



Kids rock to radio tunes



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press
Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (top), including from left Jason Krannawitter, Matthew Schritter, Peyton Wahlmeier and Steele Brown, entertained the crowd at the Colby Grade School fifth grade vocal concert, "On the Radio," Tuesday night in the grade school auditorium. Appearing as Bugle Boy Joey, Billy Bradley (left) lent his skills to the vocal concert. About 60 students performed in the concert (above), which included popular songs from several decades.



Snowstorm helps nab elusive man

Colby Police caught a man wanted on minor warrants who spent hours dodging officers on foot for the last couple of days. A citizen spotted Brandon Parson, 22, about 6:30 p.m. Thursday evening hiding in a garage in the 1300 block of West Third Street, Colby Police Chief Ron Alexander said. This was the same area where he had run from officers Wednesday. Police officers and Thomas County sheriff's deputies then chased Parson for several hours, Alexander said. They tried to track his cell phone and were aided by residents who spotted him and by following his footprints through the snow. Soon afterward, Par-

son was spotted again in the 1100 block of South Franklin Avenue. They caught him in the alleyway behind the 1100 block of South Range near Vision Source at around 8:30 p.m., Alexander said. Wednesday, officers searched the northwest area of town north the railroad tracks west of Range, then west third south of Fourth for about 2 1/2 hours in all. They would not confirm the next morning that it was Parson they were chasing, but descriptions they gave of the suspect, a 6-foot-tall black man, match the description of Parson they provided in a press release Thursday.

Warrant issued in robbery case

By Sam Dieter
Colby Free Press
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A warrant has been issued for a suspect in an October armed robbery here who skipped out on his court date.

Shawn Codie Gill, 19, Junction City, missed a scheduled court appearance Jan. 22. A bench warrant was issued for his arrest that day with a bond amount of \$25,000.

Records show Gill was released from the Thomas County Jail on

Oct. 28. He went to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and turned himself in on a warrant for theft in that county. After two days in jail in Lawrence, he was released Oct. 30 on a \$3,000 bond.

He allegedly robbed the Quality Inn here the night of Sunday, Oct. 13, then left his getaway car and spent a cold, wet night hiding in fields outside of town.

He and another Junction City man, Christopher Jared Hoyte,

See "WARRANT," Page 2

Musical, college share anniversary

By Heather Alwin
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"Fiddler on the Roof" will come to Colby Community College this spring, and auditions are going on now to fill the play's well-loved roles.

Randy Berls, choral activities director, said he chose "Fiddler" because both the play and the college celebrate 50th anniversaries this year.

It's the music and characters that makes the play so well-loved, he added. The music is recognizable and popular on its own, and audiences relate to the characters' struggles, which are still common today.

The play is based on the book by the same name, written in 1905, that chronicles the struggles of a Jewish family in Tzarist Russia. The book and play were based on earlier stories written by Sholem Aleichem in 1894.

The main characters are members of a typical Russian Jewish village of the early 1900s, including a family with five marriage-age daughters, a matchmaker and various suitors.

As his daughters reject traditional marriages arranged by a matchmaker, their father Tevye, struggles to hold onto traditions, and that affects relationships with families and neighbors, customs of clothing and food, celebrations and the roles of community members.

The Russian Tsars restricted



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
Colby Community College student Anna Hickert re-enacted her audition for "Fiddler on the Roof" after practicing with the Sunflower Singers on Thursday afternoon in the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. Randy Berls, choral activities director for the college, said he needs a cast of 30 to 40 people, and is looking for both college students and area residents.

Snow hits, few schools close

Classes went on as usual in Colby today, despite a storm that left about 4 inches of snow here, but classes started two hours later at Golden Plains Schools in Rexford and a basketball game was postponed after the first heavy snow of the year hit Thursday night.

Randy Bowers, a meteorologist at the Goodland station of the National Weather Service, said the snow was caused an upper-level low-pressure disturbance moving east which collided with arctic air.

Four inches was reported just southwest of Colby. Two inches were reported west of Brewster and a trace was reported in Oakley. Heavier snow fell to the north and west, Bowers said, including an area near Atwood that got 10 to 14 inches. Some places around Oberlin had more than a foot of mostly light, fluffy snow.

Schools in Atwood, St. Francis and Oberlin were closed.

Snow will stick around for most of the weekend. The service reports a 50 percent chance of snow today and an 80 percent chance tonight. There could be more on Saturday night as well, with another storm expected Monday night. High temperatures should be in the upper 20s over the weekend and rise to the low 30s by Monday.

Colby Public Schools and Sacred Heart School opened on their normal schedule today. Golden Plains Schools opened two hours late, and a basketball game against Northern Valley was moved to Tuesday, Feb. 25. Heartland Christian School had a teacher work day today.



HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press
Snowblowers and shovels were must-have tools as northwest Kansas woke up to several inches of snow today. Here, a three-man crew cleared the sidewalks around Kansas Insurance's building in downtown Colby. As of this morning, Colby had received four inches in this storm, and cold weather is expected to continue through the weekend.

Page has Colby family

Landon Wilson, grandson of Bill and Peggy Miller and Elon Miller, all of Colby, served as the page for Kansas Sen. Elaine Bowers on Monday.

The Minneapolis Junior-Senior High School student is the son of Michelle and Todd Wilson of Minneapolis, Kan. He spent the day taking a tour of the capitol building and paging for the Senate.



Landon Wilson

Foster care class begins here Monday

Adults interested in foster parenthood can attend a free 10-week course provided by Saint Francis Community Services.

The class, Partnering for Safety and Permanence-Model Approach to Partnerships, begins Monday at the Colby Wesleyan Church.

All potential foster parents must complete this training, which is designed to help attendees make an informed decision about becoming a resource family for children in foster care or adoption programs.

Nikki Engel, a Saint Francis foster care resource specialist, said there is a need for new foster homes throughout Thomas County and northwest Kansas.

Nearly a dozen Thomas County children currently stay in homes outside Thomas county because there aren't enough local families to accommodate them, she said.

New local foster families are needed to help house local children closer to home.

The course provides information and skill development for prospective foster parents and helps them gain a better understanding of the needs of children in foster care, said Engel. Course participants also get information about resources available to foster parents, parenting techniques and available support services.

Saint Francis is a donor-supported, faith-based service provider for children and families, operating since 1945. Engel said their mission is to be an instrument of healing for children, youths and families in spirit, mind and body so they live responsibly and productively with purpose and hope.

To register for the class, call Engel at (785) 625-6651, ext. 23, or go to www.st-francis.org.

Toddlers love selfies

By Gillian Flaccus

LOS ANGELES - Every so often, Brandi Koskie finds dozens of photos of her 3-year-old daughter, Paisley, on her iPhone - but they aren't ones Koskie has taken.

"There'll be 90 pictures, sideways, off the corner of her eye, her eyebrow," said Koskie, who lives in Wichita. "She's just tapping her way right into my phone."

The hidden photos, all shot by Paisley, illustrate a phenomenon familiar to many parents in today's tech-savvy world: Toddlers love selfies. Observant entrepreneurs have caught on to these image-obsessed tots, marketing special apps that make taking photos super-easy for little fingers. You can even buy a pillow with a smartphone pocket so toddlers can

take selfies during diaper changes.

But toddlers aren't the only ones taking photos nonstop. It's not unusual for parents to snap thousands of digital photos by the time their child is 2. Today's toddlers think nothing of finding their own biopic stored in a device barely bigger than a deck of cards.

While the barrage of images may keep distant grandparents happy, it's not yet clear how a steady diet of self-affirming navel-gazing will affect members of the first truly "smartphone generation." Tot-centric snapshots can help build a healthy self-image and boost childhood memories, but shooting too many photos or videos and playing them back instantly for a demanding toddler could backfire.

Look at your next 100 years

Where will you be 100 years from now?

If you are old enough to read this question, you probably know your body will most likely be in the grave by then. But what about your eternal soul? Where will that be?

That depends on which road you take. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, in his Sermon on the Mount: Enter ye at the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many there are who go in that gate: Because narrow is the gate, and narrow is the road, which leads unto life, and few there [are who] find it (Matthew 7:13-14).

According to our Savior, most people are on a wide road that



Tom Peyton

From the Pulpit

leads to a very real eternal hell. That is a sad thing - especially since our Savior voluntarily took on himself the full brunt of God's wrath against our sin when he died on that old rugged cross 2,000 years ago. So, when you turn from sin and receive his free gift of forgiveness and eternal life by faith, you will immediately be transferred from that wide road to destruction to the narrow road that

leads to life.

Jesus himself is that narrow gate through whom we must pass into heaven (John 10:9, 14:6). It is not by our good works that we are saved (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5), but by the finished work of redemption that Jesus accomplished for you and me on the cross.

You can't earn it. You must receive it by faith as a free gift (Romans 6:23).

Admit to God that you are a sinner on the wrong road.

Confess by faith that Jesus died for your sins on the cross. Ask him to forgive you and invite him into your life (Revelation 3:20).

He promises that he will come

in when you open the door of your heart to him.

Once you have done that, tell someone about it. Then start attending a Bible-believing, gospel-preaching church where you can grow in your newfound faith till you meet your Lord in glory.

Then you can answer that question, "Where will you be 100 years from now?" by saying confidently, "I'll be in Heaven with my Savior and Lord Jesus Christ!"

Tom Peyton is pastor of the Mingo Bible Church. He may be reached at 462-2930 or at preacherpeyton@gmail.com.

Brewster Schools release honor roll

The Brewster School District has released the Honor Roll for the second nine weeks. To be on the Superintendent's Honor Roll, students must earn a 4.0 grade average. Those on the Principal's Honor Roll must have a grade average of 3.5 to 3.99. Honor Roll students have an average of 3.0 to 3.49.

High School Superintendent's Honor Roll Juniors: Layton Werth. Sophomores: Rachel Friess. Principal's Honor Roll Juniors: Dara Roulier.

Sophomores: Tylor Cheatum. Freshmen: Tad Holm, Jaden Schmidt. Honor Roll Juniors: Tanner Abbott, Ashley Barrie, Justin Culwell, Yumi Inagaki. Juniors: Alicia Barrie, C.J. Felzien, Jace Jorgensen. Sophomores: T-Aera Abbott, Quinton Clymer, Justin Schmidt, Takoda Turner. Freshmen: Dalton Arntt, Kylee Cheatum. Junior High Superintendent's Honor Roll Sixth Grade: Weston Schmidt.

Principal's Honor Roll Seventh Grade: Arianna Martinez, Desmond Purvis. Sixth Grade: Genesis Aguilar. Honor Roll Eighth Grade: Katelynn Barnes, Austin Bear, Jacob Benham, Koebe Lorg, Adrian Mercado. Seventh Grade: Karlee Brown, Mckedzie Clymer, Mikenna Hanevik, Brett Roulier. Sixth Grade: Morgan Bryant, Jacson Clymer, Cameron Ford-Gillen, Thomas Martinez.

Target customers, watch for ID theft

Kansas consumers who have shopped at Target should take advantage of free credit monitoring services and watch out for identity theft, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said.

In the wake of its massive data breach, Target has announced that it is offering a free year of credit monitoring for all consumers who have shopped at a U.S. Target store.

"All Kansans who have shopped at Target are encouraged to take advantage of this free service," Schmidt said. "Paying close at-

tention to accounts that may have been compromised in this data breach can help prevent fraud and identity theft. Consumers should also consider changing passwords and PIN numbers for any debit or credit card accounts they may have used at a Target store."

Consumers can sign up for the free services online at creditmonitoring.target.com through April 22. The service is being offered through Experian's ProtectMyID and includes a copy of the consumer's credit report, daily credit monitoring, identity theft insur-

ance and access to personal assistance.

Schmidt said his office is participating in a multi-state investigation of the Target data breach.

Information on preventing identity theft, requesting a security freeze for your credit report and taking steps to protect yourself when your personal data has been compromised is available on the Attorney General's consumer protection website, www.InYourCornerKansas.org.

Markets

Table with columns for commodity, price, and source. Includes Wheat (bushel) at \$6.03, Corn (bushel) at \$4.27, Milo (hundredweight) at \$7.25, and Soybeans (bushel) at \$11.90.

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.

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Golden Plains High School guard Cami Miller pushed down the court and looked for a fast-break opportunity against Palco last weekend.

'Dogs claw through Roosters

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs claimed another win in Western Kansas Liberty League basketball action last weekend as they downed the Lady Roosters from Palco, 49-32.

The game started off a little slow in the first quarter as the Lady Bulldogs (8-3 record) only posted up six points to the Roosters' four. Both teams picked up the pace in the second and the Lady Roosters outscored the home team 14-10 to

hold an 18-16 lead at the half. Following a halftime motivational talk by coaches Parker Christensen and Steve Shaw, the girls came back on the floor knowing they had to push a little harder. Senior Jordan Christensen quickly tied the game up only to have Palco answer. She tied it again but Palco was not giving in. The Lady Bulldogs finally pulled ahead near the end of the third, maintaining a 30-24 lead with a final steal and bucket from Christensen.

The Lady Bulldogs pulled away

from the Lady Roosters in the fourth.

Senior Hailee Spreser finally found her shot along with several steals followed by layups from Kami Miller and Christensen to secure the win 49-32.

"Although it was nice to get the win, we've been really struggling lately. We're not playing to our full potential," senior Jordan Christensen said. "I know we can play better."

Christensen finished the game with 17 points, 15 rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Spreser tallied 10 points along with six rebounds, two assists and one steal.

MiKayla Lobato added nine points, two rebounds and three assists.

The Bulldogs also featured four points from Miller and Madison Walz, three points from Kynndra Rush and two from Rachael Ritter.

The Lady Bulldogs improved to 5-0 (9-3 overall) in league play Tuesday night with a more dominating 54-18 home win over Quinter. Watch for a game story next week.

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Colby contests called off

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press
rbheadley@nwkansas.com

Rarely-seen snowfall this winter has caused tonight's Colby High basketball games at Norton to be postponed.

Colby High officials said these contests have been re-scheduled for Monday, Feb. 10, with games played in the same order as originally planned.

The C and junior varsity teams are also scheduled to participate. Action begins at 4 p.m. and the girls' varsity game should begin around 6:30.

The boys' varsity contest will follow.

Both the Colby girls and boys-resume their Great West Activities Association conference seasons in Ulysses on Tuesday.

A glance at the current overall records of conference team, according to maxpreps.com:

Girls — Holcomb 11-1, Hugoton 10-2, Goodland 7-4, Colby 6-6, Ulysses 3-9, Scott City 2-9.

Colby teams sweep four from Oakley

The eighth graders' thrilling 33-32 victory highlighted a perfect 4-0 Colby Middle School basketball effort against Oakley on Thursday.

Colby displayed super home-court domination as all four games were played in the elementary school gymnasium.

The visiting Plainsmen threatened several times to steal a win, but Colby's eighth-grade A boys team made every key stop while earning that 33-32 victory.

Meanwhile, the eighth-grade B team won a tough 15-10 contest.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High senior Marc Bremenkamp tried to draw a charging foul from this Liberal Redskin during last weekend's Orange & Black Classic. Cameron Brown (3) was also applying pressure.

Boys — Scott City 10-1, Holcomb 9-3, Hugoton 6-6, Ulysses 5-7, Goodland 5-9, Colby 1-11.

Meanwhile, Colby Recreation officials announced they would decide later today whether Saturday's activities would run as planned.

Triplains-Brewster was still deciding about tonight's games against Western Plains at press time.

No details were obtained regarding the Golden Plains-Northern Valley basketball action in Almena.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Kyler Staab (5) secured a key late rebound for the Colby eighth-graders Thursday night.

Golden Plains splits two

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Bulldogs easily defeated the Palco Roosters, 47-23, on their home floor at Rexford last weekend in Western Kansas Liberty League boys basketball action.

"It was fun to get a good win," senior Shane Ryburn said.

With no junior varsity game against the Roosters, the Bulldogs hit the floor and jumped to a six-point lead before the Roosters scored.

Golden Plains extended its lead to 16-6 by the end of the first quarter.

The Roosters added another six in the second, but the Bulldogs hit their shots, including a couple of three-pointers from Grant Spresser, and extended their lead to 26-12 at the half.

The Bulldogs continued to roll throughout the third as they picked up the pace with Shane Ryburn and Koi Wessel both on fire from the floor.

Leading 43-16 going into the fourth, the Bulldog team was able to substitute in many of the younger players for much of the final eight minutes. Cole Ziegelmeier and Zach Spresser each added two points to finish the game.

Koi Wessel finished the night with 14 points while Grant Spresser scored 12.

Ryburn tallied 10, Schwarz six,



JORDAN CHRISTENSEN
Golden Plains High School

Golden Plains' Koi Wessel looked for a pass or possible shot against the Palco Roosters last weekend.

Ziegelmeier and Zach Spresser two apiece and one free throw from Kade Wessel.

This win gave the Bulldogs a 6-6 record for the season, winning five games since the Christmas break.

Bulldogs lose to Quinter
Quinter built a 31-18 halftime lead Tuesday night in Rexford.

Those who left following the little girls dance camp performance during the break likely regretted their decision, as the action and momentum completely changed in the second half.

The Golden Plains boys came out of the locker room fired up and hit the floor with strong defense and picked up the pace to stun the Quinter team into only scoring four points in the third quarter.

The Golden Plains offense also stepped up their game and made multiple steals followed by exciting layups to tie the game, 35-35.

Bulldogs coach Mike Doll called a time out with 14.5 seconds remaining in the game.

Koi Wessel administered his fifth foul to send Quinter to the line one more time.

Quinter missed the free throw, but a teammate grabbed the rebound and held on to the ball until the buzzer sounded giving them the 47-44 win.

"It was a disappointing loss," Doll said. "But we are proud of the boys for their effort and never giving in."

Schwarz led the Bulldogs' offense with 18 points including four three-pointers.

Ryburn added 11, making three of his four free throws in the fourth quarter. Grant Spresser scored eight points, again shooting well from the charity stripe. Koi Wessel added four points and Kade Wessel scored three.

Celebs make Super Bowl picks

A glance at what other pro athletes and celebrities are picking for Sunday's Super Bowl matching the Denver Broncos against the Seattle Seahawks.

Today's picks conclude with famous-in-his-own-mind *Free Press* scribbler R.B. (Ramblin' Blabberhead) Headley.

Regis Philpin, television personality: Broncos, 21-17.

Ethan Zohn, original winner in "Survivor" TV series: "Seattle's the first team to run the ball 500

times in a season to make the Super Bowl since the 2006 Chicago Bears, and who did the Bears lose to? Peyton Manning (then with Indianapolis). I'll take the Broncos."

Joe Girardi, New York Yankees manager and former Colorado Rockies player: Seahawks, 20-17. "Defense wins championships."

ESPN experts/former NFL players Mike Ditka, Tom Jackson, Ron Jaworski and Merrill Hoge: Broncos.

ESPN experts/former NFL

players Cris Carter and Keyshawn Johnson: Seahawks.

Mark Messier, National Hockey League Hall of Famer: Broncos, 28-17.

Eli The Ape, who has picked last six Super Bowls correctly says: Seahawks. He swiftly knocked down a paper mache helmet bearing the Seahawks logo.

And finally, R.B. sees his pre-season pick of Seattle-Denver Super Bowl come true. I'll also stick with his winner: Seahawks, 27-24.

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