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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Man charged with first-degree murder

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press  
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William Andrew Shank, 24, of Garden City has been charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of Teri L. Morris of Colby.

A source said Monday he has not been arraigned, but is being held in the Thomas County Jail. The arraignment has been set

for Thursday morning, but a time has not been released.

Authorities have not said how Morris, 27, died, but various sources said she had been stabbed. Police Chief Randy Jones said he could neither confirm or deny that fact. An autopsy was performed, but no results have been released. She was found in her burning home on Chickamauga Avenue shortly after 7 a.m. Saturday.

Her daughter, Addilyn, 9 months, was

missing, but was discovered safe with Shank when he was arrested in Phillips County.

Kirby Ross, editor of the *Phillips County Review*, confirmed that Shank had been held in Phillips County Jail after his arrest Saturday near Logan. He was transferred to Colby on Monday.

On Tuesday, Don Brown, communications director for the Kansas Attorney General's Office released an update on

Shank's arrest. Brown said agents of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation arrested Shank near Logan. The defendant was being held at the Thomas County Jail on \$1 million bond, the statement said.

The KBI, Kansas Highway Patrol, Colby Police Department, Thomas County Sheriff's Office and the state Fire Marshal's Office are involved in the investigation.

"The Kansas Attorney General's Of-

fice has agreed to assume responsibility for the review of the investigation," the release said. "Individuals arrested or accused of crimes are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty. The attorney general's office can make no additional comment at this time."

Police officers were stationed outside of Morris' home and cones still blocked

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## Friends, family plan vigil for Colby woman

Friends and family of Teri L. Morris will hold a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. Friday at Fike Park in Colby.

Morris, 27, was found near death at her home on Chickamauga Avenue just after 7 a.m. Saturday and died later at Citizens Medical Center.

Funeral services were to be at 2 p.m. today, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin, with burial in the Oberlin Cemetery.

Donations are being collected for Teri's daughter, Addilyn, who will turn 1 on May 24. Items Teri's family may need to help care for the baby include size 3 or 4 diapers and clothing size 12 to 24 months.

Donations may be dropped off with Melany Wilks at Pioneer Memorial Library. For information, contact Misty Griffin at 443-1449.

Vanderbilt's is taking clothing and monetary donations for Russell Rodenbeck, Teri's boyfriend, whose clothing was lost in a fire at his home. He wears size XL in shirts and 34x34 in pants.

Hadassah Schmitt, a friend of Rodenbeck, will be taking gift-card and clothing donations for him, but said she cannot take household items. For information, call her at 460-4281.

"I just wanted to make sure Russell was taken care of," Schmitt said.

Cash donations can also be

made to Rodenbeck at Sunflower Bank.

Travis Spears, store manager at Walmart, said a memorial has been set up at Bankwest for Morris, who was manager of the store's meat department. If anyone wants to make a donation, Spears said, Walmart can take the donation and pass it along to Bankwest.

A fund raiser is being planned at Pizza Hut as well.

Morris was born March 25, 1985, in Hill City, the daughter of Lee and Glenda (Farr) Chase.

She grew up in Hill City and Oberlin, graduating from Decatur Community High School in 2003 and Colby Community College in 2005. In addition to her job a Walmart, she was an emergency medical technician for Thomas County, working on the ambulance crew.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents and five uncles.

Survivors include her parents, Lee Chase of Hill City and Glenda Chase of WaKeeney; a daughter, Addilyn Jolie; a brother, Jeremy Chase of Hays; and two sisters, Jerica (Jeremy) Priest of Hays and JoLynda Chase and fiancé Wade Weaver of Colby.

The family suggests memorials in her name in care of the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749. Checks may be written to the "Teri Morris Memorial Fund."

Condolences for the family may be left at [www.paulsfh.com](http://www.paulsfh.com).



Misty Griffin picked up two big totes of clothes and diapers Tuesday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The items were donated to

Addilyn Jolie, whose mother, Teri Morris, was killed Saturday. People also donated a box of toys.

## Looking at "Way We Worked"



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Mark Ostmeyer (right), who runs MC Aviation Services at the Colby Municipal Airport, watched as David Keck, owner of Colby Furniture, pointed to his picture Thursday at an open house

at the "Way We Worked" exhibit at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The exhibit includes pictures of Colby residents at their jobs in 1937 and today.

## County approves money for jail work

By Sam Dieter

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The Thomas County Commissioners approved a \$5,000 contract for initial work on a new jail at their meeting Monday morning.

"That's a lot of money, but that something that we need to figure out how to do," said Commission Chairman Paul Steele.

The commissioners signed the contract with local architectural firm Strait Associates. County Attorney Kevin Berens and Glenn Strait, principal of the firm, drew up the contract. Under the agree-

ment, the firm will select a site for the project, get cost estimates, draw preliminary floor plans as well as working drawings and specifications that can be bid to a construction company.

"The approach initially will be to get together with the sheriff and the police department and one of the commissioners, look at different needs, and basically develop a conceptual design," Strait said.

He said the firm should have preliminary designs for the project in 60 days, and that drawing up a complete plan with specifica-

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## Republicans fault speech for liberalism, hostility

By Erica Werner

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans charged today that President Barack Obama delivered a State of the Union address studded with tired liberal notions and campaign-style hostility and said the speech did little to ease partisan tensions over issues like gigantic budget deficits.

"An opportunity to bring together the country instead became another retread of lip service and liberalism," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said on the chamber floor, arguing

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