

Colby keeps busy with classes, arts and more

Will the Groundhog see his shadow? Regardless, we are fairly sure we will still have several more weeks of winter and the opportunity for more sports and indoor activities.

It is the travel show season. It was a wonderful show in Denver with huge crowds – after the very cold weather, people were ready to get out.

We will be attending the Wichita Sports and Travel Show, Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 18 to 21. Other members of the Northwest Kansas Travel Council will be working the Omaha show. The Travel Industry Association of Kansas is having Legislative Day in Topeka Tuesday, Feb. 16. We will be hearing from several agencies on how the budget cuts are affecting their programs. The following day will be the association board meeting.

It has been a very interesting journey to date with our 14 Thomas County high school students in the 2010 Student Leadership Thomas County program. It was necessary to cancel the first session scheduled due to the weather. We have had three sessions in the last three weeks and will have the final session Wednesday at Colby Community College.

The first session was Jan. 13, at Holiday Inn Express, and was our opening retreat where we began to know one another and began some introspection. Jan. 20 was the second session, at Colby Fire Department, where we began working on capacities and further team building. The Jan. 27 session was at Sunflower Bank where we finished our capacities so we can have our teach-back at the final session. This is a great bunch of youth and we are having a great time working with them.

There are plenty of activities in Colby during February. Western Plains Arts Association brings us No. 1 Hits of the 60s from Branson at 7:30 p.m. next Monday in the High School auditorium. The



Leilani Thomas

• On the Road Again!

Northwest Kansas League Junior High Music Festival will be at Colby Community College Wednesday, Feb. 10. Pride of the Prairie Orchestra presents its T-Shirt and Jeans Concert at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, at the Cultural Arts Center. The first event of the Chautauqua series will be Sunday, Feb. 21, at Pioneer Memorial Library.

Thomas County Extension Office is having several Master Gardener training sessions during February. “Basic Botany and Fruit Gardening” is scheduled for Tuesday. “Soils, Water, Fertilizers and Compost” and a second session called “Pesticides, Fertilizers and Wildlife” are both scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 9. Tuesday, Feb. 16, brings “Vegetable Gardening and Turf Management,” and Tuesday, Feb. 23, sessions are “Woody Plants” and “Landscape Design.” All sessions are at the 4-H Building. Please call the Extension Office for reservations and information.

Special February activities include the *Booked for Lunch* book review that will be held Tuesday at Pioneer Memorial Library. The Book Lovers Book Sale will be held Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 11 to 13, at the library.

Colby Community College’s Baseball Try-athlon will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Colby Bowl. The Try-athlon events include bowling, shooting pool and throwing darts. Call Ryan Carter at the college, 460-5447, for information.

The Diplomat Ladies Luncheon will be Wednesday, Feb. 10, at Colby Methodist Church. The theme is “Spirit of Fashion through the decades.” It promises to be great fun.

The Bill Voss Novice Wrestling Tourney will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at Colby High School.

Sacred Heart School Carnival will be Sunday, Feb. 28.

The Chautauqua theme is “Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties.” The film “Grapes of Wrath” will be shown with a discussion following with scholar Jane Holwerda. This is a free event beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, at the library.

There is also a Family Fun Circus coming Saturday, Feb. 13. Performances will be at 4:30 and 7 p.m. at the 4-H building.

Food for Thought speaker this month at Prairie Museum of Art and History is Evelyn Hoyt Ward discussing “Famous Visitors to Western Kansas.” If you have not yet seen the traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main

Street called “Journey Stories,” don’t delay. It is currently on exhibit at the museum, along with the companion exhibit called “High Plains Journey Stories” completed by our local museum staff. The final day for the exhibit is Sunday, Feb. 21, so don’t delay. This exhibit is one of the many events of the 125th Birthday of Thomas County. If you are interested in helping with the 125th or serving on the Chautauqua committee, please give us a call at the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643 or the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401.

High school and college basketball and wrestling is plentiful during February. Soup supper fund raisers will be held before most basketball games. Although February is a short month, there are many activities to keep us busy. Do support all that you can!

Leilani Thomas is director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, a long-time civic volunteer and a passionate observer of the tourism industry.

Growers to be honored at banquet

Woofter Construction will sponsor a free Tri-State Growers Appreciation Banquet Thursday, Feb. 25, followed by a seminar by John Roach of Roach Ag at the City Limits Convention Center.

Area farmers will recognize John Roach from the television show Market to Market, and his recent article in the November issue of *Successful Farming*.

Roach Ag, he says, is an inde-

pendent consulting and commodity brokerage company working with over 10,000 agribusiness customers in 32 states and two foreign countries. The firm integrates crop-insurance revenue products with popular cash grain-selling strategies developed in his *Daily*

Grain Marketing Plan e-newsletter. He composes and e-mails this publication each morning to a growing list of farmers.

Farmers who would like to be included in the invitation list should call Woofter at (800) 279-4850 and ask for Shannon.

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