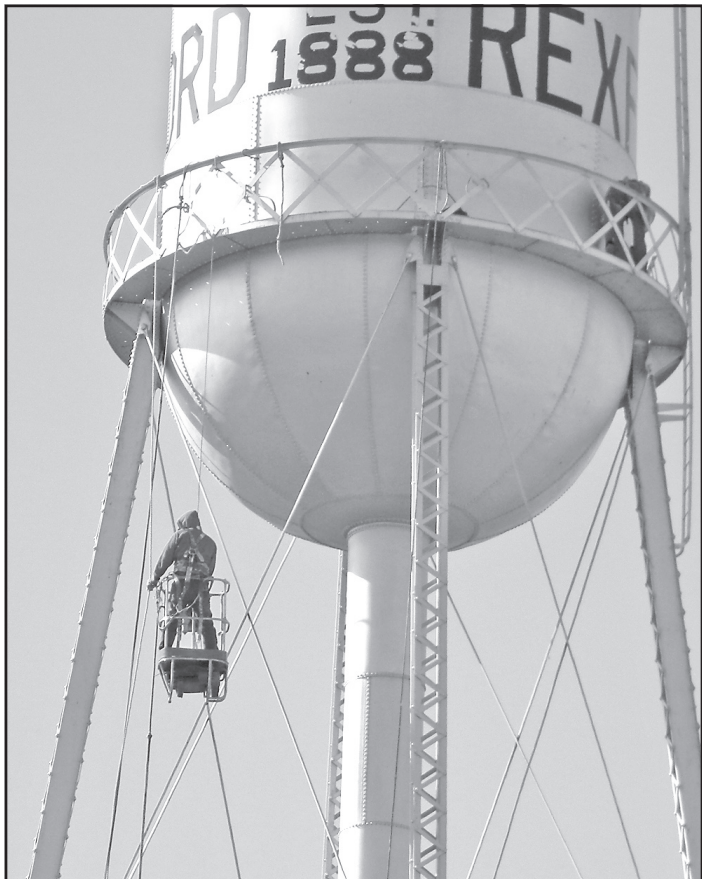


Hanging in mid-air



GWEN GRIFFITHS/Colby Free Press

This workman was dangling by a thread Friday when the camera caught the work being done on the Rexford water tower. The project, which includes sandblasting the inside and maintenance on both exterior and interior, is expected to take about three weeks. The work is being done by Cunningham Sandblasting and Painting out of Riverton.

Nuisance moth is army cutworm

They're all over! They're everywhere! Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen an increase in activity of the "miller moth." They are in doorways, the house, the garage, the shop and so on. I have had several calls about miller moths wanting to know more about them. Read on to find out for yourself about this nuisance moth.



Clint Milliman

• Knowledge for Life

So what is a miller moth? A very wide umbrella term describing various moth species with powdery or dusty wings. Because virtually all moth species have wings covered with scales, what moth, then, could not be categorized as a miller moth?

The current miller moths in question actually are army cutworm moths. While some people may describe them as plain-looking brown moths, they actually have intricate and distinctive wing markings.

There is considerable variation in the appearance of army cutworm moths. Five morphological forms exist. To further add to the variety of appearances, female moths appear grayish while males tend towards brownish colors.

Each year in the central plains, overwintered army cutworms finish feeding in early spring and pupate towards the end of April. By mid-May, most moths have emerged - this is when they become a nuisance. (They are earlier this year, like everything else.)

They seek shelter or cover in any conceivable space - a car window left open overnight is an example - and when one gets ready to drive to work, he or she will be greeted by a flurry of excited moths. Open a trashcan or dumpster to deposit a trash bag and you may be greeted by excited moths; take an early morning walk and as you pass a line of shrubs, you may be startled by hundreds of excited moths darting out. In homes, catch or swat a moth on your wall or curtains and you will find a coating of dust - wing scales - left behind.

Because moths can exploit very small openings, it is virtually impossible to prevent them from entering buildings. However, the nuisance period is short-lived. As if by magic, moths simply disappear. On an unknown cue, moths from the entire central plains region form massive westward flights to the Rocky Mountains.

Feeding throughout the summer at the cooler higher elevations, moths become sexually mature and also accumulate fat reserves. By fall, moths migrate back to the

central plains. Each female moth is capable of producing between 1,000 and 3,000 eggs. Larvae emerge and begin feeding. Partially grown larvae are then the overwintering stage of the species.

Another interesting tidbit about army cutworm moths: grizzly bears love them. During summer months, bears move to the higher elevations to feast on army cutworm moths. A single moth contains a half calorie of fat. It has been estimated that bears eat 20,000 calories of fat daily by consuming 40,000 moths per day.

If a person is concerned about annoying army cutworms when they open their garage in the morning, they might want to consider adopting a grizzly bear to control the moths. On second thought, the moths might be a friendlier greeting than the grizzly.

On another note, don't forget about the gardening and lawn care series being offered by the Thomas County Extension Master Gardeners. The next session is at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Thomas County Office Complex on selecting annuals and perennials. The last session will be Thursday, May 3, covering insect control and with a question and answer session open to anything related to horticulture. So bring samples with you and have the master gardeners help you identify what you have.

I can be reached at the Thomas County Extension Office at (785) 460-4582 for information about the series or to answer other questions you may have.

Clint Milliman is the Thomas County agriculture and natural resources agent with Kansas State Research and Extension.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.84
Corn (bushel)	\$5.93
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.11
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.22

Colby man takes course at Illinois home office

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press

colby.society@nwkansas.com

Jonathan Schmidt of Colby, a Modern Woodmen of America financial representative, completed a five-day educational program at the firm's home office in Rock Island, Ill.

The program focused on helping families with life insurance, annuities and fraternal member benefits.

"While at the career school, I learned various things ranging from in-depth knowledge about the products offered by the company, to learning more about the fraternal benefits that Modern Woodmen has to offer," said Schmidt.

"With this training, I will be able to better serve the financial needs of existing and future clients."

Schmidt said he also learned of ways to give back to the community through the company.

Schmidt began working for

Modern Woodmen in July 2011 and will soon earn his Fraternal Insurance Counselor designation.

He is a 2007 graduate of Colby High School where he was a member of FFA, a wrestler and the school's mascot, Elvis the Eagle.



J. Schmidt

In 2009, he graduated from Colby Community College and in 2011 received a bachelor's in agriculture business from Oklahoma Panhandle State University. He was the senior class president and the agriculture business student of the year in Oklahoma. He also was an active member of the judging team, Alpha Zeta and president of Block and Bridle.

Founded in 1883, the fraternal organization offers financial products and member benefits to individuals and families throughout the U.S.

For information, stop by the Colby office at 1210 W. Fourth St. or call (785) 460-6921.

Corrections

An item in the Briefly column on Page 2 of the Monday, April 23, Colby Free Press incorrectly referred to Donita Applebury as the county clerk. She is the Thomas County treasurer.

☆☆☆☆☆

The article "Colby baseball team wins two at home" on Page 8 of the Monday, April 23, Colby Free Press incorrectly stated the date of the games against Hugoton. The games were actually played on Friday. Also, the

caption underneath the baseball photo on the same page incorrectly stated that Colby was playing Hugoton. The opponent in the photo was Liberal and the game was played on Thursday. These were reporting errors.

☆☆☆☆☆

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Wedding Registry

Sara Fox
Justin Sloan

Shower: April 28th

THE LOFT

A Level Above

700 W. Horton Ave. • Colby, KS
785.460.0566

Conservation Corner

The complete newsletter is available at <http://www.thcoconservation.com/>.

State Cost Share Available

The Thomas Co. Conservation District will again be offering the Water Resources and Non-Point Source Pollution state cost-share programs for FY 2013 with funds available beginning on July 1, 2012. Applications will be taken from May 1 through June 10, 2012. All of the usual projects, such as terraces, critical area plantings, water wells for livestock, watering facilities, cesspool closure and septic system installation will be available for funding. A complete listing of practices is available at our office. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors reviews annually the practices that the District may add to the list of those eligible for funding. An application is available on our website at: thcoconservation.com or come into the office.

Women in Denim - Save the Date:

October 3, 2012 @ The Shepherds Staff in Rexford. Come share an exciting and fact filled day with us. Programs for the day will include Estate Planning, Communications and "True Colors" just to name a few. Enjoy a wonderful lunch, door prizes and tour of the Conference Center, too. Make plans to come join us.

Kids Conservation Round-Up

The Northwest Kansas Conservation and Environmental Alliance will be hosting the 5th Annual Kids Conservation Round-Up here in Colby on April 25th at the Colby Community Building. This event is for 4th grade students from Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman, Thomas, Gove, Logan and Wallace counties. Students learn fun and interesting facts about wildlife, water, soil, pollinators and reptiles. This year we are expecting 325 students and teachers.

Thank You

Thanks to all who shared my 90th birthday on April 22nd.

Bob Bixenman

Kansas Barnstormers

Basketball Team

Featuring:
Tyshawn Taylor,
Conner Teahan
& Jordan Juenemann
- VS -
Western KS High School
Senior All-Stars

**Sunday
May 6th**

5 p.m. @ Colby
Community
Building

Tickets may be purchased for only \$10 at the following locations:
Palace Drug Store, F&M Bank at Dillons, J&B Meat Market, Sports Shoppe in Colby, Farmers Bank & Trust in Brewster and People's State Bank.

Doors open to Senior Citizens age 65+ and handicapped/disabled individuals at the southwest door at 3:30 p.m.
All other ticket holders, use the south door at 4 p.m.

Concessions will be served by WINGS UPON THE PRAIRIE

Sponsored by Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Thomas County
KRDQ-KXXX Radio Station, Colby Free Press, Leroy's Printing, J & R Marketing, USD 315 Administration & The City of Colby

Deaths

Dick Buckley

Dick Buckley, 85, Cozad, Neb., in Elwood, Neb. Services will be Saturday, arranged by the Berryman Funeral Home in Cozad, (308) 784-3000.

Cynthia Kay Mattison

Cynthia Kay Mattison, 47, Colby, a retail worker here, died Sunday, April 22, 2012, at the home.

She was born April 29, 1964, in Aurora, Colo., the daughter of Howard and June (Clinkenbeard) Crouse. She attended Hinckley High School in Aurora and later received a General Education Development certificate.

She married John Black, who died Oct. 11, 1991. She later married Richard Kirkland.

On Nov. 14, 1992, she married Michael Mattison. They lived in Denver before moving to Norton. Following his death on April 9, 2005, she moved to Colby, where she worked at Daylight Donuts and Casey's General Store.

She enjoyed her family, playing games, watching television and traveling to Colorado to visit family.

Preceding her in death were her father, two husbands, and a grandmother, Irene Clinkenbeard. Survivors include her mother, June Crouse, Aurora; three children, Joe Black, Colby; Rachel (Mark) Van Patten, Alma; and Jonathan Mattison, Utica; four brothers, Randy, Edward, David and Eric Crouse, and a sister, Arlene Lynch, all of Aurora; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 29, 2012, at the Almena Congregational Church.

No visitation. The family suggests memorials to a fund in her name, in care of the Enfield Funeral Home, 215 W. Main, Norton, Kan., 67654.

Condolences may be sent at www.enfieldfh.com.

Colby Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met April 17 at Colby Community College with 30 members and guests Orvella Romine and Magnus Rupp.

Melinda Olson introduced Romine, director for Thomas County Big Brothers Big Sisters. She thanked Rotary for supporting the program and gave a presentation on the benefits of the program and encouraging volunteers.

Romine presented President Connie Renner with a T-shirt and a 2012 Platinum Sponsor Plaque.

The club is accepting applications for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Friday to Sunday, July 27 to 29, in Great Bend. The youth program emphasizes leadership, citizenship and personal growth.

Membership chairman Mike Tubbs held the Club Assembly.

Tubbs won Roto-Lotto.

- Relda Galli

**Colby Trail Blazers
KWAH Horse Club**

at the Th. Co. Fairgrounds
APRIL 28TH, 2012

Rain Date: May 5th

Entries from 8-8:45 AM
Show starts at 9:15 AM

For any information about attending the show or how to become a member please contact Lacey Brott at 443-3491.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the friends and relatives that helped Lily celebrate her 97th Birthday by sending cards, flowers, phone calls and stopping by.

Sincerely,
Lily Plummer and Family

**Your Community Banks,
Supporting Your Community!**

Proud to Support Community Bank Week

April 23-27, 2012

"Neighbors helping Neighbors"

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby

Peoples STATE BANK

Proud Members of Community Bankers Association of Kansas

CBA
Community Bankers Association of Kansas

Come help us celebrate community banking at any of our Colby locations! PSB: 100 South Range, F&M: 240 West Fourth & at Dillons

Sons of the American Legion Post 363

2012 Annual Flag Project Contract

For a \$25 donation, a 3x5 American Flag will be placed from morning to evening on the following holidays:

- Memorial Day
- Labor Day
- Flag Day
- Patriots Day (9/11)
- Independence Day
- Veterans Day (weather permitting)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Sprinkler System YES NO

I authorize Sons of the American Legion to place a flag pocket (small piece of pvc pipe and flat washer) in my yard/lawn which will be used to place a flag on the display dates listed. I understand the flag pocket will remain in my yard/lawn and may be replaced as needed.

Signature _____ Date _____

Deadline to participate in 2012 Flag Project: May 19

Remit \$25 Payment to: SAL, PO Box 133, Colby, KS 67701