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Colby to hold tech seminars for teachers

By Tomi Miller
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Colby High School will hold the iConnect iLearn 2011 Conference – a series of technology workshops for teachers – next Thursday and Friday, June 10.

Following this, on Monday and Tuesday, June 13 and 14, the Prairie Hills Middle School in Hutchinson will play host to the other half of the program.

“Every year we keep the concept the same but the technology and theme changes from year to year,” Miran Krannawitter, conference coordinator, said.

The conference began four years

ago based on a grant obtained by the Colby district to integrate technology throughout the curriculum. Usually, teachers from about ten different school districts attend, and the conference is a great way to unify the schools, said Teresa Morgan, conference organizer. The first two days of the conference are always held in Colby, she said, and other towns approach the organizers here to see about holding the other two days of the conference in their town.

“It was primarily designed for educators who want to make an impact on their students,” Morgan said.

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Forensics team goes to capitol

Despite having their first flight cancelled due to weather, the Colby High School forensics team made it to Washington D.C. on Friday to compete in the National Catholic Forensic League’s Grand National Tournament.

Nine students from Colby went up against more than 2,700 from around the country. Coach Nancy Rundel said that while none of the Eagles placed high enough to advance out of the preliminary rounds on Saturday, they got better placings than in previous years.

Shelby Terrell placed 49th out

of 183 competitors in dramatic performance. She missed advancing to the out-rounds by 9 points.

Cameron McClaughlin, 78th out of 183 in dramatic performance, missed out-rounds by 13 points.

Victoria Rall, 153rd out of 170 in oral declamation.

Christina Ostmeyer and Madison Tubbs, 17th out of 161 in duo interpretation of literature, missed out-rounds by 4 points.

Michael Tubbs, 107 out of 171 in extemporaneous speaking.

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Town needs help in tornado recovery

READING (AP) – People in the central Kansas town of Reading have been overwhelmed by donations of clothing and other material since an EF3 tornado destroyed dozens of buildings the night of May 21.

And while they want everyone to know they’re grateful, officials say what they really need now are people willing to lend a hand – or donate money.

About 90 people in the Lyon County town were left homeless

by the twister, which also killed one person.

KWCH-TV reports the teams of volunteers have thinned out, while piles of donations keep growing in the Reading school.

County emergency manager Rick Frevert says the donated goods are starting to become an issue. Some will probably be donated to another disaster area.

But anyone willing to volunteer with cleanup and rebuilding is welcome.



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

Larry Booth played his blend of bluegrass, folk and blues music at this year’s opening Picnic in the Park on Wednesday in

Fike Park. Next week’s entertainment will be a part of the local band Pieces of 8.

Picnic in the Park begins season

By Christina Beringer
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This summer’s Picnic in the Park series started off Wednesday with long-time performer Larry Booth.

Booth plays country blues and ballads and has been entertaining audiences at Picnic in the Park since it began in the mid-1980s.

Picnic in the Park is every Wednesday in June and July at Fike Park. Residents and visitors are encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy live performances by local singers and musicians.

The picnics have been co-sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau since the early 1990s. It was originally sponsored by Bankwest.

Larry Booth usually kicks off the new season with his folk music. This year, Pieces of Pieces of 8 will go next on June 8. Bobbi Barton will perform on June 15 with Hi-Plains Co-op sponsoring a hot dog feed to benefit the Kiwanis Fourth of July fireworks display. Monica and Karla Bugbee will be featured on June 22 and Shannon Myers on June 29.

The Wagoner Family will per-



City Manager Carolyn Armstrong signed Colby families up to get free energy-efficient light bulbs at the picnic as part of the Take Charge Challenge.

form July 6; Sappa Strings, July 13; and Prairie Rose, July 20. Larry and Taylor McLemore will perform at the final Picnic in the

Park on July 27.

Not only was there entertainment at the first Picnic in the Park, but City Manager Carolyn Armstrong was also giving away free compact florescent light bulbs and gaining support for the city-wide Take Charge Challenge.

The challenge is sponsored by the Climate and Energy Project and the Kansas Energy Office. The City of Colby can spend a \$25,000 grant to promote energy efficiency. This money is provided by the program sponsors and has so far made it possible for the city to purchase the light bulbs that residents can get for free.

Colby is in competition with Goodland, Hoxie, Oakley and WaKeeney to save the most energy and the city with the most support by September will be awarded \$100,000 to be used for an energy efficiency project.

A city representative will be at each of the Picnic in the Park events to share information about the challenge and give away light bulbs. Residents can sign up to receive a new light bulb at each picnic and each person in attendance is counted toward the city’s overall score. The city scores points when residents

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Representatives’ effort to overturn arts budget veto falls flat

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) – An effort by some Kansas legislators to save state funding for the arts failed Wednesday when the House rejected an attempt to override Gov. Sam Brownback’s veto of the entire budget for the Kansas Arts Commission.

The override attempt won a slight majority of the vote, 50-44, but to succeed needed a two-thirds majority of the entire

chamber, or 84 of 125 votes.

As many as 31 House members were absent, but that’s not unusual for the day that the Legislature reserves for its formal adjournment ceremony. More often than not, legislators don’t conduct any substantial business during brief House and Senate sessions.

Brownback’s veto generated bipartisan opposition and brought criticism from national arts groups because it made Kansas the first state in the nation to eliminate

funding for the arts.

“It’s made us a laughingstock of the nation in terms of support for the arts,” Rep. Ann Mah, a Topeka Democrat, said after the vote. “This is not the kind of movement we want to be a leader in. It’s kind of like daylight savings time, only you move the clock back 100 years.”

Brownback said Tuesday that Kansas is starting “a good trend,” in which government focuses on its core responsibilities such as schools, social services and public

safety, and he predicted other states will follow Kansas’ lead. His office declined to comment after Wednesday’s vote.

Rep. Peggy Mast, an Emporia Republican serving on the House Appropriations Committee, said Brownback’s actions are examples of the state setting priorities with its tax dollars. She cited education and social services as pressing needs and noted the state will play a limited role in helping the small town of Reading in her district recover from a tornado last month

that did extensive damage and killed one person.

“We take care of the greatest needs first,” said Mast, who voted against overriding the veto. “How can we focus on things that are an enhancement to individuals’ lives rather than things that we consider to be necessities?”

Even with the attempt to override Brownback’s veto, both chambers met for

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Briefly

Museum puts up student art

The Prairie Museum of Art and History is exhibiting artwork created by Thomas County students throughout June. The exhibit includes work by students from Colby High, Middle and Grade Schools, Brewster High School, Heartland Christian School and Sacred Heart School. There is no admission fee to view this exhibit. For information, call Programming and Education Director Ann Miner at 460-4590.

Sign up Thursday for junior golf

Registration for Colby Junior Golf will be at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at Meadow Lake Golf Course. Practices will be from 10 to 11 a.m. every Thursday. Junior golf is open to youth ages 7 to 17. Cost is \$15 for Meadow Lake members and \$65 for non-members. For information, call Sara Betz at 269-7394.

Singles dance is Saturday

There will be a singles and couples dance from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at Meadow Lake Golf Club. Granny Z will be the guest musician. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

Baseball team to hold day camp

The Colby High School baseball team is holding a youth camp fund raiser from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Recreation Fields. The camp will teach hitting, pitching, base running and defense. The cost is \$30, with proceeds going to the baseball team. For information, call 462-8342.

Bible school to visit ‘Big Apple’

The Colby Berean Church will hold a Vacation Bible School for kids age 4 to seventh grade from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday to next Thursday at the church.

This year’s theme will be “Big Apple Adventure.” For information, call 460-2862.

Improve your pitching Tuesday

The Colby Recreation Department is offering pitching clinics from 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday mornings throughout the summer beginning Tuesday. Clinics will be taught by Colby Community College staff and baseball team members. Cost is \$30 per player. For information or to register, call the department at 460-4440.

Wesleyan Church offers day camp

Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a free summer day camp for children ages 4 to 12 called “Tuesdays @ 10” from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday, June 7 to July 26, at the church, 320 W. Pine. Children will participate in object lessons, stories and crafts.

Lunch will be provided. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.

Lutherans plan Bible school

Trinity Lutheran Church will hold a Vacation Bible School from 9:15 a.m. to noon Tuesday to Friday, June 10, at the church. The school is open to kids age 3 to fifth grade. This year’s theme is “Big Jungle Adventure: a Faith Journey With Jesus.” For information, call the church at 462-3497.

