

Briefly

Send your Briefly items to colby.editor@nwkansas.com. Deadline is noon two days before. For maximum impact, we recommend having them in 10 days or more in advance.

**Picnic in the Park**  
Join us in Fike Park every Wednesday from June 4 through July 16 at noon for live, local entertainment! Check out the schedule for performers and sponsoring organizations on the Colby Convention & Visitors Bureau Facebook page and website or at select locations around town. Be sure to bring your lunch, drink, and lawn chair!

**KSN3 Summer Road Trip**  
KSN3 and Good Day Kansas will broadcast live from Fike Park on Wednesday, June 18, at 11:15 a.m. as part of their Summer Road Trip across Kansas. The community is encouraged to attend and show support. Enjoy live music from Jan Barnum & Friends, giveaways from local partners, and sloppy joes served by Rotary and Hi-Plains Coop at Picnic in the Park following.

**Firework sales and discharge allowed**  
June 27 through July 5, discharge allowed until 11 p.m. each day.

**Senior Progress Center**  
Senior Progress Center has coffee everyday and coffee and

donuts every Friday at 8:30 AM. 165 Fike Park, 785-460-2901

**Prairie Museum Camp**  
Day at the Museum Camp this week features ‘Volt Vision STEM Camp’ on Thursday, June 19th, from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM. At this camp session, kids will be learning about electricity, batteries, and the devices that power the things around us! We’re super excited to see everyone there!

**Consumer Confidence Report**  
The 2024 City of Colby Consumer Confidence Report is now available at <https://cityofcolbyks.gov/>

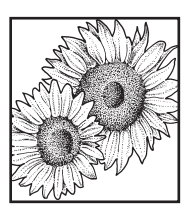
**Joyful Blessing Meal**  
Everyone is invited to a Free Joyful Blessings Dinner on Saturday, June 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 615 W. Webster. All are invited, and please bring a friend.

**Business After Five**  
Citizens Health Rehab Department is hosting a Business After Five on June 26. Come meet the new Rehab Director, Samantha McLemore, and learn about the services they provide. Located at 100 E College Dr.

The other day an old farmer friend of mine sent me a picture of a beautiful prickly pear cactus plant in full bloom...big yellowish/orange flowers, every bit as pretty as any rose you could have blooming in your garden.

It brought back memories of the years we live on a nice expanse of prairie ground that had numerous varieties of native plants and flowers including not only the prickly pear, but many yucca plants and lots of different flowering species of plants.

At the time, I didn’t make notes on the different kinds of flowering plants I would find on the six-acre plot of land we owned. Of course I knew of the wild sunflow-



the gardener  
• Marty Melia

ers, and years later realized that there was butterfly milkweed growing there. But there was so much more there that I wish I would have identified.

I remember many years ago after a very rainy late spring and early summer, a big area of Indian blanket flowers that apparently had been lying dormant for years, burst into bloom along HI way 27 near the North Smokey River south of town. Indian Blanket, officially known as Gail-lardia is native to the high plains...but doesn’t always bloom on the prairie

very year.

I’ve read many articles and have seen many videos about growing native plants. Many horticulturists promote planting native species of perennial plants in our local landscapes, as opposed to the many different nonnative perennials that are available to us. And I’m not sure I agree with that.

To be a native plant purist would be to deny ourselves of perennial plants we’ve lived with and grown all our lives in our yards...plants like iris, peonies, lilies, roses, lilacs and spirea. Not to mention all the many different annuals we grow in our pots on our porches and decks.

I have to say, though, when we were living in the

country, I had an area on the west side of the house that got very little shade, so I transplanted a couple of the afore mentioned prickly pear cactus and a yucca plant and they thrived there. The cactus spread through the years and every spring would burst into bloom with lots of bright yellow flowers.

It actually really does make sense to grow native plants...whatever part of the country you live in. For more information about native plants that grow on our Western Kansas Prairie, stop by your local KSU Extension office, or do an online search for “native plants”.

Hear The Gardener Tuesdays and Fridays on KYVZ FM 106.1

Cont. from PAGE 1: TOOLS

sions,” Hilbrink said. “It’s a tool we didn’t have before, and now we can do it with one firefighter in minutes.”

Funding for the tools came through a two-phase grant process. The Thomas County Community Foundation awarded \$13,884 for the ram and \$15,844 for the spreader. Once the department met the 50% local funding requirement, Hilbrink applied to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, which provided a \$25,965 grant to complete the project.

“When I first talked to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, they said they typically

require 50% local funding,” Hilbrink said. “I told them this was an all-or-nothing effort—we had to go all in. We shot for the stars and got it.”

Additional support came from the Kansas Pipeline Association and Farmland, each contributing \$1,000 toward the tool purchases. In total, nearly \$50,000 in costs were offset through community and foundation support.

Jada Tubbs, Executive Director of the Thomas County Community Foundation, emphasized the critical need for such investment:

“We are proud to support the City of Colby Fire Department with a grant from the Thomas County Community Foundation. The recent dust storm response is a powerful reminder of how critical their work is to the safety and well-being of our community and those passing through. This new extraction equipment is already making a life-saving difference, and we are honored to invest in the tools that help our first responders protect and serve.”

All four tools are battery-powered and run on 60-volt DeWalt batteries, offering compatibility with neighboring departments such as Sheridan County, Brewster, and Rexford—an added advantage in regional mutual aid situations.

To ensure crews are trained and ready, the department will begin simulations using a donated vehicle. “We’re cutting it apart and running full training drills,” Hilbrink said. “That way our team is confident and fully prepared when it really counts.”

Hilbrink expressed deep gratitude to both foundations and the local supporters who made the purchase possible. “This equipment is going to serve the people of Colby and Thomas County for years to come. We couldn’t have done it without the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, the Thomas County Community Foundation, and the incredible generosity of this community.”

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**STORE CLOSING**

**Loker Retail Liquor of McDonald, KS will be closing June 30, 2025.**

*All spirits, cordials and wines are on sale!*

# Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-443-0894, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. every Wednesday. **Now Handicap Accessible.**

**BEREAN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Jim Meyers. High School Youth Group Sunday 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the church. AWANA (including Middle School) Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Heartland Christian School.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, JW Glidewell, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2813, Sunday School (adults) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

**BREWSTER METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Mike Baughn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 1923 S. Range, Suite 2 (Old Beringer's Hardware Store). Kirby Benisch, Campus Pastor. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. www.celebratejesus.org

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 510 E. 4th, Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin, President Ryan Willis, 971-678-1755. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 11:00 a.m.; Family History Center open by appointment.

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), 785-465-7020, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rodgers Chishiba, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services 10:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:00 a.m., Sunday School, 9:00 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 10:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

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

**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.

**FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**, Pastor Dan Keel, 815 W. 3rd. Sundays at 2 p.m. 785-462-0512.

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

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718. Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 515 W. 4th, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Worship is available online. For access, please call Reverend Shelly Holle, 785-462-6342.

**GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor Kyle Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m.

**GRACE ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP** meets in the Ascension-on-the-Prairie Episcopal Church on College Drive & Wheatridge Rd. on Saturday morning. 10 a.m. Bible study group & 10 a.m. worship service. Pastor Dale Rossette: For more information call 785-462-7963.

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

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main, Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church. Adult class and Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 am. Worship Services: 10:45 a.m. First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, 217 Main St., Brewster, 785-694-2751. 1st, 3rd, 4th Sunday of the month worship 9:00 a.m., and 2nd and 5th Sunday of the month worship 10:00 a.m.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, 785-694-2807, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

**REDEEMING LOVE, RLM Regional Church**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. Romine II - Apostle. 785-657-1611. Saturday is Sabbath Worship: 9 a.m. Equipping class, 10 a.m. is Praise and Worship with 11 a.m. is Scripture Teachings. Wednesdays at 7 p.m. is Bible Study. Youtube.com, search rlmkansas.

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

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**, 785-462-2179, Father Brian J. Lager, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:00-5:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00 - 7:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. and from Wednesday & Friday 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.

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

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Philip Hoppe, 855 E. 5th St., Colby, KS. Church number: 785-462-3497. Services, Sat, 5:30 p.m., Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Visit us at trinitycolby.org and see us on Facebook.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, Pastor Jordan Grimms, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Adult Sunday School 9:00 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.

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

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** is a Christ-based ministry for anyone struggling with past or current hurts, habits or hang-ups! We welcome everyone! at First Baptist Church, 720 W. Walnut, Hill City, KS 67642 Join us for praise, worship, healing lessons and testimonies Starting May 31, 2025 at 7 p.m. and every Saturday after Contact (785) 821-8136 with questions