

Remember to start off April with a visit to voting booth

March showers are supposed to usher in April flowers. I believe most of us are more than ready for spring and the colors it brings.

First and foremost, please do not forget to vote Tuesday. Polls will open at 7 a.m. at the Community Building.

We are keeping busy at the Convention and Visitors Bureau. The fiscal year for Leadership Thomas County is about to end. We thank board members who have served their terms; we certainly appreciate their support. Leaving will be Sherry McDonald who has served as chair, Tracey Perkins and Pat Sloan. Coming on board are Ashley Wright and Marilee Gundlach, who were members of the 2012 adult leadership class. Joining them will be Melanie Wilks as a community member.

Election of officers was held at the March board meeting. J.L. Evins will be the new chair, Clint Milliman the vice-chair and Kenton Krebbiel will continue as secretary. We look forward to working with the new officers and board members as we look toward forming a new class of adults.

The quarterly calendar of events for April, May and June has been printed and is available at the Chamber office, motels, several banks, courthouse, City Building, Pioneer Memorial Library and Prairie Museum of Art and History.

We have also ordered new pens and welcome bags; this was just in time so that we can welcome the Sixth District of the American Legion who will be in our community Saturday, April 20. You are invited to join them that evening when Silver Creek will be entertaining for listening and dancing at the post home.

The 20th is also the junior-senior prom. Several large annual events will be held in April. The Colby Community College Foundation Endowment dinner and auction will be at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at City Limits Convention Center. Join in the fun at the "House of Blues."

Saturday, April 27, is the date for the Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting and dinner. Beginning at 6 p.m. with the social hour, this will also be at the City Limits. Dinner will be at 7 p.m., followed by awards presentation and entertainment by the college's Sunflower Singers.

The Thomas County Historical Society 25th Anniversary Celebration and annual meeting will be Thursday, April 18.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program is holding their celebration at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at City Limits.

The Farmer and Merchants Bank's Celebrity Dinner returns Thursday, April 25, at the American Legion. Waiters will be from Heartland Chris-



Leilani Thomas

• On the Road Again!

tian School and Sacred Heart School, which will receive the benefits. Dinner will served at 5:30, 6:15 and 7 p.m. Call the Chamber at 460-3401 for your reservations.

Senior Progress Center is holding their potato bar fund raiser at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at the center. All are encouraged to attend.

National Library Week is during April and Pioneer Memorial Library will have *Booked for Lunch* every day of that week. Monday, April 15, Nick Larmer will be the speaker; Tuesday, April 16, is Robby Bird discussing "The Kansas Work Ethic of Dwight David Eisenhower;" Wednesday, April 17, is Joanne Sunderman on "Killing Kennedy;" Thursday the 18th bring us Paul Schneider on "The Power of Life;" and Friday Jeanne Riedel discusses "Mistaken Identity."

The arts are alive and well during April. The popular Art Walk is back and will be Friday, April 19, in downtown Colby. Watch for further details from Rebel Jay, college art instructor. You won't want to miss this.

"The Roots Run Deep" exhibit by Jennifer Higerd is at Prairie Museum of Art and History and will run until Saturday, April 13. A reception will be held in her honor at 2 p.m. on the 13th at the museum.

Colby Community College presents the musical "Paint Your Wagon" at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday, April 18 and 20, at Frahm Theater.

Western Plains Arts Association presents the Diamond W Wranglers at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 21, at Colby High School.

Special sporting events include the Allen Wolf Softball Tournament Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14, at both the city and college diamonds.

The Northwest Kansas All Star Game will be held Sunday, April 14, at the Community Building. This is in addition to the scheduled softball, baseball, track and golf.

Enjoy all of the April events, sunshine, and colors of spring as we begin to look forward to summer.

Leilani Thomas is director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, a long-time civic volunteer and a passionate observer of the tourism industry.

The tomb was empty

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance..." John 19:1



Eugene Rothfuss

• From the Pulpit

Mary then ran to find others to tell what she saw – the tomb was empty.

As a general rule, most of us in America don't rejoice in emptiness.

When the cupboards are bare and the refrigerator is empty, that's a problem. We quickly head for the grocery store to fill them all up again.

When the bank account is empty, that's a problem, too. I remember as a young couple moving to Kentucky to go to graduate school. We had closed our Kansas bank account and had a cashier's check in hand to start a new account at a new bank – and our new bank wanted to put a hold on our account for two weeks until the check actually cleared our old bank. That was disaster to us.

When the stomach is empty, that's a problem, especially if you are 2 years old like my granddaughter. She has a set of lungs she uses lustily until that emptiness situation is resolved.

When the gas tank is empty and we find ourselves stranded on the side of the road, that's a problem. How could we have forgotten to fill up? I was 16 and ran my car out of gas on a road on the edge of town – for the second time. I found a phone and called my dad. "Son, he said, "Walk home. It'll help you remember to not let that tank go empty." He was right – it was several miles home.

And when the stomach is empty and the refrigerator is empty and the gas tank is empty and the bank account is empty, we have a big problem.

Emptiness often causes pain or stress or strain or anger or frustration.

The family of Herman Schwarz would like to thank everyone who remembered us with phone calls, cards, food, flowers, memorial gifts, visits, for those who attended the services, all who gave your love and support at this time of sorrow. We appreciate your acts of kindness. God Bless each of you.

Joan Schwarz and Family

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Easter, because he who died that horrible death on that empty cross did not remain dead, but rose again to new life.

And we celebrate that the emptiness of the soul separated from Eternal God our Creator by sin, can experience the fullness of joy that comes from a restored relationship with God through Jesus' death and resurrection.

We need no longer fear death. The empty tomb resounds with the echo of the cheer of victory over death. The Apostle Paul exults, "Where, O death, is your sting? Where, O death, is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

We need no longer fear life, either. For the one who conquered death is also the one who has promised to walk through life with us, side by side. Jesus promised his disciples, on the night before he was crucified, that when he was gone from this earth, he would send his Holy Spirit to live in them, and his role would be that of comforter and counselor. In the original Greek language of the New Testament, he was called "paraklatos." Literally, it translates as the one who walks alongside. Jesus proclaimed that he came to give us life, and life abundant.

As you come to your personal Easter celebration this year, pause and ponder the goodness of God in providing the miracle of emptiness.

Gene Rothfuss is pastor of the Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine. You can reach him at (785) 462-8391 or (785) 443-1448.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$6.86
Corn (bushel)	\$7.00
Milo (hundredweight)	\$11.96
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.14

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.

Ralph Wolf is Retiring



After 34 years of service to Kansas State University at the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Ralph Wolf is retiring.

Please stop by and wish him well at a reception honoring him on Saturday, March 30th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Prairie Museum of Art & History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave, in Colby.

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Stop and Take a Moment

Spring is in the air and if you haven't visited my Facebook site to see my spring video, I invite you to do so. I love the spring... the birds start singing, the tulip bulbs start popping through the ground, the days get longer and most important...I get to soon get my ole black cruiser bike out and start pedaling to property all over Colby.

Easter is in just a couple days and I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Easter. I hope you all will have time with family or friends. I also know for me it is a special time to reflect on the true meaning of Easter and to fill my heart with spiritual blessings. I also love to see the expressions on my grandsons as they gather early to find all the special eggs they have dyed for the Easter Bunny to hide.

I also want to say Thank You for all those that came by to visit at our booth at the Colby Home Show. It was wonderful to see everyone. I love seeing the smiles on the kids as I handed them, suckers, air plane gliders, pin wheels, and more. Check a video out on the Home Show as well on my Face book page. HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!!!

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Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, Pastor Dan Keel, 815 W. 3rd. Sundays at 2 p.m. 337-401-7207 (temp)

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby Community Building. Pastor Eric Overmiller. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. www.celebratejesus.org

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley, Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten- 5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Youth Pastor Ben Phillips. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. James Bridges, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Street, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypres.org.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Markdock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 217 Main St., Brewster, 785-694-2751. Sunday worship 10:00 a.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. Robert Alexander, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Beginning Sept. 2 - Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Mike Baughn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.



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