



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press



## Documentary crew recreates 1930s Colby

Director Jay Kriss (above) and his film crew shot several scenes for his documentary "Harvesting the High Plains" on Saturday in downtown Colby. Kriss got local citizens to bring in cars from the 1930s and '40s and wear period costumes (left) for scenes in front of old downtown buildings. One scene involved a car driving past (below) while other actors walked along the sidewalk, covering their faces as if dust was blowing in the air. Kriss also will also be filming scenes of modern wheat harvesting and a re-creation of 1930s harvesting at a wheat field in Nebraska. When completed, the film will be premiered in Colby and broadcast on Public Television.



## Kansas may have legal trouble from abortion rules

By John Hanna

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Gov. Sam Brownback's administration created significant legal problems for Kansas as it attempts to increase its regulation of abortion providers by giving them relatively little time to comply with new rules.

Regulations drafted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment took effect July 1 but were blocked the same day by a federal judge, until a lawsuit involving two of the state's three providers is resolved. The lawsuit argues the state violated the providers' constitutional right to due legal process.

The department drafted the rules under a new law requiring abortion providers to obtain annual licenses to terminate pregnancies. The regulations dictate what drugs and equipment providers must stock, require them to make

medical records available for inspection, set standards for room sizes and temperatures and require patients to remain in recovery rooms at least two hours after an abortion.

The new requirements for buildings have drawn scrutiny because two providers, the Aid for Women clinic in Kansas City, Kan., and the Center for Women's Health, in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, have acknowledged needing extensive renovations to comply. To get a license, they were supposed to have shown they'd comply by July 1, based on regulations dated June 17.

But the health department probably won't be allowed to enforce its requirements for providers' buildings, at least this year. With the lawsuit, there's a good chance the department will be required to either back away or give the providers far more time than it had planned to make changes.

"There is absolutely no way that they could have complied with those requirements," Teresa Woody, an attorney for the two physicians at the Center for Women's Health, argued in federal court. "There is an undue burden both on the doctors and the patients."

Brownback signed the licensing law May 16. The department had one version of the accompanying regulations ready by June 8 but then revised them and issued a new set nine days later.

Health department officials have said they were required to act quickly because the licensing law took effect July 1 and didn't give them discretion to delay regulations, waive rules or issue provisional licenses.

The department didn't hold a public hearing; a state rules-reviewing board allowed the

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## County asked to narrow right of way

By Christina Beringer

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Bob and Connie Renner made an appeal to the Thomas County commissioners on the morning of June 30 to reinstate a right of way that was designated for highway use by the county 41 years ago as personal property.

The property in question is a 20-foot wide five mile stretch on County Road 402 from Highway 83 to the intersection at Interstate 70. It is the only sanded road with a 100-foot right of way in Thomas County; all other sanded streets have an 80-foot right of way. It had been slated to become a high-

way, but it was never built.

"The right of way was supposed to be made into a highway in 1970 and that has never happened," said Connie Renner. "All we ask is that the county either make the highway or give the land back to the landowners."

The appeal was instigated by the Renners after receiving a letter from the Thomas County road and bridge supervisor to take down a fence in the middle of that right of way, after they had been given approval to erect the fence in December 2010.

The fence meets all regulations and was approved for construction

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## Car goes off road to avoid accident

Travelers in two passenger vehicles avoided serious injury Sunday on I-70 near the Sherman County line when one vehicle went into the south ditch.

Trooper Joseph Greene of Goodland responded to the scene. According to his report, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Robyn Olson, 31, of Inman, S.C., was traveling east on I-70 in a Nissan Xterra when she slowed to avoid a previous accident. A semi-tractor rig had driven off the interstate and through a fence.

Howard Peter, 82, of Goodland, was following Olson in a Mercury Grand Marquis and swerved into the median to avoid hitting him. He overcorrected the other direction and went across the road into

the south ditch.

Both Brewster and Colby emergency medical services were called to the scene as well as the Colby Fire Department. A Thomas County Sheriff's deputy was on scene who reported the accident at mile marker 35, just across the Sherman County line. Sherman County was notified by the Colby dispatchers.

Both cars had two passengers, but only Dolores Peter, 82, of Goodland, was injured. She was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center. Thomas County emergency medical personnel reported in after the accident that they were not bringing any patients back to Colby. All of the passengers were wearing seat belts.



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Trooper Todd Hileman (from left) and Denise Singer, Robin Whelchel and Maureen Ostmyer of Smart Start posed with the child safety seats donated to the two agencies by County Attorney Kevin Berens on Thursday.

## County attorney donates child seats

By Kevin Bottrell

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Continuing a series of donations from Thomas County's diversion fund, County Attorney Kevin Berens gave \$800 worth of child safety seats to Smart Start and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Smart Start and the Highway Patrol both give out child seats to needy families on a strict income guideline, said Public Resource Officer Todd Hileman. The new seats are designed for infants. Hileman said that before the donation, both agencies had a shortage of this type of seat.

Both agencies also do safety checks on child seats for new par-

ents.

Berens, who was elected to fill the county attorney post in March, said he inherited a diversion fund with plenty of money in it.

"I'm happy to be able to donate it," he said.

Berens also donated money for a child seat for the Thomas County Transportation Van, and has provided money to the patrol to start a "Seatbelts are For Everybody" program, which will reward teen drivers for using seatbelts. The money comes from people who pay fines in place of criminal prosecution.

