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## Special building going up nearby

By Heather Alwin  
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Using insulated panels 8 1/2 inches thick, Stonegate Builders is constructing a type of building seldom found in northwest Kansas, a shop built from components fabricated in Iowa and shipped to the building site which has an R-33 insulation value.

The panels are designed and built by Energy Panel Structures, an employee-owned company in Graettinger, Iowa, and assembled on-site by Stonegate Builders, a Colorado company with an office in Colby.

A building going up north of Levant is the first of this type in this part of Kansas, said Tom Thompson, owner of Stonegate. The walls have about twice the strength of stick-built buildings,

he said, and this type of material can be used for homes as well as commercial buildings.

The insulated walls contain connected tunnels for running electrical wires and come with precisely cut spaces for windows and doors, he said.

According to Bob Holloway, owner of Advantage Architectural Woodwork, the average insulated house or shop is R-19, so R-33 is a considerable upgrade.

Stonegate is doing the building for Holloway, which builds "European-style: super-efficient windows and doors." The windows and doors he custom-builds "go above and beyond what the government has set for energy standards," said Holloway, adding that typically, buildings lose 25 to 30 percent

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Jake Kinch (top, front) and Chris Howard of Stonegate Builders unloaded panels to install at a building site Wednesday. The building will be a shop built from components fabricated in Iowa and shipped to the building site, which has an R-33 insulation value. Howard and Kinch also measured boards and prepared them for assembly (above) and Kinch nailed boards together to support one of the building's door frames (left). Wilburn Holloway (below left) helped his son Bob Holloway prepare a header for Bob's new building.

HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press



## Sheriff asks for help to pay jailers

By Sam Dieter  
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The Thomas County commissioners heard a request from Sheriff Rod Taylor last Friday to help pay jailers overtime for emergency medical training.

The commission did not approve the request, but discussed ways Taylor could pay the jailers. He said he could pay for it out of his budget.

"I kind of know the answer and the attitude I'd get when I introduced it, but it still doesn't hurt to ask," Taylor said later.

He added that he had scratched the training because the jail is short-handed, but that two or three jailers need to be trained some day.

County Clerk Shelly Harms suggested that Taylor give the jailers time off instead of paying overtime, and Commissioner Mike Baughn said the training could be treated as a personal day

off. "Rod, I think you're asking for a policy change here that I'm not ready to vote for," Commissioner Chairman Paul Steele said.

Taylor also asked what circumstances would allow a county nurse to check on inmates. That would be cheaper than having them go to the hospital. Baughn suggested Taylor talk to the nurse, and added that he should consider having a nurse's station added in any new building the county builds to replace the current Law Enforcement Center.

"It's always been a headache for years," Baughn said.

In other business, the council:

- Tabled a request from Kasiah Rothchild, administrator of the county Health Department, to replace the heating and cooling equipment in three rooms at her office. Steele said he thought Rothchild should pay for the replacements out of her own budget.

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## Kansas group to spotlight child abuse

By Heather Alwin  
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The Northwest Kansas Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect group plans to put the spotlight on child abuse during April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Director Paige Campbell said month now focuses more on strengthening families than the negative statistics of child abuse.

She said the group plans to give away 10,000 bookmarks and pinwheels to highlight the importance of strengthening families to prevent child abuse. Children at Kids Port daycare in Colby will get a presentation on safety tips and plant pinwheels in the building's front lawn.

Displays highlighting child-abuse prevention will be placed in libraries across northwest Kansas.

All Head Start classes will participate in the Second Step program, where students receive a book called "I Like Me" and a mirror. Each child is encouraged to look in the mirror and say something positive about himself and someone else.

Campbell said she's encouraging people to wear blue on Friday, April 19, to focus attention on child abuse. On April 18, the program will sponsor a car-seat check lane in front of Smart Start in Colby and will give pinwheels to those who stop by.

The program, which serves 11 northwest Kansas counties, operates under a "community-based" child abuse prevention grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

April has been marked as Child Abuse Prevention Month since 1983, according to the department of health.

## Morning-after pill will be available to all

By Larry Neumeister and Lauran Neergaard  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – In a scathing rebuke of the Obama administration, a federal judge ruled today that age restrictions on over-the-counter sales of the morning-after pill are "arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable" and must end within 30 days.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Edward Korman of New York means consumers of any age could buy emergency contraception without a prescription – instead of women first having to prove they're 17 or older, as they do today. And it could allow Plan B One-Step to move out from behind pharmacy counters to the store counters.

The Justice Department didn't

immediately say whether it would appeal the ruling.

"We are reviewing the decision and evaluating the government's options," said F. Franklin Amanat, a lawyer for the government.

It's the latest twist in a decade-long push for easier access to emergency contraception, which can prevent pregnancy if taken soon enough after unprotected sex.

The Food and Drug Administration actually was preparing to lift all age limits on Plan B One-Step in late 2011 when Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, in an unprecedented move, overruled her own

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