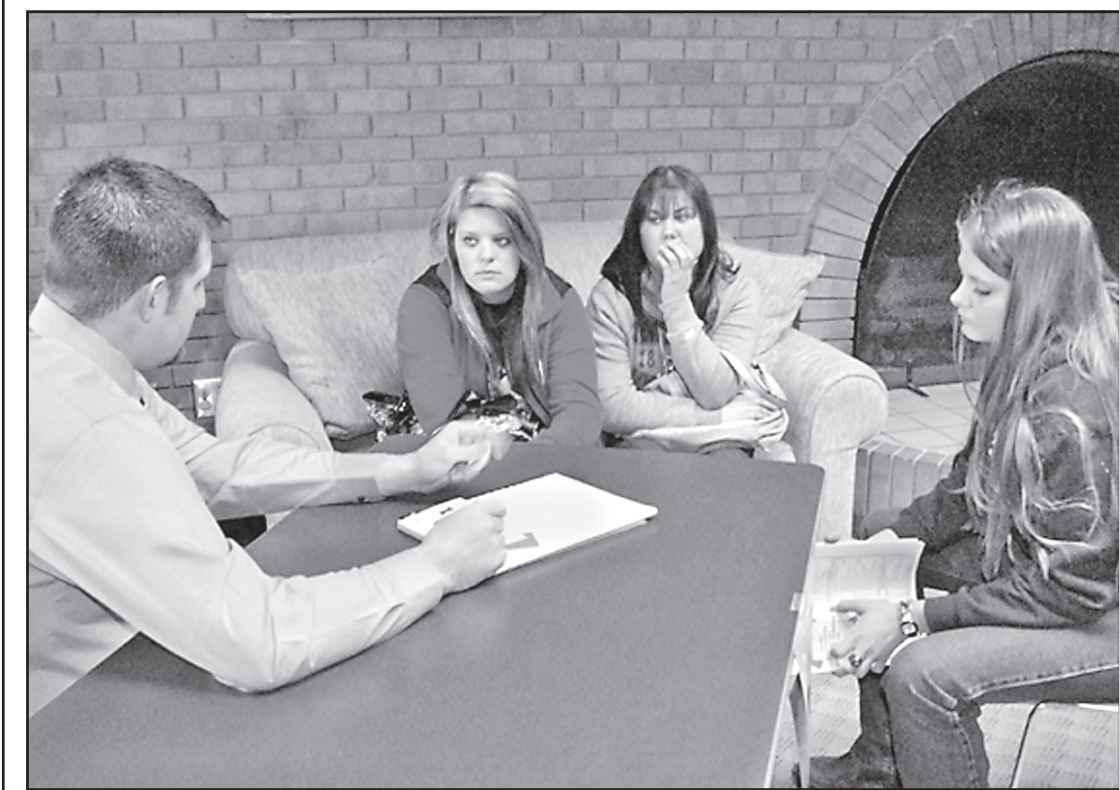


Juniors consider Colby



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Livestock Judging Coach Jim Latoski talked with (from left) Paige Fischer and Amanda Engel of Hays and Kendal Malone, Vona, Colo., at the Colby Community College Junior Day on Wednesday. Forty-three area high school juniors and several parents attended the event. In addition to a campus tour, students and parents met with division chairs, coaches and activity sponsors, concluding with lunch in the Student Union.

Village Missions speaker to talk at Mingo Bible Church

Brian Wechsler, executive director of Village Missions and the main speaker for a Christian Workers' Conference at Heartland Christian School on Saturday, will speak at 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the Mingo Bible Church.

The organization is a ministry to small rural church in the U.S. and Canada with headquarters in The Dalles, Ore.

Wechsler and his wife Carole are 1983 graduates on the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. They began serving with the organization after graduating,

spending six years in Finchford, Iowa, and 11 years in Red Feather Lakes, Colo. He has been executive director since November 2000.

The couple, who married in 1973, have two children. Sarah, 27, teaches sixth grade at an inner city charter school in Los Angeles, and Caleb, 23, who works in western Oregon.

The Mingo church has been associated with Village Missions for about 12 years.

Call Pastor Tom Peyton at 462-2930 for information.

Fifth and sixth grade poster contest to protect from insect-borne illness

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is accepting applications for the 2012 "Fight the Bite" Poster Contest, open to all fifth and sixth graders in the U.S. The deadline to submit entries is Wednesday, April 18.

The contest encourages students to use art to show ways they can protect themselves and their families from the diseases spread by mosquitoes, ticks and fleas by using avoidance behavior, proper clothing or repellent while outdoors. Winning posters may be used in educational materials nationwide.

Two winning posters will be chosen in each state, one from each grade, and each winning state artist will receive \$50 and a certificate. Two national winners,

one from each grade, will each win \$1,000 and a plaque. The 2011 Kansas fifth grade winner was Laura Taylor from Meriden and the sixth grade winner was Emily Conyac from Stockton. In 2009, Kansas was home to the sixth grade Grand Prize winner.

People can reduce the risk of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases by taking the following precautions.

- Use insect repellent containing DEET or picaridin on skin. Follow label directions.
- Empty standing water. Use larvicide in low-lying areas where water cannot be removed. Refresh water for bird baths, pet bowls and wading pools at least every three days.
- Limit outdoor activities at

dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

- Wear protective clothing when practical – long sleeves and pants. Clothing should be light-colored to make ticks more visible.

- Regularly mow lawns and cut brush.

- When hiking, walk in the middle of trails, away from tall grass and bushes.

- Check yourself every eight hours for ticks when outside for extended periods of time. Promptly remove a tick if one is found.

The contest is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the DEET Education Program. For contest rules and past winning entries, go to www.fightthebitecontest.org.

Warm winters affect crop management

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently revised its Plant Hardiness Zone Map northward, meaning that the extreme low temperatures during the winter in Kansas and most of the rest of the country aren't quite as cold now as they were about 20 to 30 years ago, said Mary Knapp, K-State Research climatologist.

"There is a lot of variability, of course, from year to year. But the USDA has determined that there is enough evidence of a trend for warmer winters that it made this change in the Plant Hardiness Zone Map..." Knapp said.

Agricultural producers in the state may see some benefits from this trend, but it may also result in the need for a few management changes in cropping practices, according to K-State Research and Extension scientists.

Here are a few of the potential factors they say to consider.

- Insect overwintering survival. During winters with extreme lows that are not as cold, it is possible that some wheat pests may survive the winter more easily, and become a problem earlier and in a larger scale, said Jeff Whitworth, K-State Research and Extension

entomologist.

"Of particular concern would be greenbugs and bird cherry oat aphids.... If they overwinter in Kansas, they would be available to start feeding and reproducing earlier, as soon as the wheat breaks dormancy," he said.

Also, flea beetles, army cutworms and winter grain mites may be more of a problem earlier in the year if their populations are not limited by the "normal" extreme lows in the winter, Whitworth added. Dry conditions also add to the stress these pests have on the wheat.

- Plant disease overwintering survival. Leaf rust can get started on wheat in the fall in Kansas. These fall infections do not usually cause a problem because the leaf rust fungus does not normally survive the winter in Kansas, said Erick DeWolf, K-State Research and Extension plant pathologist.

"But if the extreme lows during the winter are not as cold ... then leaf rust may successfully overwinter on wheat more often," DeWolf said.

As a result, it would be a good idea to inspect wheat fields more closely and frequently in late win-

ter and early spring for signs of leaf rust, as well as other early-season diseases such as powdery mildew, tan spot and septoria leaf blotch, DeWolf explained.

Another disease that may increase in frequency is barley yellow dwarf virus on wheat, DeWolf added. Wheat producers may want to select varieties with better resistance, and plant later to help avoid fall infestations of the aphids, DeWolf said.

- Crop variety selection. New varieties of crops that overwinter in Kansas have been developed under environmental conditions that existed over the past 10 years, and should be well adapted.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

General Public Transportation Van

Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Days: Monday - Friday
Phone: 785-460-2901 (8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)
785-443-9208 (12:30 - 4 p.m.)

If possible call for Reservations by 11 am the previous business day. Provided to Colby, Brewster, Gem, Menlo, Rexford and a Portion of Oakley as needed.

"This Project Funded in Part by the KDOT Public Transit Program"

It's a mystery (theater), but spring is in the air

The question I have today is whether March will come in like a lion or lamb.

My first small bulbs came up this last week; they are early snow drops. I only have one small clump of them and they are very short. I am thinking maybe I need to plant some additional ones and maybe I should pay better attention to the depth they are planted.

Remember to pick up your Murder Mystery tickets before the dinner, otherwise you may have to wait in line for them. The Murder Mystery will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. The title of the mystery is "Poetic Justice." Tickets are \$25 each, with money going to help sponsor summer reading, story time, National Library Week lunches and *Booked For Lunch*, along with gifts to newborn babies, Books for Soldiers, new technology equipment, and more.

This week we are adding nonfiction items. The first is "Allergies and Asthma: What Every Parent Needs to Know," by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Michael J. Welch. In the first few pages you find a delightful poem by Welch that describes the not-so-lovely effects of allergies and asthma on a person. This four-part book explains the basics of allergies and asthma, how to care for those with the problem, learning to live with the issues and environmental and lifestyle issues that contribute to problems.

The second nonfiction item is "Attaching in Adoption: Practical Tools for Today's Parents," by Deborah Gray. This book is recommended by professionals and adoptive parents for the parents looking at bringing a child home as well as the family that has an adopted child. It helps parents identify the emotional, traumatic and cultural change and pre-learning issues about attachment that a



Melany Wilks

Library Links

child might already have developed.

Third is "Am I My Genes?: Confronting Fate and Family Secrets in the Age of Genetic Testing," by Robert Klitzman. The author interviews 64 individuals who have had to wrestle with being predisposed to genetic diseases. In the interviews, Klitzman discusses what these and other individuals face when considering the subject. Together you will examine privacy, sharing with others, financial and work concerns, insurance and just the general challenge of taking on a fatalistic life concept that may or may not be what actually occurs in your life. This book will help you and others think through important matters of grave magnitude.

The fourth book is by actress Goldie Hawn: "10 Mindful Minutes: Giving Our Children – and Ourselves – the Social and Emotional Skills to Reduce Stress and Anxiety for Healthier, Happier Lives," also by Daniel J. Siegel. These two authors have parents explain to their child about how the brain works and impacts our lives. They then turn to thoughts about breathing, sensing, optimism, gratitude, sadness, empathy and kindness. It looks like a book that leads parents to easily talk with their children about these topics so that they take time to imbibe life together.

The fifth book is "Are You Smart Enough to Work at Google?: Trick Questions, Zen-like Riddles, Insanely Difficult Puzzles, and

Other Devious Interviewing Techniques You ... Know to Get a Job Anywhere in the New Economy," by William Poundstone. The author talks briefly about how the recession changed some of the interview questions for applicants. Three chapters titles indicate some of the interesting topics found in the book. They are "Google's Hiring Machine," "Engineers and How Not to Think Like Them" and "A Field Guide to Devious Interview Questions." Poundstone then provides questions for the reader to solve – and gives the answers. There is a bibliography and an index.

Other worthy mentions of non-fiction biographies we are adding but do not have time to review are: "Eisenhower in War and Peace," by Jean Edward Smith, and "Elizabeth the Queen: The Life of a Modern Monarch," by Sally Bedell Smith.

Remember that we have author Cynthia Harris coming to talk during *Booked for Lunch* on Wednesday. She wrote "Home-town Appetites: The Story of Clementine Paddleford, the Forgotten Food Writer Who Chronicled How America Ate," about a famous Kansas woman. The American Association of University Women is bringing Harris to speak and making soup for us in honor of Women's History Month.

If you are a parent with a child from birth to 18 months be sure and consider signing up for the Baby Lapsit program that begins Thursday, March 8. Ask to talk with children's librarian Judy Kleinsorge to sign up.

The library winter hours are: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 to 5 p.m. Friday, 9 to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

See you in the library!

I-70 work highlighted

The Kansas Department of Transportation will hold an informational open house meeting regarding the future reconstruction of I-70 in Gove and Logan Counties.

The meeting is from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at the Gove County Public Library Meeting Room, 411 Main St., in Quinter. District Three engineers will outline the phasing of the I-70 work, which is planned for Gove and Logan Counties from 2013 to 2018; and will affect several service ramps within this span of I-70.

Those unable to attend the open house can contact the office in Norton for copies of take-home materials.

Markets

	Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.54
Corn (bushel)	\$6.40
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.96
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.70

Babies



Brennen O.

Brennen Robert Ostmeyer

Brennen Robert Ostmeyer, son of Jason and LeAnn Ostmeyer of Colby, was born Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012, at the Gove County Medical Center in Quinter. He weighed 6 pounds, 11 1/2 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches.

Grandparents are Dale and Charlotte Manhart of Grainfield and Gary and Cheryl Ostmeyer of Oakley.

Keira Barton

Keira Barton, daughter of Justin Barton and Amy Davis of Colby, was born Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 6 pounds, 5

ounces and measured 19 inches. Grandparents are Bryon and Gayla Davis of Colby, Jeff Barton of Colby and Gwen Hurr of Las Vegas.

Priscila Meraz

Priscila Meraz, daughter of Ramon and Elsa Meraz of Rexford, was born Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 7 pounds, 5

ounces and measured 20 inches. Priscila is the granddaughter of Joaquin and Elizabeth Meraz and José Luis and Gloria Sigalo, all of Chihuahua, Mexico.

Carson Edward Newell

Carson Edward Newell, son of Mason and Melanie Newell of Colby, was born Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 8

pounds, 10 ounces and measured 21 inches. Grandparents are Steve and Danelle Newell of Hoxie and Joe and Joann Bergkamp of Halstead.

Quotes For Kids

Entire Month of March

Get your insurance quote for home, auto, business or farm and get a donation to the area school of your choice.

Donations

- \$20* - Home & Auto
 - \$50* - Business
 - \$100* - Farm
- *conditions must be met



F&M Insurance Store
990 S. Range, Suite 2-B, Colby
785-462-3628
1-800-279-4806

Prairie Land Insurance
A Division of Strutt Insurance Services, Inc.
318 Main, Brewster
785-694-2501

USE THE CLASSIFIEDS! 785-462-3963

Gem Lions Club SOUP DAY



VEGGIE • CHILI • POTATO

March 3, 2012 • 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Gem Community Building
Free Will Donation