



A mind of its own



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

This horse didn't want to cooperate during the Open Class Horse Show on Saturday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The show was one of the earliest events during fair week, which will continue with the popular 4-H livestock auction at 5:30 p.m. today, Flat Track motor cycle races at 8 p.m. and the F&M Bank Summer Shootout race at 7 p.m. Friday. For more fair pictures, see Page 5.

Nevada man killed in Selden accident

An 86-year-old Nevada man was killed Wednesday afternoon when he apparently ran a stop sign and was hit broadside by a semi-trailer rig at the U.S. 83-K-383 junction northeast of Selden.

Trooper Ronald Boyd of the Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Carl Jonas of Pahrump, Nev., was driving south on U.S. 83 in a motor home when it ran the stop sign at the K-383 intersection about three miles northeast of Selden.

A tractor-trailer going southwest hit the motor home and pushed it off the road and into the ditch to the southwest. Both vehicles came to rest right side up, Boyd said.

The intersection has a tight angle, with K-383 entering from the northeast and U.S. 83 crossing railroad tracks parallel to the through road. U.S. 83 has a stop sign for southbound traffic, with rumble strips and a warning sign in advance.

The trooper reported that Jones and his wife, May Jonas, 72, were taken to the Sheridan County Medical Center in Hoxie, where the driver was pronounced dead at 3:42 p.m. Both were wearing their seatbelts at the time of the crash, about 2:40 p.m.

The truck driver, Daniel Smith, 33, of Wiley, Colo., was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby

with possible injuries. He was also wearing his seatbelt.

The Jonases were towing a 2002 Saturn behind the motor home, which had to be towed away. The front of the truck tractor was smashed in, and the motor home was reported a total loss.

Troopers, firemen and others worked late into the night to investigate and clean up the crash. Tow trucks were still trying to hook up about 9 a.m. as firemen directed traffic around the scene.

The motor home, tractor and trailer were towed to Mel's Motors and the Saturn to Jack's Repair, both in Oakley.

Schools to coordinate start times for 2010-11

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Colby School Board officially changed start times for all schools to 8 a.m. and set the end times at 3:30 p.m., eliminating staggered starts established last year and lengthening the school day 12 minutes to compensate for a shorter term.

The time change was part of the board's yearly reorganization process, always done at the first meeting of the fiscal year.

Last year, the grade school went from 8:10 a.m. to 3:29 p.m., the middle school from 8:07 to 3:29 p.m. and the high school from 8 a.m. to 3:18 p.m.

Superintendent Terrel Harrison said the times were staggered to help parents ease into the new pick-up and drop-off locations around the Grade and Middle schools. She said the parents didn't seem to have any trouble with that other than figuring out what time to drop off each student. Making times at all buildings the same should help reduce confusion, she said, now that parents know where to go.

The school day will be about 12 minutes longer,

Harrison said, to make up for a shorter school year, which the board approved in February. The school year will be about two weeks shorter, starting Aug. 25 and ending May 20.

The board changed the schedule on Harrison's recommendation. She said it would save about \$40,000 a year.

They also voted unanimously – with the exception of Kevan Taylor, who was not at the meeting – to keep Janice Frahm as president and Tracy Rogers as vice president.

Frahm appointed board members to serve on committees, including the coordinating council and district steering committee. The board appointed member Ed Geihlsler as an alternate on the building committee and the Northwest Kansas Technical College board. All other committee assignments remained unchanged.

The board approved the Colby banks as official depositories for the next year and the Colby Free Press as the district's official newspaper.

The board appointed school officials, the only

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Polls to open Tuesday for 2010 Primary Election

Thomas County voters will head to the polls Tuesday for the 2010 Primary Election, facing some interesting choices in Republican races for state Legislature, the U.S. House and U.S. Senate.

Polls at the Colby Community Building will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. All voting will be at the consolidated polling place.

Voters who want to vote before Tuesday have until Friday to request advance ballots from the county courthouse, and until Monday to turn them in.

In local elections, Commissioner Byron Sowers of Colby is running unopposed on the Republican ticket for District 1 county commissioner. No Democrats have filed for the seat. District 1 includes Rovohl, Wendell, Lacey, Smith, Menlo, North and South Randall townships and half of Morgan Township.

For the other county position on the ballot, Lora Volk of Colby is running unopposed for re-election as county register of deeds as a Republican.

ELECTION  
2010

Thomas County will also be nominating candidates for township clerks. Democrat Gary K. Ostmeyer filed in South Randall along with Republicans Loren Guill, Menlo; Pat Tinkham, Barrett; Travis Elias, North Randall; and Dee Olson and Marshall Rhea, Summers. These elections are limited to township residents.

Party members will vote for precinct committee members.

Democratic Party: Ward II – Maurice L. Sloan and Rosalie Seemann; Ward IV – Linda L. Murray; and Wendell Township – Helen M. Poland, Gem.

Republican Party: Ward I – Stephen Myers and Kathy J. Myers; Ward II – Sheila Frahm, Kenneth

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ANDY HEINTZ and KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press  
Rep. Jim Morrison (above) and challenger Brenda McCants (right) both appeared in the Thomas County Fair Parade on Tuesday, handing out candy and asking for votes. Both candidates in the 121st District race for the Legislature will appear at a meet-and-greet at 5 p.m. tonight at the Pioneer Memorial Library.



Briefly

Candidates to answer questions

The Republican candidates for the Kansas House of Representatives will have a question-and-answer session from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

Walkers needed for Relay

Relay for Life, an annual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, needs teams and team captains for the walking relay at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Fike Park. For information or to sign up, call Denise Stupka at 462-2122.

Massage class plans open house

The Massage Therapy program at Colby Community College will hold an open house from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday in room 402 at Thomas Hall. The program won accreditation from the National Certification

Board for Therapeutic Massage last semester. For information, call program director Debra Waites at 460-5427.

Cooking class offered for kids

Kids a Cookin' classes will be held for third, fourth and fifth graders at 10 a.m. Tuesday and Aug. 10 at the 4-H Building, using produce grown in the Thomas County Coalition Community Garden. To sign up, call the Thomas County Extension office at 460-4582 by noon Monday.

Farm Service to explain reserve

The U.S. Farm Service Agency will have an information meeting on the Conservation Reserve Program at 1 p.m. next Thursday in room 2 of the Colby Community Building. The meeting will cover the program's sign-up period, from Monday to Friday, Aug. 27, and who is eligible. For information, call

Phyllis Tholen at 462-7671.

Museum plans '125' quilt show

A special quilt show celebrating Thomas County's 125th Birthday will be held at the Prairie Museum of History and Art from Oct. 7 to 31. Quilts of any size, pattern or age with a Thomas County connection should be entered at the museum from Sept. 1 to 24. Call (785) 460-4590 for information.

Commodities here on Aug. 9

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 9, at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Anyone who's eligible may come and get commodities first-come, first-served. Items will include vegetable soup, apricots, beans, instant milk, spaghetti, and rotini. For information, call the volunteer program office at 462-6744.

Army has fans to beat heat

The Salvation Army has fans available for anyone who needs them. Call Kathy Ryan at the Thomas County Health Department, 460-4596.

Signups open for kids' football

Signups are open for Colby Little League Football at the Sports Shoppe for kids in third to sixth grades. A \$100 fee covers equipment rent and other materials. Space is limited. The Shoppe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call Travis Branum at 462-8342.

