



Showing off for the judge



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
Seth Bredemeier posed his dog Zena, a Welsh Corgi, for a judge at the Thomas County 4-H Spring Dog Show on Sunday at Heartland Christian School. Bredemeier and Zena competed in both showmanship and obedience.

Conference on aging here
draws 70-80 people to seminar

By Vera Sloan
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More than 70 people from northwest Kansas came to Colby Friday for a conference on aging at the First United Methodist Church. Extension offices in 28 counties and representatives of the Northwest Area Agency on Aging presented workshops for nursing home workers, anyone who works with seniors, and families who care for their elderly, with infor-

mation ranging from the law to vitamins. Keynote speaker at noon was Dr. Tana Goering, a Kansas State Network television personality. She discussed how to determine when it is time to take someone to the doctor, when a pain is not just a pain and how to manage pain. She included information that should be taken along when going to see a doctor. Area presenters were Mike Larmer, pharmacist at Palace Drug, and Tina Harris of Tina Harris Physical Therapy. Larmer

talked about interactions of multiple medications and Harris demonstrated exercises for strength, flexibility, posture and balance. Connie Bretz, Lane County extension agent and a Kansas senior health insurance counselor, said many seniors who qualify for extra help but don't know it's available. All kinds of help is available out there, she said, help with drug prescriptions, Medicare Part D payments, and even free help with choosing and comparing drug in-

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Budget a top priority for lawmakers

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Some Kansas lawmakers believe they'll have to increase taxes to balance the state budget when the Legislature reconvenes this week to wrap up business for the year, but at least one key Republican believes tax-hike advocates have lost their momentum. The state doesn't yet have an operating budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, which means Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson and the Republican-controlled Legislature must settle tax and spending issues soon. Legislators must decide whether they'll increase taxes and, if so, by how much. State officials and

economists project a \$510 million shortfall between anticipated revenues and current spending commitments. The state Constitution prohibits a budget deficit. The decisions will determine whether residents pay more for groceries, cigarettes and liquor, and perhaps lose more of their paychecks to taxes. The plans also will determine if social services are reduced and schools cut back their programs. Lawmakers return Wednesday from their annual spring break, and unlike most years, the wrap-up could last more than two weeks. Views differ on the likelihood of a tax increase. "The majority has the will to do some revenue en-

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Briefly

Scouts looking for faded Glory
Bring your tattered, torn and faded Old Glory to the Pioneer Memorial Library through Friday. As part of its U.S. flag disposal drive, Colby Girl Scout Troop 165 reminds everyone that flags should be disposed of if they are torn, dirty, no longer rectangular, faded or in general disrepair. For information, call Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer at 460-3298.

Venture Scouts to take out trash
Venture Scout Crew 157 will be collecting e-waste — unwanted electronic equipment, computers and the like — on Wednesday for anyone who is disabled and needs help. For information, call Jan Barnum at 462-6503.

Senior center to hold fund raiser
The Senior Progress Center will have a potato bar, bake sale and coin raffle fund raiser from 5 to 6:30

p.m. Thursday at the center. For information, call Director Kaila DeBoer at 460-2901.

College to show off horses
The Colby Community College Horse Unit will hold an open house from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the college farm, on County Road 23, three miles east and one mile north of Colby. Enjoy tours, hay rides, horse exhibitions and refreshments. For information, call the program office at 460-5464.

Heartland program Thursday
Heartland Christian School will have its spring music program at 7 p.m. Thursday in the school gym, featuring its bands and choirs. For information, call the school at 460-6419.

College offers spring concerts
The Spring Vocal Music Concert will begin at

Future governor
talks economy here

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U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, the leading candidate for governor, stopped in Colby on Saturday for a private fund raiser at the Colby Ag Center. Brownback, on a day-long tour of northwest Kansas, said he'd gotten some good ideas. He had six events that day, in Hays, Stockton, Oberlin, Norton, Philipsburg and Colby. "You can't beat going around the state and talking to people," the three-term said. Economic issues are at the top of the list of things people care about right now, he said. Brownback predicted that the U.S. is moving toward a European style of government, with high tax rates and big budgets. "I don't think Europe has worked that well," he added. The latest budget from the Obama Administration, he said, was 23 to 25 percent of the gross national product. Brownback said he thinks of 18 percent as normal. "Anything below that is good," he said. Brownback said the budget ran under 18 percent at times during the Bush Administration, but hasn't

been that low for many years. If Republicans win the next two elections, he said, they should try to reduce that budget and the deficit, which has grown to more than \$12 trillion. "You can't run that level of deficit for a long period of time," he said. As a candidate for governor, Brownback said, he has been looking at the state budget. Rather than favoring a tax increase or further budget cuts, Brownback advocates long-term population growth as a way out the current budget crisis. "You can't tax or cut your way out of the problems we're in," he said. To increase growth, Brownback said he would keep tax rates down and the business regulatory structure open. A good example, he said, is to compare California, which has higher taxes and more regulations, and Texas, which has lower taxes and fewer regulations. California is steadily losing population while Texas is gaining, he noted. Kansas, he said, is one of the higher-tax states in this region and has tighter regulations than many around it. "I don't think we've been growth-oriented," he said. "We have net in migration from California and

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Colby High students
taking speech acts to state

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Eighteen Colby High School students and a team's worth of alternates will head to Washburn Rural High School in Topeka on Saturday for the Class 4A state Forensics Championships. Sophomore Christina Ostmeyer said the team had gone from qualifying just seven students several years ago to 32 this year. Teams are only allowed to bring 16 entries to compete (teams in the duet competitions count as one) to state, and since so many qualified, everyone had to try out. Those who didn't make the team will be the alternates. "There will be hundreds of students there," she said. "4A is the largest and most competitive class." Freshman Cameron McLaughlin said she enjoys going to competition outside of northwest Kansas because the team gets to compete against larger schools. "You already know who is competitive out here," she said. "There, you don't know what to expect."

The team members will be up before judges who have never heard them perform as well. Sophomore Michael Tubbs said that can be an advantage and a disadvantage. "After they've heard you once, if you have a 'wow' factor, that might be gone," he said. Ostmeyer said she qualified in three events, but will only be competing in poetry and improvised duet. For poetry, she will have to read a published poem in under seven minutes. Poetry contestants are not allowed to move, she said, and much of the performance is facial expression and vocal inflection. For her poem, Ostmeyer chose



DONNA HENRY/Colby High School
Sophomore Christina Ostmeyer (left) and freshman Cameron McLaughlin rehearsed their improvised duet performance during their 30-minute window at the Quinter forensics meet. The girls will be taking their act to the state Class 4A Forensics Championships on Saturday in Topeka.

"Self Evident" by Ani DiFranco. "I connected to it," she said. "I'm a big fan of how she writes." Ostmeyer and McLaughlin will team up for the improvised duet competition. McLaughlin said the two students will randomly draw two characters, one location and one situation. They then have 30 minutes to develop a plot and act

it out in front of the judges. Ostmeyer said at one competition they drew a cheerleader and a plastic surgeon at a human shrinking facility. "You have to make it make sense and make it funny at the same time," she said. "It's my fa-

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7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College, featuring the Sunflower Singers and Concert Choir. The Spring Band Concert will be Tuesday, May 4, same time and place. Admission is free.

Band taking garage sale items
The Colby High marching band plans a garage sale Saturday to raise money for its trip to Washington. The students will be marching in the National Independence Day Parade. Band members will pick up items for the sale. Call director Joey Nichols at 460-5300.

Couples dance coming up May 1
The next singles dance will be a free event from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Colby American Legion Hall. For information, call Lue Duffey, (785) 855-2341.

Business to donate earnings
The first Saturday of every month, the Loft, upstairs at the Oasis Travel Center, will be donating 20 percent of its proceeds to one fund at the Thomas County Community Foundation. Proceeds on Saturday will go to the Food for Kids fund. For information, call the foundation at 460-9152.

Orchestra to finish its season
The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra is tuning up for its last concert of the season at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2, at the Frahm Theater at Colby Community College. Buy tickets at the door for \$7 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors. For information, call Carol McGuire at (785) 672-2380.