

Sports, 125th celebration make October a busy month

Fall, football and volleyball are definitely here! We have many activities for you this month.

The big event for October is the Thomas County 125th Birthday Grand Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Community Building. Activities include a beard and bonnet or hat contest, music, a historical revue, a historical video and of course, birthday cake following a free barbecue.

Everything is free; just come between 9 and 10 a.m. and pick up your heritage name tag and a free ticket for lunch and sit back ready to celebrate. A quilt show at the museum also is part of this momentous celebration.

If you have period clothing, you are encouraged to wear it, but if you don't, it certainly is not necessary.

Several other large events will take place during this month. Robyn O'Brien will speak at the *Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series* at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center.

O'Brien is a food analyst and author of "The Unhealthy Truth: How Our Food is Making Us Sick and What We Can Do About It." Her talk is titled "You Eat, Right?"

The 13th Annual Sacred Heart Parish Auction and Dinner will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at City Limits Convention Center.

The Taste of Hope wine tasting will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17, at City Limits Convention Center. This will be a come-and-



Leilani Thomas

• On the Road Again!

go event; tickets are available at People's State Bank, HomeLand Realty and Auction, Donelan Jewelry and S&T Telephone. The Northwest Kansas Hope Association is the sponsor.

The final event is the Western Plains Arts Association presentation of the Golden Dragon Acrobats at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, at Colby High School. They promise a variety show of amazing acrobatic feats.

October 31 is also Halloween, of course. Pioneer Memorial Library plans its Spooktacular Book Sale at the library Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 28-30.

The Colby Recreation Department plans a Trick and Treats and Pumpkin Carving night Thursday, Oct. 21, at the Community Building for kids 5 and up.

Everyone needs to be especially careful when driving Halloween night. Please watch for the trick or treaters.

Sporting activities this month include college baseball and volleyball, and high school football, volleyball, tennis and golf. Special events include the Colby Community Equestrian Team's horse show, at the college farm Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 16 and 17.

Saturday, Oct. 30, will be the Daniel Cormier Wrestling Open at the Community Building at 9 a.m. The college plans a softball tournament Saturday and Sunday.

A couple of musical performances are scheduled for this month. The fifth-grade music program will be at 2 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Grade School Auditorium. The District Concert for grades two through 12 will be at the Community Building at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25.

There are many conferences planned during October, including the Kansas Tourism Conference which we will be attending Oct. 10-13 in Kansas City. We are pleased to host the Kansas Quilters Association conference here in Colby from Friday to Sunday, Oct. 15 to 17, and the Methodist Women's District Conference on Saturday, Oct. 16.

It's a busy month and promises to be even busier with harvest, the changing colors and the many activities. We encourage you to take advantage of as many as you are able.

Fall is always a great time to be in Colby ... The Oasis on the Plains!

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



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press
Jeff Bauman (left), Jerry Heim and Jesse Bauman accepted an award from Varco Pruden Buildings for the Colby Ag Center. Varco Pruden inducted the Bauman's company, QMC of Quinter, into their national hall of fame for their construction and design work on the Colby Ag building.

Contractors award reflected by building owners' appreciation

Jerry Heim, and Larry Ummel, owners of Colby Ag Center, the Case I-H farm machinery and Kawasaki motorcycle dealership, say they are more than pleased with their new building and location, and they're not the only ones.

Because the building looks good and the design is practical and efficient, QMC Inc. of Quinter, the contractors for the facility, got a national award for the structure at 305 East Horton Ave. in Colby. Varco Pruden Buildings, a steel construction component manufacturing company out of Memphis, Tenn., inducted QMC into their 2010 Hall of Fame in August for their work on Colby Ag Center. The 36,000-square-foot building was also designed by Jeff and Jim Bauman of QMC.

After a year at the new location, Heim said the

dealership is almost settled in.

"We moved a year ago in August between the summer and fall crops harvest," Heim said, "and we just about have everything in the spot where we want it to be. When you move a parts department, there's a lot of stuff to find a spot for."

Heim said the decision to build was in the "thinking" stages for two years, before the final decision to build was made.

"We're not a green building," he noted, "but we are geared towards being energy efficient."

Ummel who fills the job of parts manager and has been part owner of the business for the past 10 years said everyone is "super happy" with the new building and that it is very functional.

Colorful harvests in containers may not taste as good as expected

Gardeners may get a surprise when they dump out their container-grown annuals in preparation for this fall's frosty weather.

Over the past decade, ornamental sweet potato vines have gained increasing popularity as an element that can bring dramatic contrast to an annual-plant grouping.

Most often, the vines come in shades of chartreuse or a dark purple-blue. They're lush with leaves. And, they're as graceful in draping from window boxes as they are when trailing from patio pots.

"These varieties are ornamental in that they've

been bred and selected for their vines' color and growing habits. Nonetheless, when you uproot them in fall, you're likely to find they're also quite capable of producing sweet potatoes," said Ward Upham, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Because they're the real thing, those sweet potatoes are edible, Upham noted.

"Since the varieties weren't bred or selected for their fruit, however, you'll be taking your chances if you decide to find out how good they taste," he said.

Candidate forum to air Tuesday

Smoky Hills Public is providing a chance for voters to get to know the candidates for the upcoming election.

The Big 1st Congressional Candidate Forum airs at 8 p.m. Tuesday and again at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27. Alan Jilka

(D), Salina, and Tim Huelskamp (R), Fowler, the two candidates vying to represent the "Big 1st" Congressional District squared off in a forum at Albert Taylor Hall in Plumb Hall at Emporia State University that was taped Monday, Sept. 27. Dr. Stephen Catt mod-

erates. *Kansas Candidates* is a Smoky Hills Public Television production that airs at 9 p.m. Thursdays and is rebroadcast at 5 p.m. Sundays.

Shows will also be available online at www.smokyhillstv.org.

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