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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Tasty treats mark last cooking class

Colby kids made popcorn balls and hot chocolate at the year's final Kids-a-Cookin' program on Thursday at the Colby Community Building. The free class, for kids in third through fifth grade, is run by the Thomas County Extension Office and the Colby Recreation Department. The class will start up again on Jan. 19 and continue Feb. 16, March 15 and April 19.



Man sentenced to prison for wreck

By Tom Betz

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A little more than 13 months after a head-on accident killed a Goodland School Board member, the young man driving the other vehicle was sentenced Wednesday in Sherman County District Court to 41 months in prison. Chief Judge Glenn D. Schiffner of Colby presided over the sentencing hearing for Anthony Vincent Urban, 19, who had plead guilty in April to the charge of involuntary manslaughter under the influence of alcohol in the accident on Sept. 21, 2010, that killed Andrew House, Sherman County farmer and Goodland School Board member on County Road 65 west of Goodland.

Judge Schiffner reviewed the guilty plea with Urban and asked again if he understood what he was doing by pleading guilty. Urban said he understood.

Bonnie Selby and Brock Abbey represented the state and Justin Barrett of Colby and Leonard Chesler from Denver represented Urban.

Schiffner asked Selby about the pre-sentencing report done by Kathy Russell of the court service office.

Selby said he had reviewed the report and two changes needed to be made to the report. One was that the defendant was brought to Sherman County on Sept. 2, and that would give him 75 days credit for time served. Second was a change in the amount of restitution. The amount had been reduced because the cost of the funeral has been reimbursed separately, and the family is not claiming another amount.

Attorney Barrett said he had reviewed the report and had no objections to the modifications.

Selby said the state has agreed to stand mute for the proceedings. Schiffner said the defendant had filed a motion for downgrade of the sentence. Barrett said the motion had been filed on behalf of the defendant.

After the sentencing Selby said she had not seen the motion until that morning, but had agreed not to say anything during the hearing. Schiffner asked Barrett if he wanted that motion heard, and to call any witness he had.

See "ACCIDENT," Page 2

Phone scam targeting grandparents

By Kevin Bottrell

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Colby resident Donna Schielke might have been panicked when her granddaughter called to say she was in trouble, except Schielke doesn't have a granddaughter.

The call was a scam. The person on the other end claiming to be Schielke's granddaughter, who said she had laryngitis to explain why her voice sounded different, asked for money.

"I don't have a granddaughter, so I knew immediately," she said.

The scammer didn't get any money out of Schielke, but she said she worries about unsuspecting grandparents. The 2010 Census says there are 2,766 people over the age of 50 - 884 over the age of 70 - living in Thomas County, making it a prime target.

"I have some friends who have also been targeted," she said. "They seem to know about you and know how much money to ask for."

This type of scam has been around for many years, said Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt. In this month's *Consumer Corner* column, Schmidt wrote that with more people, including seniors, putting information on social networking websites like Facebook, it is easier for scammers to get personal information. The scam can take many forms.

The caller may claim to be in a foreign country and needs money to get out of jail or get home. Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said it can also come over e-mail. Jones said the department gets reports of many different kinds of scams, including this one. Many of the scams originate in other countries, so the department is limited in what it can do. However, he said, the department can advise people who have been targeted.

The staff at the Senior Progress Center also spread the word when they hear of a scam targeting the elderly.

Schmidt said the best way to avoid a scam like this is to be skeptical of any caller's story. He suggests checking with family members to see where the grandchild is, or asking the caller something only that family members would know, information that wouldn't be available online.

"In the unlikely event that a grandchild really is stuck in a foreign country and needs money, he or she will probably be more than willing to answer a few personal questions," he wrote.

Jones said once you start making those kinds of inquiries, a scammer will usually hang up.

Jones said people are welcome to report scams to the police department. You can also report a scam to the Consumer Protection Division by calling (800) 432-2310 or visiting www.ksag.org.

State announces area road projects

The Kansas Department of Transportation announced approved bids for state highway construction and maintenance projects from a bid letting held Oct. 19 in Topeka.

Among contracts awarded for District Three - Northwest Kansas, were a project for Thomas County and one for Sherman County.

Thomas County was approved for bridge replacement on K-25 North Fork Solomon River Bridge, three miles south of Colby. Winning bidder was Simon Contractors and Subsidiaries, Cheyenne, Wyo., at a cost of \$544,948.

Sherman county was approved for a sealing project on K-27 beginning at the Wallace County line north 13.4 miles. Winning bidder was Heft and Sons of Greensburg, at a cost of \$412,869.

Norton and Sharon Springs are among 14 Kansas cities selected to receive money in the next two years under the Kansas Department of Transportation's Geometric Improvement Program.

The Geometric Improvement Program provides funds for projects that will improve intersections and address road deficiencies. The state will provide \$8.7 million for the projects, which have a total estimated cost of nearly \$13 million. The cities will provide matching funds to cover the remainder of the costs. The percent of state funding is based on the population of the city and ranges from 75 percent for the largest cities to 100 percent for the smallest.

The geometric improvement project in Sharon Springs is located on Highway 160.

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Park Service guide talks conflicts between settlers and natives

By Kayla Cornett

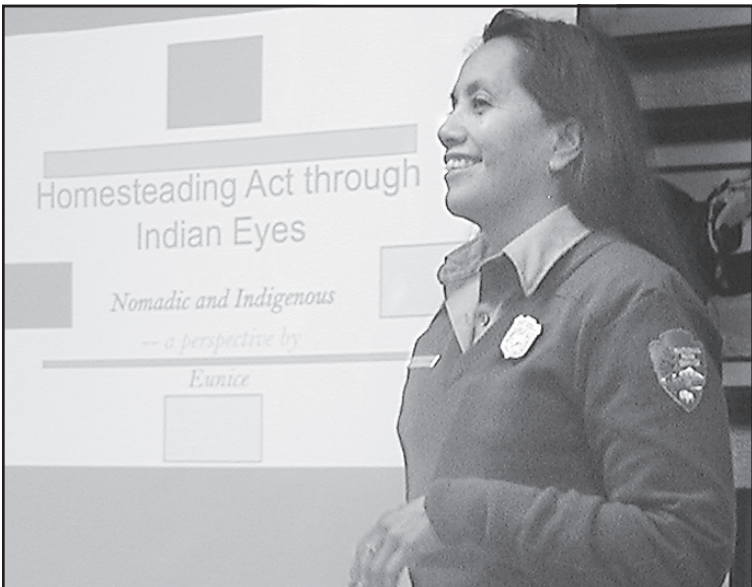
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A National Park Service guide for the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in Eads, Colo., gave a group of local citizens a Native American perspective on the settling of the plains at the Prairie Museum of Art and History on Thursday.

Eunice Petramala, this month's *Food for Thought* speaker, is of Southern Cheyenne descent, giving her an important connection to the Sand Creek Massacre, which occurred on Nov. 29, 1864, when a territorial militia attacked a Cheyenne and Arapaho village.

"I tell you through Indian eyes because that's the only way I look at the world," Petramala said to begin the program.

She used a powerpoint presentation to describe how the settling of the West was viewed through the



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Eunice Petramala was this month's *Food for Thought* speaker on Thursday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

eyes of the Indian Plains tribes, such as the Cherokee, Chippewa, Delaware and many others.

She showed a map of where the tribes resided before the settlement started, and then showed

where the tribes ended up after the settlers moved in.

Petramala said these tribes were holding up the settlers' progress in the west and it was the settlers' job to get them out of the way.

"It wasn't only the Indians that were in the way of progress," Petramala said. "It was the buffalo."

Petramala said the settlers knew they had to get rid of two vital resources in order to settle the land. The settlers decided to decimate the buffalo population not only to rid the land of the animals, but to make tribes weak and desperate. Some would sit on the back of trains and shoot the buffalo from there, leaving their bodies to rot on the plains.

This was a terrible thing to do in the opinion of the Indians, she said, mainly because the settlers weren't using the buffalo; they were wasting them.

She said this clash of cultures was constant during the settlement

period.

"The buffalo in a prairie creates a lot of renewal," she said. "Their urine is full of lots of minerals, plus the buffalo chips as well. They can be used to cook on or heat a home. There was a lot of people that depended on this animal, and it wasn't just the Plains Indians."

The settlers didn't realize how important buffalo were to the life cycle and how they would be affected by the lack of buffalo.

Tribes would use every part of the buffalo, she said. Their hides for shelter, their meat for food, their bones for tools and their testicles for rattles. Therefore, the dwindling population of buffalo was affecting the tribes.

Petramala said that these men didn't see what they were doing to the tribes,

"They were helping progress," she said. "They didn't see the other side of that. It was just that they

were helping with going ahead and settling the west."

Then another thing came along to help the settlers' progress called the Homestead Act. It allowed the government to evict tribes from the land they had purchased; Indians were seen as trespassers.

"It was a constant move back and forth of retaliation," Petramala said. "They (the Indians) would attack a settlement and then the Army would come in and attack the Indians."

Petramala said back then, the tribes had to just go along with whatever happened to survive.

"Either you evolve and stimulate or you move on," she said.

The next *Food for Thought* will be at noon Thursday, Dec. 15. Jim Gray will speak about conflicts between settlers and cattlemen.

