



Holiday Homes Tour



Adjusting the ornaments on her decorated mantel, Janice Kreider was preparing for the United Methodist Women's Christmas Homes Tour on Sunday. The Kreider home is at 670 N. Grant Ave.

CYNTHIA HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Four houses decorated for holiday event Sunday

By Marj Brown

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This year's United Methodist Women Christmas Homes Tour is shaping up to be one of the best ever, including two homes built in 1923 that have a lot of history behind them, one built in the 1970s and one that's not really a home at all, but instead, a modern-day carriage house.

Tickets for the tour, from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, can be purchased from any member of the Methodist Women, from the church of-

fice or at Horlacher Jewelry Store in downtown Colby. Adult tickets are \$8 and children from 5 to 12 years will pay \$3 each. Profits from the tour will go to support Methodist missions.

Home owners kind enough to share their Christmas ideas with the public this year include Lon Frahm with his carriage house and pond retreat at 18 Cottonwood Drive, Lynn and Janice Kreider's home at 670 N. Grant Ave., Brian and Tanya Staats' home at 5 Cottonwood Drive and Jim and Judie Withers home at 430 W. Fourth St.

When Lon Frahm was asked, "What is a carriage house?" his reply was, "In the early days, if you had a building separate from your home where you kept your means of transportation, it was called a carriage house. Those houses usually had a living quarters on the second floor where the servants lived. That's sort of what mine is, except I don't have any servants. My upstairs apartment is where my brother and sister stay when they come to visit."

Frahm says the bottom part of the building is a workshop and a place where he stores

his motorcycles and cars. Visitors can enter the upstairs apartment through the gate on the south fence and go through the French doors.

Frahm is also showing his pond retreat on the east side of the pond at the back of his home. That is a small building where he can just sit and relax or read a book and have a cup of coffee.

In the summer, he said, you can enjoy listening to the sound of the fountain in the cen-

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A tropical Christmas tree (above) adorned a youngster's bedroom at Brian and Tanya Staats' home at 5 Cottonwood Drive. Jim and Judie Withers (left) stood outside their decorated front door at 430 W. Fourth St. Both homes will be on display on Sunday.

Briefly

Ladies Association to meet

The Meadow Lake Ladies Association will meet at the Meadow Lake Golf Club for refreshments at 6 p.m. Tuesday, followed by a business meeting at 7 p.m.

Lions plan pancake feed

The High Plains Lions will be holding a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building. A \$4-per-person donation is suggested.

Light Parade will be Sunday

Colby's 11th annual Christmas Light Parade will begin at 5:45 p.m. Sunday at the corner of Second St. and Franklin Ave. and continue to Santa City in Fike Park. Entries should register by Friday by calling the Colby/Thom-

as County Chamber of Commerce at (785) 460-3401 or stopping by the office at 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 10.

Women's League offers brunch

The Colby Women's League will hold its annual holiday brunch from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Donations will go to support the Thomas County Historical Society and the High Plains Museum. For information or questions, call Sandy Harper, 462-3759, or any league members.

Extension plans Holiday Harvest

The seventh Annual Harvest of Holidays program, sponsored by the Thomas County Extension Service, will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the

Community Building. Extension agents will offer tips on using jams and jellies to flavor meats, how to take time out to pamper yourself during the holidays and whether the latest gizmos and gadgets are worth the trouble and cost. Admission is \$5. For information, call the extension office at (785) 460-4582.

Kids can shop at workshop

Children from preschool through fourth grade are invited to shop at Santa's Workshop from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Pioneer Memorial Library Conference Room at 375 W. Fourth St. Elves will help the children pick out up to four gifts. A \$4-per-gift donation is requested. The project is organized by the Thomas County Community Foundation and all donations will go to charity.

Churches plan advent programs

The Thomas County Ministerial Association is spon-

soring a weekly program, "Soup and Scripture," each Wednesday in December for Advent, when Christians prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. The sessions will begin at the First Baptist Church on Wednesday, with the theme of "Be Enlightened!" On Dec. 10, the program will be at the First Presbyterian Church with the theme "Get Ready." On Dec. 17, it will be at Trinity Lutheran Church for "Wait and See."

College concert Thursday night

The Colby Community College vocal music department will hold its Winter Vocal Concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center in the southeast corner of the campus. The free concert will feature the concert choir, Sunflower Singers, soloists and ensembles directed by Dr. Phillip Shuman. For information, call Public Information Director Debbie Schwanke at (785) 460-5411.

E-waste center to open

Public can recycle old computers

By Cynthia Haynes

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After months of planning and preparation, Colby's e-waste recycling center plans to open on Wednesday.

The center, at 1190 S. Country Club Drive, will be open one day a week, each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, it'll be open holiday hours of 9 a.m. to noon.

Since there will probably be lots of people who want to get rid of old equipment at first, said co-ordinator Lynette Koon, the center needs volunteer help for the first few months to help speed up the process. Call Koon at (785) 460-1840 if you're interested.

The Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization and the state Department of Health and Environment have joined to provide the e-waste recycling service free to households, government offices and schools. Businesses and other groups will have to pay, Koon said.

Fees will be \$5 per computer monitor, \$10 per television, \$2 per microwave or 10 cents per pound up to a maximum of \$20 per item for anything else. Fees could change if the agency taking the items raises its charges.

Every recycler, free or paid, will have to fill out some paperwork, which will list their name, address, phone number and items being re-

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County drops rule on supplies

The Thomas County commissioners decided Wednesday to rescind a previous motion that put a \$300 cap on how much departments could buy each year through the central purchasing fund.

There now will be no limit to the amount departments can get from the fund, said County Clerk Shelly Harms.

Once every year, the departments can ask for supplies from the central purchasing fund, and the clerk places one large order to get the best price. Departments use this for office supplies, assistant Deputy Clerk Kristie Mann said. The county allotted \$21,000 for the fund this year.

County Appraiser Mary R. Cech has asked the commissioners to sign a contract approving an agreement between the appraisal department and R&S Digital Services to add an extra "ownership layer" to the department's 911 record system. Commissioners took no action.

"The extra layer would tell who owns which house, who owns which land, and who owns which lot," Cech said.