

Family

Deaths

Linda K. Mahorney

Linda K. Mahorney, 64, died Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010, at her home in Colby. Services are pending with the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, (785) 462-7979.

Linda J. Sims

Linda J. Sims, 61, Des Moines, Iowa, the daughter of Wight and (Lillian) Sims of Oakley, died Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010, at her home. She was born in Colby on Feb. 12, 1949. She attended Oakley schools and graduated in 1967. She graduated from Kansas State University with bachelor's and master's degrees in child and family development. She married J. Dan Smeltzer on June 6, 1970. For the last 12 years, she worked for the Iowa Foundation for Medi-

cal Care. Survivors include her parents, of Oakley; her husband, of the home; three children Emily Smeltzer, Andrew Smeltzer and Nicholas Smeltzer, all of Des Moines; two sisters, Lana (Arlen) Etling, Lincoln, Neb.; and Joyce (Damon) Young, Austin, Texas; and two brothers, Bill (Jennifer) Sims, Lawrence; and Brett (Linda) Sims, Houston, Texas. The family suggests memorial contributions to the American Cancer Society. There will be no public service.

Lola M. Skiles

Lola M. Skiles, a Colby homemaker, died Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010, at Citizens Medical Center. She was born Jan. 5, 1923, in Thomas County, the daughter of Joseph and Avis (Phillips) Turrell. Her husband, Allen F. Skiles, preceded her in death in 1961. Survivors include three sons, Michael A. (Beverly) Skiles, Katy, Texas; and Steven P. (Jari) Skiles and Frank J. (Bernice) Skiles, and a brother, Billy J. (Pat) Turrell, Colby; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, at the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, with the Rev. James Mardock officiating and burial in Beulah Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral chapel. The family suggests memorials to Citizens Medical Center in care of the funeral chapel, 745 S. Country Club, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Nominations open for employer award

ARLINGTON, Va. – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, has opened of the nomination season for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Guard and Reserve service members and their families are encouraged to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support above and beyond the requirements of federal law. Nominations are being accepted at www.FreedomAward.mil through Jan. 17. The Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers. The 2011 recipients will be announced in the spring and honored in Washington at the 16th annual Freedom Award ceremony on Sept. 22. Recipients of the 2010 Freedom Award met privately with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates while in Washington. Robert Hale, undersecretary of defense and department chief financial officer, and Dennis McCarthy, assistant secretary for reserve affairs, presented the awards at a ceremony attended by members of Congress, senior military officials, business leaders and the service members who nominated the winners. Almost half of the U.S. military

is composed of Guard and Reserve members. The department shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support. The 2010 recipients included chief executives from seven large American corporations, a governor, a mayor, a state police director, the chancellor of a university, and four small-business owners. These and past recipients provide support to these shared employees which included maintaining their full salary, continuation of benefits, providing care packages and family assistance. The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996. The agency was established in 1972 to develop and promote employer support, increase awareness of federal laws and resolve conflict between employers and service members. For questions, go to www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Beth Sherman, public affairs, at (703) 696-1171, ext. 539, or by e-mail at ESGR-PA@osd.mil.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.80
Corn (bushel)	\$4.70
Milo (hundredweight)	\$8.05
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.08

College to help students get home

Colby Community College will offer free rides in a college van to Denver International Airport at 6 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11, for students trying to get home for the holidays.

This service is usually offered at the beginning and end of each school year for out-of-state and international students, said Dr. Keegan Nichols, vice president of student affairs, but this year has been extended to homeward leg of the winter holiday.

"It has been challenging for our students to find rides to the airport prior to the semester break," said Dr. Nichols. "Our students will need to arrange their own trans-

portation back to Colby."

The college strives to create a diverse student body, she said.

"We do not want travel to and from the airport to be an obstacle for students who want a quality education at Colby Community College," said Nichols. "We are pleased that the board of trustees and the college officials have allowed us to provide this service for our students. It is certainly appreciated by the students who will be traveling home after finals."

Students will need to sign up for the trip by Wednesday, Dec. 1, by contacting Kelly Gates at (785) 460-5551 or at kelly.gates@colbycc.edu.

Soup and Scripture to meet downtown

The Thomas County Ministerial Association plans to hold its December Soup and Scripture sessions at noon Wednesdays at Smoffee's in downtown Colby instead of at a church.

The Rev. Carol Rahn of the First Presbyterian Church said they hope to attract more people by holding the series at a neutral site. Owner Shawn Larson will offer a soup lunch for \$5.

The theme is "Characters at the Stable." Call Pastor Rahn at 443-2636 for information. Speakers and topics include:

Wednesday – The Inn Keeper, Jarrod Spencer, Colby Church of Christ.

Dec. 8 – Joseph, Steve Todd, College Drive Assembly of God.

Dec. 15 – Mary, Pastor Rahn.

Dec. 22 – Shepherds, Craig Crossman, First Baptist.

Winter holds fire warnings with dangerously dry forecast

Something new and different appears likely to be a frequent feature in High Plains weather forecasts this winter.

"A 'Red Flag Warning' is a step above the 'extreme' category on the old Range Fire Danger index" said State Climatologist Mary Knapp, "and, for the first time in a number of years, Kansas appears to be primed to hear it during wintertime, too.

The term emerged with the same change that put a slightly modified slogan in Smokey Bear's mouth. Now, it's "Only you can prevent wildfires." The National Weather Service now reports overall U.S. wildfire conditions, rather than separating the risks for forests and grasslands.

Knapp said conditions that warrant a Red Flag vary from area to area. In general, the criteria are a dangerous mix of wind, low humidity, moderate to warm temperatures and available fuel.

No matter the location, how-

ever, a Red Flag always means the same: Fire conditions have reached the critical level. Any spark could create a devastating fire with explosive growth potential.

"Unfortunately, Kansas is leaving a dry fall and moving into our normally drier winter months," Knapp said. "Added to that, the state has a much bigger supply of natural fuels, due to beneficial rains over the last two years.

"Besides, most farmers are now leaving stubble on harvested fields to conserve soil and moisture. Landowners are no longer burning pastures as often as recommended, so trashy shrubs and trees are rapidly become part of the state's burnable mix. That's dangerous in a fire-based ecology – which actually is one of the ways scientists define 'prairie.'"

As climatologist, Knapp maintains Kansas drought data, forecasts and fire-weather links at www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/.

Some like it HOT...

and some like to shop the COOL want ad way!!



The Colby Free Press - 462-3963



The Starry Night Trio

Piano trio to perform at Cultural Arts Center

Pianist Julie Rivers and her Starry Night Trio will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday in a concert of holiday music at the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus.

The concert will feature music from her recordings, Christmastide and Tidings of Joy.

A native Texan, Rivers made her debut as piano soloist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. The daughter of a Swedish

immigrant, she began playing the piano at age 2. At the University of North Texas, she won every award offered to pianists by the school of music.

Performing on keyboard and synthesizers will be Randy Wills and on guitar Peter Larsen.

Admission is by Western Plains Arts Association season ticket or at the door, \$15 for adults and \$7 for students.

Input sought on rail plan

The Kansas Department of Transportation is seeking public comment on the draft of the 2010 Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan.

The plan outlines efforts to provide a more efficient and cost-effective movement of people and goods to assist the state in future economic initiatives through rail transportation.

The plan also will:

- Establish the state's role in the freight rail system.
- Establish the interaction be-

tween freight and passenger rail service.

- Develop an action plan to improve the condition and performance of the state rail system.

A draft copy of the plan is available by going to www.ksdot.org, and clicking on the Draft Statewide Rail Plan link at the top.

All comments are due no later than Wednesday, Dec. 17. Send them to Freight and Rail Program Manager John Maddox at johnm@ksdot.org or by calling (785) 296-3228.

EAT HEARTY.....

CHICKEN, STEAK & SHRIMP

Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

Your choice of Potato and Salad

COLBY VFW

MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME!



High Plains Lions Club Pancake Feed

Saturday, December 4, 2010

\$4.50 Donation ~ 7am - 2 pm

Colby Community Building

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MOVIES

NOW SHOWING

Digital/3D Cinema

Nov.25th - Dec.2nd

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HOLLOW

PART 1

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson

PG-13 2 Hours, 27 Minutes

Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:45

Sunday - Thursday 7:00

TANGLED (3D)

Starring: Mandy Moore and Ronny Pearlman

PG 1 Hour, 40 Minutes

Wednesday & Thursday (24th & 25th) @ 7:00

Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:00

Sunday - Thursday 7:00

COMING SOON

Due Date

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Skyline


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