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Roads in bad shape, says Rovohl resident

By Vera Sloan

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A Rovohl Township resident asked Thomas County commissioners Friday where he could turn for answers about the poor state of some township roads.

Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and Byron Sowers were sympathetic to Jerry Baird, who said he has to travel two miles of Barrett township roads just to get to a main road. Baird said lives on County Road Y northwest of Colby, a half mile into Rovohl township. The roads in the area are so bad, he said, that last year he tore the transfer case – part of the four-wheel-drive system – out of his truck.

“There were 17 of us who went to one of the township board’s meeting, but it just isn’t doing any good,” he said. “The board has built a good road and sanded it to Bill White’s new grain-bin site, but my mother can’t even get her mail delivered when it rains. She can’t get out, and she’s past 80 years old. We’ve gone to the board, and there’s no help.”

He said he had followed Lyman Bear, a township trustee, one night to an 8 p.m. meeting, but none of the board showed up at the usual meeting place. Baird said he waited for 30 minutes and finally left. He said he found out later that the board had the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press



Colby remembers fallen vets

Troy Rall (above) led the honor guard (from front) of Darren Guy, Lynn Marker and Richard Luvender as they posted the colors at Beulah Cemetery for a Memorial Day service Monday. Leaders from the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars spoke and named members who have died since last year’s ceremony. The organizations’ auxiliaries posted wreaths at the veterans’ memorial stone. A squad of area servicemen (left) performed a 21-gun salute.

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A Case International loader tractor belonging to Ken Frahm of Colby and being driven by Steve Pierce, Colby, caught fire and burned early Friday afternoon at the stop sign on U.S. 24 and County Rd. R, at the southeast side of Levant.

“When I stopped at the stop sign,” Pierce said as he stood back and watched the firemen take over, “I saw fire under the cab, so I jumped out and called 911 on my cell phone. I don’t have a clue what might have caused the fire.”

Pierce, originally from Bartley, Neb., who said he has been work-

ing for Frahm about three months, said he had been moving hay bales.

Pierce said someone in Levant must have seen the smoke, because they arrived fairly quickly with a fiberglass water tank and began dousing the flames.

The heavy black smoke from the combination of diesel, rubber and oil was easily seen from the west edge of Colby and made the fire look closer than the eight miles between the two towns.

Sean Hankin, assistant fire chief, said the call came in at 1:25 p.m., and the tractor’s tires were ablaze when he arrived at 1:32 p.m. Fire trucks were on the scene in a little over 15 minutes.

“We were on the scene for about

an hour and it took 30 to 35 minutes just to get the fire doused in the tires,” Hankin said. “We continued to cool things down, and although the tires were the only flames to put out, the entire tractor was totally destroyed. The wind was absolutely terrible, and then the cab began coming apart due to the heat from the fire.”

He said fire officials are not sure as to what might have caused the blaze.

The fuel tanks on newer tractors are high-grade plastic material, Hankin said, and will melt in a hurry. Since the fuel for the tractor was diesel, there was no danger of explosion like there would have been with gasoline, he said, adding that the tractor was insured.

Teacher gets grant for classroom tech

By Vera Sloan

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Sherry Kinderknecht’s seventh-grade math classes at Colby Middle School will be learning some new technology this fall in the form of the Livescribe Pen.

Kinderknecht said seventh graders have difficulties trying to decide what to write down and what not

to write down when taking notes, and she believed using a Livescribe would show them where their strengths and weaknesses are.

She will get the pen thanks to a \$169 grant from the Classroom Grants Program sponsored by area McDonalds restaurants.

She said there’s a camera in the tip of the pen to record words as they are being written, plus an audio

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Briefly

Mingo church plans concert

Evidence 2010, a vocal ensemble from the Calvary Bible College in Kansas City, Mo., will perform at 7 p.m. tonight at the Mingo Bible Church. Pastor Tom Peyton said there will be fun activities for high school and college students, allowing them meet and get to know the ensemble. Donations will be accepted. For information, call Peyton at 462-2930.

Firemen plan to test hydrants

The Colby Fire Department will started testing fire hydrants Tuesday, beginning with Hill Street. Assistant Chief Sean Hankin said the testing will take about a month, and the work may disrupt some water lines near the hydrants. For information, call Hankin at the Colby Fire Department, 460-4454.

Chautauqua to include youth

Area students are invited to “Making Murals

with Folktales: How Butterflies Were Made,” a free Chautauqua workshop at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. Preschoolers must be accompanied by an adult. Wanda Schell will present. “Dear Eleanor, Dear Michelle,” another free program, will be presented by Paige Gawith from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday at the library for children ages 8 and older. For information, call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

Singles dance set for Saturday

The Colby singles and couples dance will be from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Course clubhouse, 1085 E Golf Course Dr. Craig Stevens will provide the music. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

Flyers plan fun day, lunch at field

The Colby RC Flyers will hold their annual fun

fly from dawn to dusk Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13, at the club’s field seven miles north of Colby on K-25. For information, call Dave Backus at 460-6941 or Nick Nichols at 460-6357.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday this summer. Open swimming is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost for general admission is \$3, but monthly and yearly passes are available. Call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.

Garden needs gardeners

Colby’s community garden is looking for volunteers. The plot, at the K-State Experiment Station on the west side of town, needs volunteers to help grow

fruit and vegetables. Food produced by the farm will go to the Genesis-Thomas County food bank and the Extension’s Kids A Cookin’ program, as well as to the volunteers who put in their time and energy. For information, call Orvella Romine at 460-8177 or Extension agent Clint Milliman at 460-4582.

Signup open for food program

Sign up for the Prairie Land food St. is open through Friday, June 11, at State Farm Insurance, 905 E. Fourth Street in Colby. Delivery will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call Gene Griffin at (785) 460-3579.

