

# Volunteers honored for Tourism Week

May is an important month for tourism. National Travel and Tourism Week is being celebrated May 4 through 12. Kansas' theme this year is "Power of Travel Kansas."

We will be celebrating tourism week, the third largest industry in Kansas, with an appreciation luncheon for our volunteers who work at the Colby Visitor Center Wednesday, May 8, at City Limits Convention Center. We currently have 19 volunteers and Ralph Fischer, visitor center manager, who work daily to welcome visitors to Colby. Also invited to the luncheon are civic leaders and Convention and Visitor Bureau board members.

We finished our 2012 Activity Report which goes to the City of Colby with our proposed 2014 budget. Highlights include 6,981 registered visitors at the Visitor Center, 8,214 miles traveled by the director to meetings and travel shows, 577 welcome packets distributed and \$242,945 in transient guest tax collection.

Our billboards were all refaced and a new rack card developed from which is being distributed from Denver to Kansas City and I-35 from I-70 to Wichita. We were represented at four travel shows and worked three more including the Sampler Festival.

A retractable banner was purchased to take to these and other shows. We will be work the Sampler Festival in Liberal Saturday and Sunday. If you are in Liberal and attending the Sampler Festival, stop by the northwest Kansas tent and say hello.

Election of officers for the Convention and Tourism Committee was held. President is Martha Brewer and vice president is Bonnie Werth.

Now for May events and happenings in Colby and Thomas County.

Graduations are milestone events. Colby Community College graduation is at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11. Colby High School will have baccalaureate at 1:30 p.m. and commencement at 3 p.m. on Sunday the 12th. All of the above will be at Colby Community Building.

Golden Plains will also have graduation at 2 p.m. on the 12th.

Brewster and Heartland Christian School will have their graduations on Saturday, May 18.



**Leilani Thomas**

• On the Road Again!

Special events during May include *Booked for Lunch* at noon Wednesday at Pioneer Memorial Library. Author Doris Johnson will discuss "As I Remember It."

Stock car races will be held at 7 p.m. Sundays, May 5 and 19, at the Thomas County Speedway.

High School Pops concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, in the High School Auditorium.

The high school band concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, in Fike Park.

Middle school vocal concert is at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at the grade school and middle school band concert is at 7 p.m. Monday, May 20.

The fourth grade recorder and fifth grade band concert will be at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the grade school auditorium.

A special benefit dinner and dance is being held Saturday, May 11, at the American Legion for Danielle Wolf. Spaghetti dinner is from 6 to 8 p.m. with dance with DJ Chris WasseMiller.

Special sporting events include the varsity and junior varsity golf invitational at 3 p.m. Thursday at the Meadow Lake Golf course and the Colby Track Invitational at 3 p.m. Friday at Dennen Field.

The kid's fishing derby will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 18, at Villa High.

Colby Aquatic Park is scheduled to open Saturday, May 25.

The Rotary-Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will be Friday, May 31, with registration at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, May 22, will be the last day of classes for the Colby Public Schools.

May 12 is Mother's Day and Memorial Day is May 27.

Have a wonderful May, enjoy the many activities and plan ahead for Picnic in the Park beginning Wednesday, June 5, and Agora Market Place to be held Saturday, June 8.

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



ANGIE MOORE/Colby Free Press

Brewster Grade School students suited actions to words as they sang the classic popular song "Stand Up" during the school concert last Monday.

## Spring school concert includes all age groups

A good crowd came out for the spring music program last Monday evening. The theme was "Kickin' it Old School – The '70s and '80s"

Junior high and high school bands kicked the evening off, followed by grade school, junior high and high school vocal.

Community and alumni joined the bands for the final song.

June 1 will be the annual Brewster City Wide Garage Sale Day. Start cleaning out the closets now. Watch for sign up details soon.

Don't forget the Brewster Master Gardeners are taking donations for the flower pots along Kansas Ave. If you would like to donate,



**Angie Moore**

• Brewster Correspondent

please contact Leesa Juenemann, Colleen Rall, LeAnne Carney, or Leisha Carpenter.

There are also donation jars around town.

If you have Brewster news or upcoming events you would like to share, please let me know. E-mail angiem@st-tel.net, call 694-3008 or drop information off at the Prairie Land Insurance office.

### 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.*

### Bridge Club

Meadow Lake Bridge winners Tuesday were: first, Kevan Taylor; second, Ken Ptacek; third, Gail Vacca; fourth, Cookie Koenig; fifth, Elaine Ptacek; sixth, Billie Keck.

# Tomato know-how still keeps growing

I wish I knew more about tomatoes.

I wish I knew enough about the overall gardening aspects of growing perfect tomatoes.

I wish I could guide you through a program of unmistakable success of tomato growing in your backyard garden.

But I can't do that. There are too many variables. Please understand that I am reasonably happy with my own tomato crop out in the backyard. Not giddy. Just happy. I've been doing it long enough to know a few things about what needs to be done and what you should not do to achieve top tomato production. But I also know there are many aspects of tomato culture I just don't comprehend. And when push comes to shove, the same philosophy applies to you.

There are, of course, a number of basic procedures we must follow as we strive to do the job right. First, we must select the variety of tomato likely to give us the best results. That, in itself, is not easy. Some varieties are better producers than others.

There are gardeners out there who believe Big Beef and Super Fantastic are the best ones to plant. Others will argue that they would never plant anything except the heirloom varieties such as Brandywine, Mortgage Lifter, or Black Krim. I believe Super Tasty, Northern Exposure and Shady Lady are the chosen ones.

But we all may be wrong. I firmly believe there are dozens of outstanding varieties, and we must, without fail, try a different one each year until we find one that satisfies our troubled, tomato-growing minds.

Then there are the numerous growing and procedural ideas



**Kay Melia**

• The Gardener

each of us has. Pull up four chairs around the table, fill those chairs with four people who have grown tomatoes all their lives – and you are guaranteed to walk out of there a little confused, because you have listened to four completely different plans for tomato success, including your own.

And now you are going to hear my four points of tomato growing success.

No. 1. I believe that variety selection is the number one decision you will make in your tomato garden this spring. Talk to other gardeners. Talk to garden center operators about their best sellers. Or grow your own transplants, utilizing a variety that someone else has tried and enjoyed with measured success.

No. 2. Either buy, or preferably build, some tomato cages. It is essential that tomato plants have support as they grow.

No. 3. Do not water your tomatoes with a lawn sprinkler. Irrigate them with a soaker hose, install a drip system, or simply allow the water to flow merrily down the row.

No. 4. Fertilize your plants at least twice during the growing season. Fertilize them when the first bloom appears and again about three weeks later. Use a water soluble "pour on" type of fertilizer because it works quickly.

Now go out there and raise the best crop of tomatoes you've ever grown. Do it your way, and I'll do it my way. But remember, there is probably a better way!

## Workshop to offer support for ranchers suffering drought

Ranchers wondering if they should reduce their herd size this year, or whether the drought will end, will want to attend a workshop on Wednesday, May 22, at the Grainery Restaurant on the west side of Idalia, Colo., on U.S. 36. There is no registration fee.

The workshop is for both the landowner and leasee, offering valuable information for those running cattle. Young ranchers are particularly invited to attend.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. The workshop will begin at 9:30 and close at 3 p.m.

Instructor Pat Reece has over 30 years of experience working with ranchers and the climate extremes of the High Plains. His research and consulting experiences pro-

vide unique insight for dealing with drought.

Attendees will learn how drought and grazing management affect plant growth in drought years and later. While not required, attendees will get the most out of this workshop if they bring a Wi-Fi ready device and their livestock records. Attendees will make a drought plan for their ranch, using data from nearby weather stations and ranch information.

Registrations are needed by Wednesday, May 15, to insure a seat and a meal.

For information, or to register, call (970) 332-3173 extension 3 or go to the Yuma County Conservation District website at www.yc-conservation.com or e-mail Julie Elliott at co.usda.gov.

### Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.06
Corn (bushel)	\$6.49
Milo (hundredweight)	\$11.05
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.40



GO CLASSIFIED!!

## The public is invited to a Retirement Reception Honoring CCC Employees

Connie Davis  
Sandy Hill  
Tom Moorhous  
Bob Selby  
Joyce Washburn  
Diane Williams

The College will also bid farewell to those employees who are leaving to pursue new opportunities elsewhere.

**May 2, 2013  
Student Union, Room 108  
Beginning at 3:00 p.m.**



Community College

May Day  
May Day

SPRING SAVINGS

May 1-4 • 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

End of Bolt Sale  
Fleece Closeout

Janome Sewing Machines Marked DOWN  
(Just in time for Graduation & Mothers Day)

Interior Connection & Quilt Cabin

1525 S. Range  
785-462-3375

TREE TRIMMING MAINTENANCE BEGINS

The City of Colby will be conducting our annual tree trimming maintenance beginning immediately as weather permits. If you have any questions or concerns about this or the areas that will be trimmed, you can either call Public Works at 460-4420 or visit our website at [www.cityofcolby.com](http://www.cityofcolby.com).

The City of COLBY

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