the Seattle grunge sound. He chose to listen to piano players like Billy Joel and Elton John instead. In his younger years, Krippayne also attended Young Life, a non-denominational Christian ministry geared toward teens through volunteers, staff, club meetings and camps. Krippayne has been married for nearly 14 years and has two children, age 7 and 9. He said focusing more on songwriting, rather than touring, helps him stay closer to home to not miss the moments his children he knows only come once.

"They have activities in their life and they increase," he said. "I get to be more around it." With vinyl records in his past, Krippayne hopes there is still a viable future for the music industry. The onset of digital music has made music accessible to fans online, but has also hurt the industry because music fans are sharing songs with others, rather than purchasing their own copy. "You're going to see a drop off in sales because of digital music," he said. "That concerns me." "I have friends who just do songwriting. They are losing pennies, but pennies add up." Krippayne said the digital-music age has changed the current generation. "I still purchase music. I'm still a believer in that. The industry in

changing. Music 10 years from now will probably look different. I don't know how it will look. We've lost part of a generation." Krippayne said he hopes what he does through his music will recapture that generation. Opening for Krippayne is New Fire tickets for the show are limited and will be sent out on a first come/first serve basis. Please sign up for your family only rather than large groups. Tickets are free of charge but are required for each individual attending to ensure adequate space. Go to kgcr.org for more information. KGCR will try to send tickets every couple of days but it could be a little longer. Call 888-882-5427 for ticket information. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. No reserved seating.

## Briefly

### Commodities April 7

The U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1:30-2:30 p.m., Monday, April 7, at the RSVP Office in the Senior Progress Center, 175 Fike Park. Those eligible to receive commodities must be in accordance with income guidelines. No other arrangements for pickup will be made. Distribution is on first come-first served basis and may not begin until the advertised time. Participants are asked not to arrive at the site before 1 p.m., said Laura Withington, coordinator. Commodities include beef stew, peas, peaches, pear and cereal. For questions, call 462-6744.

### County meets Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet

at 9 a.m., Monday, in the commissioners' room at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby. Custodians Darrin Bell and Ron Roeder will talk with the Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and Byron Sowers from 9-9:30 a.m. about restrooms and the flagpole at the county office complex on Range Ave. From 9:30-9:45 a.m., Dustin Daniels of Martin Tractor will talk with the commissioners about motor graders. Emergency Management Director Susan

McMahan will discuss hazard mitigation from 10-10:15 a.m., and Emergency Medical Services Director Ken Gatlin will discuss an automated external defibrillator service plan for Ambulance Renewal and Medtronic Batteries from 10:15-10:30 a.m.

### Gaither video cancelled

The Gaither Homecoming Video Concert scheduled for 6 p.m., Sunday, has been cancelled.