



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

American Legion celebrates 93 years

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press
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The public is invited to an open house, dinner and other celebrations this weekend to honor the 93rd anniversary of the American Legion.

Monte Lewis, commander of the Colby post, said festivities will kick off with a fish and bull fry dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Legion Hall, 1850 W. Fourth St. A recommended donation of \$8 will be taken at the door.

The open house will follow on Saturday. Cake and ice cream will be served from 3 to 6 p.m. At 4 p.m., coach Jared Hamilton and the Legion baseball team will be introduced. Membership certificates will be presented to long-standing Colby members Duane "Swede" Leak, 50 years, and Glen Kersenbrock and Robert Bixenman, both 60 years.

Also on Saturday, the Legion will be showing off many updates and renovations to the interior of the building.

Tracey Galli, Sons of the American Legion Post commander, said in addition to cleaning up and putting a fresh coat of paint on the kitchen, the banquet room was remodeled about a month ago.

"Before, it was completely covered in wood paneling," he said. "It was dark, real dark. We took that down, painted and put up some chair rail, put up new ceiling tiles and painted the grid. We are putting in a new dance floor in the bar area, too, which should be finished by Saturday."

Galli said they plan to continue the new, lighter paint color and chair rail into the larger room, where they also did some ceiling

work.

"This weekend, we want to show off the new remodel at the Legion, recognize our members and we also want to recruit new members," said Cmdr. Lewis. "Along with the American Legion, people can also be members of the Sons of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Riders."

He said those eligible for membership in American Legion are men and women with honorable service with the U.S. Armed Forces during times of war. Membership is \$30 a year and members stand for four pillars of service: veterans affairs and rehabilitation, national security, Americanism and children and youth.

The organization, which now has over 2.4 million members in more than 14,000 posts, was chartered by Congress in 1919. Members said they are unsure of when Colby's post was created, but 63-year member Richard Cox said it was probably founded in the early 1930s - before he moved to Colby.

Other membership opportunities are available for sons and daughters of veterans. For dues of \$17 a year, wives, mothers, daughters, sisters and grandmothers of veterans can serve in the auxiliary. The Sons of the American Legion is available to male descendants of members for \$15.

Members of these groups take part in patriotism and veteran advocacy, volunteer efforts and education services. They provide charitable and scholarship opportunities, support Legion baseball, help pay for youth leadership programs and advocate for medical

See "LEGION," Page 2



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

Retired flags are proudly displayed in the bar area of the American Legion in Colby, pointed out Sons of the American Legion commander Tracey Galli. He explained the room, along with the rest of the building, is getting a facelift that will be unveiled Sat-

urday at their 93rd anniversary celebration. Renovations include new paint, chair rail, ceiling tiles and a new dance floor in the bar.

Lecture series features award-winning author

Richard Horan, award-winning fiction writer and educator, will be the featured speaker of the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby Community College beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.

Horan has lived and taught all over the world. His most recent job was as a writing instructor at the State University of New York at Oswego.

Prior to that, he taught English in the Wisconsin public school system and over-

seas with the Department of Defense.

He was stationed in Belgium and South Korea. Horan has also worked as a South information director and as an adjunct English as a second language, writing and journalism instructor at numerous colleges in New England.

He also lived and taught for two years in a private school in Parma, Italy.

Horan received his bachelor's degree from Boston University and his Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Pittsburgh.

During college he worked as a night-time orderly in a Boston hospital and during the same period of time he fought professionally throughout the United States and Canada as a middleweight boxer.

After graduating from Boston University in 1981 he traveled throughout the United States before settling in Milwaukee.

While living there, he wrote extensively and worked as a nurse's aide in a mental hospital. It was that experience that gave him the material to write his first pub-

lished novel, "Life in the Rainbow."

He is married with two daughters ages 22 and 18.

"Life in the Rainbow," published by Steerforth Press in 1996, was lauded by reviewers as a moving book written by an original voice.

His recent work, "Seeds: One Man's Serendipitous Journey to Find the Trees that Inspired Famous American Writers from Faulkner to Kerouac, Welty to Wharton," was published by Harper Collins and has received extraordinary en-

dorsements and press.

He is currently completing his latest book, "Harvest: One Man's Journey to Discover America's Great Farms."

Horan will be available to sign copies of his books following the lecture. There is no charge to attend.

The Max Pickerill Lecture Series is funded annually by anonymous donors. For information contact Dr. Linda Davis-Stephens at (785) 460-5528.



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Colby's Tumbleweed Chorus was in fine form at a rehearsal Feb. 23 under the direction of Peggy Cabrinha of Atwood.

Tumbleweed Chorus prepares for program

By Marian Ballard

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The Tumbleweed Chorus is gearing up for its 2012 program, "Tumbleweed Roundup," at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, at the Frahm Theater in the Cultural Arts Building at Colby Community College.

The group of 25 to 30 men specializes in barbershop-style music and has members from a wide area around Colby, as far as Colorado, Goodland, Scott City, Quinter and Dighton.

Rod Eisenbise of Colby, assistant director and the last remaining charter member of the chorus, says he first got involved in a chorus in McCook along with Don Kready, who now lives in Topeka. Thirty-five years ago, though, they "got tired of driving" and started the Colby group with about 15 members. Ken Frahm and his brothers joined later that year, he said.

The chorus is a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, which supports this uniquely American art form. Education is available for every aspect imaginable, from directing to singing to managing a chorus. Youth competitions and camps offer a way to interest a new generation, Eisen-

bise said.

The Colby group offers scholarships to young men, he said, and Lucas Baumfalk and Cam Crocker are involved in that program today.

"It's just an awful lot of fun," said Eisenbise.

And about that long commute? He says he now drives to rehearsals in Kearney, Neb., in the summer so he can go to competitions with a group there.

The current director is Peggy Cabrinha of Atwood, who sang with the Sweet Adelines, a counterpart group, when she lived in Hawaii.

The concert March 31 is organized around a western theme, with such favorites as "Ghost Riders in the Sky," "Cool Water" and the Kansas state song, "Home on the Range."

Also on the program are Colby's Prairie Rose Harmony and the featured quartet Ignition! from Denver, the reigning champions of the Rocky Mountain region.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Eisenbise Insurance Agency, 2780 N. Range, or call Rod Eisenbise at 462-2474.



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