

Oops!



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

A 100,000 lb. crane was brought to Oakley from Garden City on Wednesday to lift a 60,000 pound wind turban base section which had fallen from the truck hauling it after a pin on the base broke away from the truck about 12:45 p.m. The base came to rest in the intersection of Highways 40 and 83, and was later pulled west of the intersection on Highway 40 where it rested

and blocked traffic until late morning on Thursday until a new pin plate was flown in from Provo, Utah. The base, along with two other sections, were on their way to Butler County. Traffic was directed around the incident by the Kansas Highway Patrol, Logan County Sheriff's Office, Oakley Police Department and Kansas Department of Transportation.

Public loses confidence on relief cash

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans are losing confidence that the federal government will wisely spend billions of dollars set aside for recovery from Hurricane Katrina, an AP-Ipsos poll found. Just three weeks ago, the public was evenly split on whether the money would be spent wisely, according to the poll. Now, six in 10 say they are not confident the money will be well spent. Federal officials were left red-faced after scuttling a debit-card

plan almost as soon as they announced it, few hurricane victims moved into cruise ships leased off the Gulf Coast at considerable cost and Congress pushed to reverse many no-bid government contracts. The negative publicity appears to have had an impact on public opinion. "They're doing a bad job with the money," said Larry Washington, of Bonham, Texas, who complained about companies from outside the region getting rich, noncompetitive

contracts to build mobile shelters at the expense of local businesses. "I guess they just want to make the corporations rich," he said. "They're doing it for their buddies." Since the initial, much-criticized federal government response to Katrina, Congress has appropriated \$62 billion for hurricane recovery. The Congressional Budget Office says the final tab likely will be less than \$150 billion — below initial estimates. Most people have no problem

with the expected cost. Almost half of those surveyed in the AP-Ipsos poll said the government is spending the right amount while two in 10 said the more should be spent. Government efforts to deal quickly with the crisis brought problems — from a short-lived program to give hurricane victims \$2,000 debit cards to a six-month lease for three Carnival Cruise ships that cost \$236 million and aren't being used by most hurricane victims.

Some unhappy with timing of new judge

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The Kansas Supreme Court's newest justice won't be sworn in until Nov. 18, guaranteeing he won't face voters next year amid ongoing criticism that the court is out of touch. Some Republican legislators suggested Thursday the timing of Eric Rosen joining the court could be an attempt to avoid voters. Many GOP lawmakers contend

Kansans are angry about Supreme Court rulings on education funding and capital punishment. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius named Rosen to the state's highest court on July 22. Rosen is a Shawnee County district judge, and he said when Gov. Sebelius appointed him that he wanted to finish pending cases in his court.

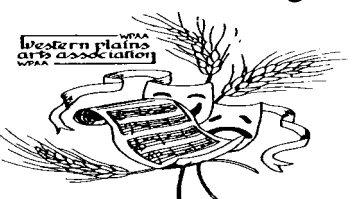
House Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka, said he admires Rosen but accused Sebelius of trying "to get around the will of the people." Mays is seeking the Republican nomination to challenge Sebelius next year and led the failed fight during this summer's special session to send voters a proposed constitutional amendment limiting the court's authority. "What she's doing here is fundamentally wrong," Mays said. "I really think the governor owes the people of the state an explanation."

Spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said Sebelius had nothing to do with the timing of Rosen's swearing in and noted that Rosen mentioned when he was appointed that he still had cases pending in district court.

Western Plains to host jazz caravan Sunday

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor
The Western Plains Arts Association is sponsoring Whit Smith's Hot Jazz Caravan, Sunday, starting at 3 p.m. in the Hoxie High School auditorium, said Pat Ziegelmeier, executive director. "The sextet," she said, "will perform a blend of western swing, jazz and ballads featuring two guitars, two fiddles, a string bass, clarinet and vocals." Most of the music is improvised on stage and includes both original compositions and new arrangements of familiar melodies. In addition to their Sunday performance, Ziegelmeier said, the sextet will also be performing at the Colby Elementary auditorium for the students at 8:30 a.m., Monday. Also next week, The Wichita Children's Theatre will offer a musical version of "The Three Little Kittens" at five different locations on Thursday and Friday, she said. Four school presentations are planned with the first at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, at Winona and then at

1:30 p.m. in Brewster. The theater will then travel to the Atwood Schools on Friday for a 9:30 a.m. performance and at 1:30 p.m. (MDT) in Goodland. The theater will also provide an evening production Thursday at the Quinter High School auditorium starting at 7:30 a.m. Admission is by Western Prairie Arts Association season ticket or at the door. Adults are \$5 and children \$3. All performances are made possible by Western Prairie Arts Association with additional funding by the Kansas Arts Commission. The programs are also underwritten by the National Endowment of the Arts, along with foundations, corporations and individuals in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.



Thousands taken from convenience store

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press
Authorities in Hoxie are looking for whoever broke in to one of the town's convenience stores late Thursday night. According to Hoxie Police Chief John Bieker, someone broke into Red's convenience store about 11:25 p.m. Bieker said while there are no suspects in the case yet, whoever is responsible for the break-in gained access by trying to pry open the front door. In the person's effort to gain access at the lock area of the door, the glass door shattered leaving only a twisted aluminum framework standing. The convenience store is also home to a video and DVD complex, and sits just west of a car wash, all owned by Jerry and Diane Bull of Hoxie. Diane Bull said whoever is responsible for the break-in got away with over \$2,000 in cash and over \$500 in checks. "The checks won't do them any good because they were stamped on the back. They even took the



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A boarded up door at Red's convenience store in Hoxie was an unwelcome sight to customers after the glass door was destroyed in an overnight break-in. cash register drawers, but I can't figure out what they'd want with the drawers," she said. Bull said a witness saw someone using what appeared to be a crow-bar trying to enter the building just after the night clerk had left for the evening. She said the witness was the one who alerted the police. Jerry Bull said this is the first time he and his wife's business has been broken in to since they bought the store 16-years-ago from Wayne "Red" and Ruth Taylor, also of Hoxie.

17 injured, some missing

Fire destroys apartments in Lawrence

LAWRENCE (AP) A massive fire "totally destroyed" a 76-unit Lawrence apartment building early Friday morning, injuring 17 people — including two who were taken by helicopter to Kansas City hospitals. Interim Lawrence-Douglas County Fire and Medical Chief Mark Bradford told reporters at a 4:15 a.m. briefing that officials were still conducting a headcount of residents at Boardwalk Apartments in the 500 block of Fireside Drive, and that an "unknown" number were unaccounted for. "There's been significant structural collapse," he said. "It will take us some time to get in and search all the areas."

Bradford said it was too early to determine the cause of the fire. Surviving residents were directed to a Red Cross shelter set up at the nearby American Legion hall, 3408 W. Sixth St. At 4:30 a.m., the hall had received fewer than a dozen people seeking shelter. "We can take in as many as we need to," said Jane Blocher, director of the Douglas County chapter of the American Red Cross. She said officials had told her as many as 100 people had been displaced by the fire, though most would seek shelter with family or friends.

Dispatchers received "numerous" 911 calls about the fire at 1:19 a.m., Bradford said. The first fire crews arrived on scene at 1:25 a.m. and quickly called in help from the Lenexa and Olathe fire departments. Donna Watson, the manager of Boardwalk Apartments, said there were 76 units in the block of apartments that were burning but not every apartment was occupied. "I have a real mix," she said. "There's young married couples, elderly people, singles, some college students."

Joseph Anderson, a Haskell student who lives in a nearby apartment, was playing video games on his Xbox with friends and became aware of the fire shortly after 1 a.m. He said he was joined by three friends in knocking on doors to try to get sleeping residents out of the building. "We were all hysterical, yelling," he said. "I heard screams. I couldn't do anything for them ... it was moving so fast." The fire quickly spread to the rest of the building, which included the addresses of 510, 512, 516, 518, 522 and 524 Fireside Drive. "All of which are totally destroyed," Bradford said. The blaze initially generated a column of glowing embers which threatened apartments and office buildings to the south. Police evacuated the nearby apartments, and firefighters quickly poured water on the building to prevent a spread of the conflagration. Christopher Collins stood in the parking lot of a nearby building, shoeless and wrapped in a blanket. "My place burned down," he said of his apartment at 524 Fireside No. 12. "Somebody banged on my door — the real hard type where you think it's coming off the hinges. ... I looked out my door to see where the fire was, figuratively speaking. I saw it was four doors down." Collins said he had escaped wearing only the blanket. Somebody friendly gave him a shirt, pants and socks to wear. "At least I got some dignity now," he said. 500 block of Fireside Drive Dave Klebek also lived at 524 Fireside, in apartment No. 6. He escaped out the window with his cat after finding the ledge ablaze outside his front door. "It wasn't much of a drop, second floor," he said. But Klebek said he saw glass exploding from burning apartments, and another Boardwalk resident jump out of a third-floor window. "We were grabbing at his ankle after he landed," Klebek said. Bradford said firefighters treated and transported seven people for injuries, including two in critical condition who were taken by helicopter to Kansas City hospitals. Another 10 people took themselves to the Lawrence Memorial Hospital emergency room for minor injuries, he said; condition reports were not immediately available. By 4:30 a.m., firefighters were still on scene, but it appeared they had the blaze mostly under control. And the first survivors were reporting to the Red Cross shelter.

