



10 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Friday

January 28, 2011
Volume 122, Number 16
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Governor's agency plan moves ahead

By Kevin Bottrell
Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkanas.com

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback wasted little time fulfilling his transition promises to consolidate state agencies.

In the past week, Brownback has issued three orders to restructure agencies, and more are likely to come. In his State of the State address, Brownback outlined a plan to eliminate eight state agencies, all part of the plan to reduce the state budget deficit.

One of the bigger changes is a rename and partial repurpose for one of the state's larger agencies. If the legislature approves Executive Reorganization Order No. 36, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will be renamed the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

The order moves the Division of Travel and Tourism from the Commerce Department to Wildlife and Parks. Brownback described the move as creating an economic opportunity, combining the efforts of two agencies that have the same goal: bringing more people into the state to view the natural and man-made tourist attractions.

Order 34 gets rid of the Kansas Parole Board, merging it with the department of corrections. The department will now have a "Prisoner Review Board," made up of three department employees appointed by the secretary of corrections. According to the order, the new board has all the same powers as the old one. Brownback said the move would save \$496,000.

Order 35 transfers the Commission on Disability Concerns from

See "PLAN," Page 3

State's birthday a low-key affair

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas' celebration of its 150th birthday officially began this week, but it might be hard for many people to notice. Trying budget times have forced the state to celebrate its sesquicentennial with no state funding, no central organization and little marketing to draw attention to the milestone.

Instead, after a couple of brief ceremonies this week, most of the celebration throughout the year will involve varied events across the state organized by private citizens.

"Because of the hard times and

cutbacks, we're taking a different approach — sort of a Kansas, grassroots approach," said Mary Madden of the state historical society, who doubles as Kansas 150 coordinator.

A website, KS150.kansas.gov., is open for anyone who wants to post information about their birthday celebration. Also, because the Kansas 150 sunflower-themed logo isn't licensed, anyone who thinks it might help promote an event is welcome to use it. Some 200 events, including lectures, film

See "BIRTHDAY," Page 3

Forensics squad ready for Saturday

By Katrina Griggs
Golden Plains High School

The 2011 forensics season begins this Saturday with a meet in Hill City, and the Golden Plains teams has been hard at work practicing their pieces.

There are nine students on the team this season. Cathy Broeckelman came back to Golden Plains for her second year as coach.

Senior David Hunt is working on humorous solo acting and an informative speech. In a humorous solo, the performer can act as one or more characters in a scene. He or she is judged on how well they portray the moods, emotions and movement of their characters. An informative speech is memorized and meant to present information, rather than persuade an audience. Speakers have seven minutes and

are not allowed any visual aids.

Three pairs are preparing duet acts; sophomore Andrew Luna and junior Kalyn Weber, freshmen Caitlin Sprester and Tiffani Hapke and seniors Avery Sprester and Randi Cressler. Duo acts are allowed a table and chairs. Their performance can be funny or serious.

Freshman Marshall Clapp will be doing a poetry piece. For poetry, students are judged on their delivery, but the piece is read from a manuscript, rather than memorized.

The Golden Plains team will have six other meets this season: Feb. 2 at Dighton; Feb. 12 at Norton; March 22 at Oakley; March 26 at Colby; a league meet April 6 at Dighton; and regionals on April 16 at Quinter.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby first graders celebrate Kansas Day

Colby first graders Corey Hughes (above) and Bradley Buhl got a turn grinding wheat in their class' Kansas Day celebration this morning. The students have been learning about state symbols, such as the seal, the state flag and the Jayhawk. Sami Hoeme and Kelly Shull (right) examined their work book, which had information on the wheat, buffalo and sunflowers. Teacher Julie Ross lead the students (below) in songs like "My Home is Kansas," and "Home on the Range." Ross said parent volunteers were to come in during the afternoon class to teach the students how bread is made from flour and help them churn their own butter.



Briefly

Baseball sign-up is Feb. 6

American Legion Baseball will have a sign-up day at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, upstairs at the Colby Community Building for eligible players aged 16 to 19. Coach Jeff Krzycki said all interested players must sign up at the meeting. For information, call Krzycki at 443-2542.

Senior group offering tax help

The American Association of Retired Persons will offer tax preparation help for low and middle income taxpayers — with preference to those 60 or older — by appointment from early February to April 15. For information or to set up an appointment, call Earle Rice at 462-2990.

Church to hold talks on marriage

The Colby Independent Baptist Church will hold a free marriage and family conference Sunday, Feb.

6, to Wednesday, Feb. 9, at the church. Lectures will be at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday; and at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Dr. Bob Bliss from Colorado Springs will speak about biblical principles for successful marriage, family and home life. The conference is open to the public. For information, call Pastor Bernard Heinz at 460-0313.

Wesleyan offers regular study

Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a weekly ladies' Bible study, "Discerning the Voice of God," by Priscilla Shirer, each Wednesday beginning Feb. 9. Two sessions are available, 9 to 11 a.m. at the church, 320 W. Pine, and 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The six-week study is designed to help participants know the voice of God: his language, character and tone. For information or to register, call Joy Rothfuss at 462-8391 or e-mail at wesleyan@st-tel.net.

Orchestra plans concert Feb. 13

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra, made up of musicians from the tri-state area, will perform at at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, in the Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College. Jan Wolf will conduct the concert, featuring selections from "The Moldau," "Dances With Wolves," "Finlandia," Brahms' "Concerto in A Minor for Two Violins" — with soloists Kendra and Josiah Akers — and more. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children and senior citizens. Punch and cookies will be served at intermission. For information, call President Mary Shoaff at 462-2159 or e-mail comments@prairieorchestra.com.

Mingo, school plan conference

The Mingo Bible Church and Heartland Christian School will hold a "New Love and Respect" video marriage conference from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, and from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb.

13, at the school. The conference is open to singles, dating couples and married couples. Cost is \$15 per person through Monday, Feb. 7, and \$20 after that. For information, call the school at 460-6419.

Oakley Chamber plans banquet

The Oakley Area Chamber of Commerce will have its annual banquet and meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the Logan County 4-H building, on the corner of Second Street and Kahler Avenue. Former National Football League player Steve Tasker will speak. Tickets are \$15 in advance. For information, call Jodie Wright at (785) 672-4862.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 8 3